PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 474 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
25 March 2008—25 April 2008

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(FORMED BY THE RT. HON. GORDON BROWN, MP, JUNE 2007)

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Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 25 March 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ministerial Group for Regeneration in Manchester

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): I am today reporting on the ad hoc ministerial group on regeneration in Manchester that met for the first time on Monday 17 March 2008. This fulfils the commitment made by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport during the debate on gambling policy on 26 February 2008 that the group would produce its first report by the end of March.

The group, which I chair, includes the Secretaries of State for Culture, Media and Sport; Innovation, Universities and Skills; Work and Pensions; Transport; Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and Health, as well as the Regional Minister for the North-West, the Leader of Manchester city council and the chair of the North-West Development Agency. Other Secretaries of State or the chairs of key partner organisations (such as English Partnerships) may be invited to take part in the group.

The Government are committed to further regeneration in Manchester, and the group exists to co-ordinate this task. The aim is to help generate an equivalent number of jobs to those that a regional casino could have delivered and to foster greater long-term growth that benefits the people of east Manchester. The agenda is therefore an ambitious and wide-reaching one which will offer real benefits to the residents of east Manchester and beyond.

The knowledge economy and innovation

The group supports Manchester's emerging role as a centre in the international knowledge economy, and believes that the residents of east Manchester should be a part of this. The Secretary of State for Health announced on 19 March 2008 that a national Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) will be created in Manchester, attracting top-flight research expertise, generating jobs and improving outcomes for local people. The group will look at how residents of east Manchester can benefit from improved health outcomes and jobs from this investment.

The NWDA is developing plans to improve higher speed broadband provision and access, targeted at those places, such as Manchester, which are internationally competitive in the knowledge economy. NWDA and its partners will work to ensure that the residents of east Manchester benefit from any improvements.

Regeneration through sport

The group has prioritised development of the Sportcity area of Manchester and supports the creation of a partnership between Manchester city council and English Partnerships to oversee public investment in this. CLG and EP have worked together to secure an additional £10 million funding so we can see early and substantive progress.

Housing-led regeneration

Increased spending on housing will be a vital ingredient of this regeneration. Some £52 million additional funding is available for housing market renewal in Manchester and Salford in 2008-09, bringing the total to £230 million since 2003. The group will look at further additional funding, and Ministers are currently considering an application for growth point status.

A world-class workforce

The Government's ambition is that residents of deprived areas should compete at the highest level in filling current vacancies, setting up new businesses and attracting inward investors. The group will prioritise work on a potential National Skills Academy for Hospitality in Manchester, which could provide 9,000 training places and 200 jobs. Additional Skills Academies are a possibility, although as with the proposed Hospitality Academy, the process is competitive and so the outcome cannot be guaranteed.

HEFCE are undertaking an important study of demand for higher education in east Manchester, and the group expect to receive that report by September and will take forward its recommendations.

The highly successful Urban Regeneration Company (URC), New East Manchester Ltd, has created and safeguarded 3,000 jobs. The group supports plans to extend its life so that it can build on this success and ensure that east Manchester residents benefit from further new jobs and opportunities.

Government and the Greater Manchester local authorities are working hard to create a multi-area agreement, one of the aims of which is to improve the way people are supported from worklessness into employment. The group cannot pre-empt these discussions, but would factor the MAA into its work. There are major potential benefits to the people of east Manchester from a successful MAA.

The bigger picture

The ambition of the group is to join up the many ways Government and the public sector already work to ensure better outcomes for the people of east Manchester. This is not another "strategy", but practical co-ordination and leadership to make the most of opportunities and build on existing strengths. For example, the group will take an active interest in the Network Rail study of the Manchester Rail Hub, given the potential regeneration benefits. The group welcomes the creative thinking from Manchester about further developments, for example a possible BMX centre and rugby centre of excellence. All proposals obviously need to find funds according to relevant criteria, but the group is there to offer support and ensure that the process is co-ordinated.

The group will be alert to other opportunities that may arise. For example, if any public agency decides to relocate in accordance with the Lyons review the group will be supportive of Manchester city council and its partners in seeking to maximise the benefits for east Manchester.

We must learn the lessons from this work with Manchester so other cities and communities can themselves advance their regeneration plans. Some of what works for east Manchester may work as well in other places, and we are grateful to Manchester for engaging with us in this exercise.

DEFENCE

Surface Ship Support

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The House will wish to be aware of an update to the alternative contracting arrangements for surface warship maintenance and repair. These arrangements were signalled as part of the wider defence industrial strategy and today's announcement is an important step towards ensuring that the capability requirements of the Royal Navy continue to be met now and in the future.

In 2004, the Ministry of Defence (MOD), in consultation with industry, launched a study (the Surface Ship Support Study) to identify the optimum approach for the future maintenance and repair of surface warships (aircraft carriers, major amphibious vessels, destroyers, frigates and mine warfare vessels) that would deliver the most efficient, effective and sustainable support policy and offer best value for money for defence as well as to taxpayers. Previously, surface warship upkeep contracts had been awarded following competition while operational (or fleet) time support was delivered through partnering arrangements under the Warship Support Modernisation Initiative. While these arrangements have delivered value for money to the MOD, force level reductions coupled with over-capacity in the surface ship repair market prompted a review.

In 2005, the study concluded that the option best able to meet the needs of both the Department and industry would be the formation of a surface warship support alliance, which would include current providers of surface warship upkeep and fleet time support. To take this forward, the MOD entered into detailed dialogue with industry to explore the feasibility of delivering such support through an alliance. My predecessor's written ministerial statement of 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 72-73 WS, announced this exploratory phase. During this time, competition policy would be suspended to enable the alliance concept to be developed and tested progressively in a controlled manner.

An order was made by the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (now Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) excluding the maintenance and repair of surface warships from the UK Competition Act 1998. While good progress has been made on exploration of the options, it has been necessary to review these in the light of emerging findings from the naval base review and the formation of Babcock Marine and the joint venture between BAE Systems and VT. As a consequence, the exploratory phase has been extended for up to one year. This extension will have no impact on current and future support of complex warships.

An MOD project team will continue to take this work forward with the clear objective of identifying the optimum solution that would provide effective, affordable and sustainable support to Royal Navy surface warships.

The new contracting arrangements promote a sustainable industrial base that retains key operational support and system upgrade capabilities within the UK, and are therefore vital to our ability to maintain and support the Royal Navy. We will continue to work closely with industry in a spirit of transparency and trust to improve the delivery of surface ship support, securing the capabilities of the Royal Navy into the future.

HEALTH

Health and Adult Social Care Providers

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Today we are publishing a consultation document, which is the latest stage in the development of the new system we are introducing for the regulation of health and adult social care.

"The Future Regulation of Health and Adult Social Care in England: A Consultation on the Framework for the Registration of Health and Adult Social Care Providers" takes forward our commitment to provide a clear and refocused approach to regulation of the health and adult social care systems.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Health and Social Care Bill will establish the Care Quality Commission. From April 2009, the new Commission will take over the functions of the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC).

The Care Quality Commission will be an organisation responsible for regulating services across the health and social care sectors that spend over £100 billion of public money and involve about 2.9 million people employed in delivery of services in over 25,000 establishments.

Integration of care pathways—across different health care providers and between health and social care—and variety in types of service provision are both increasing. Greater joined-up working will provide better outcomes for patients and service users.

But service users and patients want to be assured that all the services they receive are fair, personal, effective and safe, wherever they are provided. An integrated and flexible regulatory system that focuses on the needs of service users will help provide the consistency and assurance that the public expects and enable local service innovation.

The Bill defines the functions of the Care Quality Commission in safety and quality assurance, periodic review of commissioners and providers, monitoring the operation of the Mental Health Act and ensuring that regulation and inspection activity across health and adult social care is co-ordinated and managed.

This consultation seeks views on: which health and adult social care services should require registration with the Care Quality Commission; and what the requirements for registration should be. Without registering with the Care Quality Commission, it will be illegal for health and adult social care organisations to provide services that come within the scope of registration. The registration requirements will therefore cover essential levels of safety and quality. The scope and requirements for registration will be set in secondary legislation, following a further consultation on regulations later in the year.

The consultation also seeks views on when providers of regulated services should be required to have a registered manager, and how primary care services

should be included in the new registration system. The document sets out plans for transition to the new registration system: the new registration system will come into force from April 2010 with the exception of regulations on healthcare-associated infections, which will come into force during 2009-10.

The registration system will operate alongside a wider quality improvement framework that encourages not just good care, but excellent care. The Care Quality Commission's general role within that wider quality improvement system is clear from the Health and Social Care Bill and includes provision for its periodic reviews to provide information to the public about the general quality of service providers across health and adult social care. The rest of the system around the new Commission—the role of standard setting for improvement, knowledge management, incentives, commissioning and other "levers"—is the subject of the NHS next stage review, which is due to report by the end of June.

This publication will be of interest to anyone working in health and adult social care and to patients and service users who are interested in how the reforms are going to improve the services they use.

I commend this document to the House.

Today's publication and the impact assessment have been placed in the Library. Copies of the publication are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Education (Student Support) Regulations

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): On 7 February, I informed Parliament that I had identified a long-established but unjustifiable provision in the student support regulations that allowed prisoners on full-time courses in higher education to receive financial support in the form of loans and grants for maintenance.

Following my statement, revised Education (Student Support) Regulations came into effect on 28 February and prevent anyone who is, or has been, a prisoner during the 2007-08 academic year from receiving further payments of maintenance loans or grants. We are working to ensure that, from the 2008-09 academic year, maintenance support for any student who has spent part of a year in prison is reduced pro rata.

At my request, the Student Loans Company and officials have now identified and reviewed cases where maintenance payments were made to prisoners. This investigation has shown that, in many of the cases provisionally identified in my statement, the individuals in question did not receive any student support payments while in custody. Our assessment of the number of prisoners who have received support, and the sums of money involved, have therefore been revised downwards significantly.

Based on a search of the SLC's database using prison postcodes, and a survey of prison governors, we have identified that 154 individual prisoners received some form of maintenance payment while a full-time student since 1998. In total, these prisoners received £570,000 in maintenance loans. They also received £160,000 in maintenance grants. By comparison at the time that I made my statement on 7 February, preliminary investigations suggested that approximately 250 prisoners had received up to £250,000 in maintenance grants since 1998. There is also evidence of some maintenance payments made to prisoners between 1990 and 1998.

In the current academic year, the review has identified 44 prisoners who have received some form of maintenance payment while in prison. All further maintenance payments to these individuals have been stopped. Where appropriate, payment of tuition fees to higher education institutions have been reinstated.

The review has shown that assessments for student support were carried out in accordance with the rules that applied at the time.

I will be considering the future management of financial support for offenders in higher education, based on recommendations from my Department and the Ministry of Justice.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Devolution of Policing and Justice: Report of the Northern Ireland Assembly

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): In accordance with section 18(2) of the Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006, I have today laid before the House a copy of the report submitted to me by the Assembly under section 18(1) of that Act.

The report is another important step towards the transfer of responsibility for policing and justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly, and the completion of devolution in Northern Ireland.

The transformation of Northern Ireland from conflict to peace has progressed with speed and confidence since the restoration of the Assembly on 8 May last year. I have no doubt that all parties, and the people of Northern Ireland, are committed to maintaining the momentum of change and to completing the formal process of devolution by transferring policing and justice powers from Westminster to the Assembly. The first steps towards this were taken last year with Sinn Fein taking up seats on the Policing Board and on District Policing Partnerships. The next step is for the Assembly to agree a date on which they will accept their responsibility for the delivery of local policing and justice services as they did last year in respect of other local public services and in respect of the Northern Ireland economy. The Assembly report, which I am today laying before Parliament, helps to pave the way for such a decision.

The report sets out in some detail those subject matters that all parties agree should transfer to the Assembly as part of the policing and justice package. The Assembly also agreed that there should be a single Department of Justice overseeing these matters once they devolve. I welcome this important progress.

The Assembly's report calls on the political parties to continue discussions on the outstanding issues of timing and ministerial structures, agreement on which will enable the handing over of those policing and justice powers that the Assembly have agreed should transfer.

The Government support this call for further discussions and stand ready to assist the parties in reaching agreement on the completion of devolution at the earliest possible date. To this end my Department will have ready the practical arrangements required to make the transfer once the Assembly requests it, including a first draft of the necessary legislation, made available to Members of the Assembly to facilitate their debate.

In laying the report, I want to pay particular tribute to the work that Members of the Assembly's Assembly and Executive Review Committee, chaired until recently by the right hon. Member for Lagan Valley (Mr. Donaldson), have done to get us to this point.

SCOTLAND

Strengthening Devolution in Scotland

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to announce today that Professor Sir Kenneth Calman has agreed to serve as Chair of a Commission to review the Scotland Act. Such a Commission was proposed in and approved by the Scottish Parliament. The Government welcome that Parliament's support for the aim of strengthening devolution, and securing Scotland's place in the Union. We are therefore giving our full support to this cross-border, cross-party review.

The terms of reference for the Commission, which have also been approved by the Scottish Parliament, are:

> "To review the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998 in the light of experience and to recommend any changes to the present constitutional arrangements that would enable the Scottish Parliament to serve the people of Scotland better, that would improve the financial accountability of the Scottish Parliament and that would continue to secure the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom".

The Government and the Scottish Parliament will work together to provide support for the Commission, which will be asked to make an interim report by the end of this year. Its report will be submitted to both the Government and to the Scottish Parliament.

I hope that there will be full engagement by people in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK with this review, which will provide an opportunity to assess the successes of devolution to Scotland, and identify ways in which the devolution settlement can be developed to work better for the people of Scotland within the United Kingdom.

The other members involved in the Commission will be announced in due course.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 26 March 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

DEFRA's Central Science Laboratory and Pesticides Safety

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): My hon. Friend the Member for Exeter (Mr. Bradshaw) made a written statement on 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 91WS on DEFRA's Laboratory Strategy. I am now able to announce the decision on the future of DEFRA's Central Science Agency (CSL). I am also taking this opportunity to report to the House changes to DEFRA's Pesticides Safety Directorate.

These decisions pursue the aim of securing a long-term sustainable future for DEFRA's laboratories, in the case of CSL, and the earlier decision to consolidate a number of regulators as part of the Government's implementation of the Hampton review of regulatory inspections and enforcement of March 2005. These regulators include PSD and also DEFRA's Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) and Plant Variety Rights Office and Seeds Division (PVS).

As part of the work to develop a new business plan for CSL which better reflects DEFRA's future changing demand requirements and wider Government needs referred to in my earlier statement, we recognised there might be potential benefits to customers and to Government from creating a new regulatory science agency from PSD, PVS, PHSI and DEFRA's Plant Health Division (PHD), and combining them with CSL.

Having considered the detailed business case for the new agency last year alongside an alternative option for PSD of merger with one of Hampton's seven thematic regulators, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), we concluded that the best option for the future of PSD was for it to join the HSE. The principal reasons were:

the regulatory scientific synergies that exist between PSD and HSE are much stronger than between PSD and those other bodies in the new agency;

the preference expressed by PSD's customers as part of an informal high level stakeholder engagement exercise we undertook in 2007; and

concerns over conflicts of interest if PSD joined the proposed RSA, which would inevitably result in some loss of business for both CSL and PSD.

Accordingly, in the case of CSL, a new DEFRA executive agency will be created from CSL, PHSI/PHD and PVS. It will be established formally on 1 April 2009, but will operate in shadow form from 1 April 2008 under a newly appointed chief executive, Adrian Belton. This organisation will benefit customers of the respective constituent parts and taxpayers through improved effectiveness and compliance with the Hampton principles of better regulation and overall value for money.

Following a public consultation that ended on 14 January 2008, PSD will become part of the HSE from 1 April 2008.

In joining HSE, PSD will become part of an organisation that is already responsible for the regulation of both biocides and chemicals. This will enable further exploration of the potential synergies between regulatory science and policy in order to identify options for further improvements in customer service and efficiencies. In the meantime PSD will retain its distinct identity within HSE.

Strategic policy responsibility for pesticides will remain with DEFRA Ministers and sit alongside strategic policy responsibility which DEFRA has for chemicals under the EU chemicals assessment and approval regime REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals). Governance arrangements are being put in place to ensure that all departmental and cross-departmental interests are fully represented.

A summary of responses to the consultation on PSD and the Government's detailed response to these will be made available on the DEFRA website.

Food from Britain

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): In reaching decisions on allocations to individual budgets arising out of DEFRA's CSR settlement it has been decided to reduce the amount of grant-in-aid available to Food from Britain (FFB) for 2008-09 to £4 million, with the expectation that the funding will come to an end before the conclusion of the CSR period. We concluded that maintaining a subsidised consultancy service for British food exporters was a lower priority than ensuring adequate funds were available for dealing with the consequences of animal diseases, providing for a full programme of food and farming research (including work on identifying animal disease strains and vaccines) and continuing to improve the service the Rural Payments Agency provides to farmers.

In taking the decision to reduce DEFRA's grant-in-aid to FFB we were conscious of the extent to which the organisation is dependent on that source of funds to pay for its operations. Following consideration of these matters by FFB's Council, we have therefore agreed with the Council that subject to formal confirmation by Ministers in the devolved Administrations, FFB should wind down its activities over the coming year with a view to it ceasing operations by 31 March 2009 in anticipation of its formal dissolution in law when a suitable legislative vehicle can be found.

Over the years FFB has provided excellent support to exporters for food and drink and I would like to pay tribute to the staff, Council members and office holders who have made this possible. We are considering with FFB, the devolved Administrations and other interested parties whether there is scope for alternative arrangements for dedicated export support for the food and drink sector. This might, for example, involve the licensing of the FFB brand, or transfer of certain elements of the FFB business to the private sector. We would welcome any expressions of interest from organisations which might wish to take over elements of FFB's business. In

the meantime, FFB will continue to provide support over the coming year. Support for food and drink exporters will also continue be available from UKTI. UKTI provide services to all types of businesses including those in the food and drink sector. Over many years, UKTI have funded FFB to take groups of companies to exhibitions and trade fairs—this will continue.

TRANSPORT

Royal and Ministerial Air Travel

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): Every year members of the royal family and senior Government Ministers undertake a number of journeys to fulfil a wide range of important public engagements and other essential commitments. The large majority of that travel is undertaken by road, rail and scheduled flights. However, there are times when these parties need to use non-scheduled or dedicated flights, for example when these engagements involve several commitments in different parts of the country on the same day.

In 2006, Sir Peter Gershon, in his review of the royal and ministerial air travel service, recommended that the existing arrangements—currently provided by 32 (The Royal) Squadron of the RAF and, where RAF planes are unavailable, the charter market—be replaced with a new dedicated service. Over the last 12 months the Department has worked closely with the Royal Household, Number 10 and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on plans to establish this new service.

The Department has now completed an outline business case for the new service, in line with Government procurement guidelines. This supports the analysis carried out by Sir Peter Gershon two years ago and its assessment of the need to improve the existing service. It also identifies a number of recent developments, some of which have significantly affected the nature of the service required.

In particular, the new Ministerial Code, published in July 2007, contains a clear presumption in favour of using scheduled flights rather than using RAF or chartered aircraft. An increasing proportion of overseas journeys, including a number of those undertaken by the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister, are now routinely made on scheduled flights. Since 2006, more use has been made of the charter market in place of RAF aircraft provided by 32 (The Royal) Squadron. In addition, a number of concerns highlighted by Sir Peter Gershon's team in relation to charter provision—such as value for money—have now been addressed. Over the same period, there have been substantial above-inflation increases in the cost of buying and operating commercial aircraft, with high price premiums currently being demanded and paid for early delivery.

The Department is today recommending that the needs of these users can best be met through procuring a small aircraft for official travel within the UK, chartered air services for longer journeys involving small parties and a continuation of existing arrangements with UK airlines for journeys involving large parties. This approach provides the best solution for all users whilst minimising the financial cost and environmental impact of the new service.

The Royal Household will be responsible for taking forward any procurement activity to support these recommendations separately. The new arrangements are expected to be in place when the service currently provided by 32 (The Royal) Squadron is withdrawn on 1 April 2009.

I would like to thank Sir Peter Gershon and his team for their work on the review and for the officials, industry experts and service suppliers who have supported completion of the business case. I also wish, on behalf of the Government, to thank 32 (The Royal) Squadron for the service that they have provided to the Royal Household and Ministers for the last 70 years.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Luton Borough Council (Benefit Fraud Inspectorate Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): On behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the BFI inspection report on Luton borough council was published today. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

The BFI report details a range of strengths and weaknesses in the housing benefit service provided by the council and makes recommendations to improve the security and efficiency of benefit delivery.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, is considering the report and may ask the council for proposals in response to BFI's findings.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 27 March 2008

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

"Safer Children in a Digital World" (Byron Review)

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and I today welcome the publication of the report of the Byron review of the risks to children of potentially harmful or inappropriate material on the internet and in video games. A copy of the report, "Safer Children in a Digital World", will be placed in the Library.

In September 2007 the Prime Minister asked Dr. Tanya Byron to lead an independent review to help parents and their children get the best from new technologies while protecting children from inappropriate or harmful material. This review has been jointly sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The objectives of the Byron review were: to undertake a review of the evidence on risks to children's safety and wellbeing of exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material on the internet and in video games; and to assess the effectiveness and adequacy of existing measures to help prevent children from being exposed to such material and help parents understand and manage the risks of access to inappropriate material, and to make recommendations for improvements or additional action.

Dr. Byron's final report published today sets out a detailed analysis of the evidence on the risks and benefits of new technologies and evaluates the work already being done to protect children online and ensure appropriate access to age-rated video games. In doing so, Dr. Byron recognises the need to develop a shared culture of responsibility with families, industry and Government all playing their part to reduce the availability of potentially harmful material, restrict access to it by children and to increase children's resilience and ability to understand and manage risk. We welcome and support this approach.

To achieve this, Dr. Byron recommends reforming how Government and stakeholders work to improve our children's safety when using the internet through the following measures:

The creation of a new UK Council for Child Internet Safety, established by and reporting to the Prime Minister, including representation from across Government, industry, children's charities and other key stakeholders. The Council is to be chaired jointly by the Home Office and DCSF. DCMS will play a key role given its important policy responsibilities and expertise in this area of media and content regulation. A range of other Departments will also be closely involved.

The development by the Council of a three-pronged national strategy for improving child internet safety:

Challenging industry to take greater responsibility in supporting families through: clearer advice; establishing independently monitored codes of practice on areas such as user generated content; improving access to high quality parental control software and safe search; and better regulation of online promotions.

Developing a comprehensive public information and awareness campaign on child internet safety, including an authoritative "one stop shop" on child internet safety. This is to be led by Government but using the support and expertise of all Council members.

Putting in place sustainable education and children's service initiatives to improve the skills of children and their parents around e-safety.

On video games, Dr. Byron recommends a range of high profile and targeted efforts to help inform parents and children of the appropriateness of different video games and to restrict inappropriate access such as:

Lowering the statutory requirement to classify video games to 12+, that is consistent with film classification and easier for parents.

Putting in place a hybrid classification system, using both PEGI and BBFC mechanisms with one set of symbols, from BBFC, for parents to understand.

Having clear and consistent guidance for industry on how games should be advertised.

Challenging industry to provide sustained and high profile efforts to increase parents understanding of age ratings and improved parental controls.

We accept Dr. Byron's recommendations in full and commend Dr. Byron for delivering a groundbreaking report that will make a real difference to children and young people's lives. In particular, we would like to congratulate Dr. Byron for conducting such a thorough and open process, giving all those with an interest an opportunity to engage with the review on this important debate.

Government will develop a comprehensive action plan in response to Dr. Byron's recommendations.

DEFENCE

Compensation Claims (Iraq)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): It is proposed to serve a defence on 28 March 2008 in response to the claim brought in the High Court against the Ministry of Defence by Dawood Salim Musa Al-Maliki—on his own behalf and as executor of the estate of Baha Mousa—admitting a substantive breach of Articles 2 (right to life), and 3 (prohibition of torture), of the European Convention on Human Rights.

It is also proposed to serve defences in the similar High Court claims brought against the Ministry of Defence, admitting a substantive breach of Article 3, prohibition of torture, of the European Convention on Human Rights in the following cases:

1. Mohammed Dhahir Abdulah
2. Maitham Mohammed Ameen Challab Al-Waz

3. Satar Shukri Abdullah
4. Joad Kadhim Jamal Al-Faeaz
5. Dhahir Abdullah Ali Al-Mansori
6. Radif Tahir Muslem Alhawan
7. Baha Hashim Mohamed
8. Ahmed Taha Mosah

The Ministry of Defence further accepts that the admitted substantive breaches of the Convention give rise to claims for compensation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jonathan Shaw): I represented the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Brussels. The Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment, Richard Lochhead, also attended.

The Council unanimously adopted conclusions on the Commission's Communication on the "health check" of the common agriculture policy.

The Council also adopted by qualified majority, with the UK voting in favour, a proposal to increase national milk quotas by 2 per cent. in April 2008.

Under any other business, the Agriculture Commissioner also updated Council on the latest state of play in the WTO-DDA negotiations. Along with a number of member states, I expressed our support for the Commission's efforts to reach a balanced conclusion to the current WTO negotiations. France presented a memorandum for debate on competition policy in agriculture to address the organisation of the agri-food sectors. The memorandum calls for greater powers for producer groups to strengthen farmers' interests and ability to regulate supply in the food chain. Along with a number of member states, I underlined our concerns about the possible impact of the proposal on EC competition law.

Ireland expressed concerns about the future development of the sheep sector. Poland called for further relief measures in the form of export refunds to alleviate the difficulties currently being experienced in the pigmeat sector. I strongly opposed the use of such measures as there was no evidence on their efficiency in addressing the short and longer term EU pig sector problems, but favoured the use of market-based solutions to address difficulties faced in both the sheep and pig sectors.

Cyprus called on the Commission to address the effect of the recent increased feed prices on the production of agricultural products.

Carbon Reduction Commitment (Public Consultation)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): In June last year, the Government launched a fifteen-week consultation on proposals for the CRC, inviting views on how the UK Government and devolved Administrations should implement the UK CRC. The overall response of stakeholders to the consultation document is positive. Stakeholders support the adoption of CRC as a UK-wide scheme and tended to agree with most elements of the Government's proposed approach.

The CRC, scheduled to begin operation in 2010, is a mandatory emissions trading scheme that will cover around 5,000 public and private organisations, including Government Departments, retailers, banks, water companies, hotel chains and local authorities. Combined, these organisations account for around 10 per cent. of the UK economy's CO_2 emissions.

There will be an introductory three-year phase in which the Government is minded that allowances will be sold at a fixed price of £12/tCO_2. In the second phase, starting in 2013, allowances will be auctioned. The revenue from both sales will be recycled to participants related to their performance in reducing emissions compared to others in the scheme.

The UK is committed to meeting carbon reduction targets and to policies that will deliver emissions savings. This new scheme, announced in the energy White Paper, together with the provisions of the energy performance of buildings directive, will have a significant impact on reducing UK CO_2 emissions.

The Climate Change Bill, currently going through Parliament, will provide the legal basis for the scheme. A further consultation on detailed regulations will take place in the summer of 2008.

Copies of the report will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Hong Kong

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The latest report on the implementation of the Sino-British joint declaration on Hong Kong was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at www.fco.gov.uk. The report covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 2007. I commend the report to the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Independent Police Complaints Commission

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I am pleased to announce that Her Majesty has reappointed Nicholas Hardwick as Chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Commission under the provisions of the Police Reform Act 2002.

Nicholas Hardwick has been chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Commission since 1 February 2003 at which time it was operating as a

shadow organisation prior to its replacing the Police Complaints Authority with effect from 1 April 2004; the period of the reappointment is for a further 5 years, the maximum permitted period.

The role of chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Commission is a challenging one and I am sure that Nicholas Hardwick will continue to rise to those challenges to ensure that the Independent Police Complaints Commission is effective and plays a full part in further increasing public confidence in the police complaints system.

JUSTICE

Coroners Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Government's plans to reform the coroner system were set out in the draft Coroners Bill, which was published in June 2006. Extensive consultation since then has helped to refine several policy areas. Today I am publishing a briefing note that explains the policy changes, and compares the revised policy with that set out in the draft Bill.

Some of the changes have been announced already, such as the addition of provisions to strengthen the public protection role of coroners, and a return to the current position on the reporting of inquests. Other changes, such as the scope of the appeals system and inspection arrangements for the coroners' service, will be announced for the first time in the briefing note.

The briefing note refers to the removal from the Bill of a provision on restricting the reporting of some inquests. Instead, I have been working with the Press Complaints Commission to produce a short discussion paper on how its press code can be improved to protect bereaved families. The discussion paper also considers how the code, and the role of the Commission, can be better brought to the attention of families. This paper is also being published today.

Copies of the briefing note, "Coroners Bill—Changes made resulting from consultation", and of the discussion paper on press reporting of inquests have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Copies of the briefing note are also available on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/draft-coroners.htm

Copies of the discussion paper are also available on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/coroners-sensitive-reporting.htm

CABINET OFFICE

Public Bodies 2007

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): The Cabinet Office has today published "Public Bodies 2007" which lists all non-departmental public bodies (NDPB) sponsored by the UK Government as at 31 March 2007. "Public Bodies 2007" also provides summary information on the size and expenditure of the NDPB sector and statistical information on public appointments.

"Public Bodies 2007" can be downloaded from the civil service website at: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp. Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Highways Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Highways Agency's Business Plan for 2008-09 has been published today. Copies of the business plan have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Financial Assistance Scheme

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien): This statement is an update for the House on the progress made in implementing the changes to the financial assistance scheme (FAS) following the Government announcement on 17 December 2007.

Progress made

The consultation for the first package of draft regulations finished on 20 March. Subject to parliamentary passage, those regulations will increase FAS payments to 90 per cent. of accrued pension, and will also enable us to pay people from their normal retirement age, subject to a lower limit of age 60. We are now considering the responses we have had to the consultation.

We have also consulted on changes we are proposing to annuity factors used in certain circumstances to convert cash sums into rates of notional pension to facilitate the calculation of assistance. This consultation is open until 18 April.

Next steps

We are now beginning the next stage of implementing the changes from the December announcement. Tomorrow we will be publishing a second set of draft regulations for consultation.

The second set of regulations contain provision for early reduced payment for certain qualifying members who are unable to work due to ill health; extending the FAS to members of certain schemes which wound up underfunded with a solvent employer; speeding up initial payments; enabling the board of the Pension Protection Fund to advise in the development of the new FAS arrangements; and removing the option to apply for reinstatement into the state additional pension for those eligible for FAS.

To reflect the particular nature of the content the written consultation period for these draft regulations will be a period of six weeks. Although less than the customary 12 weeks, we consider that a six-week period for written consultation provides an appropriate time for stakeholders to consider and respond fully, and will

allow us to make the changes as quickly as we reasonably can. We have been in regular contact with stakeholders including the pensions action group, and will be sending the consultation document directly to relevant pension scheme trustees.

Good progress continues to be made and we will maintain the effort required to ensure these changes, and therefore the assistance to scheme members, are in place with the minimum of delay.

The consultation documents are available on the Department's website at

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/Financial AssistanceScheme(MiscellaneousAmendments)2 Regulations2008.pdf, or alternatively via the FAS website.

In the first two packages of draft regulations we have focused on introducing the key parts of the reforms to FAS announced on 17 December 2007: payment at 90 per cent. from normal retirement age; allowing early reduced payment for those scheme members unable to work due to ill health; and allowing certain pension schemes with solvent employers to qualify for FAS.

There will be a third package of regulations published for consultation later in the year aimed at delivering all the remaining parts of the extension, which will move FAS to a position where financial assistance payments are calculated on a basis which is broadly comparable to that of the PPF.

Employment and Support Allowance Regulations

The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Mr. Stephen Timms): On behalf of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, I have signed regulations made under Part 1 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007, which are laid before the House today. This is an important set of regulations which provides the benefit structure and rules for the new employment and support allowance (ESA) which will be introduced from 27 October 2008.

This is a further significant step in the Government's welfare reform strategy and addresses a key area for simplification by providing a single income replacement benefit for people who are not working and have a health condition or disability.

The Employment and Support Allowance Regulations 2008 prescribe the conditions of entitlement and benefit regulations for those who claim on the basis that their capability for work is limited by their physical or mental condition. ESA will be payable in respect of new claims arising from 27 October and will replace incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity or disability. Incapacity benefit and income support will continue in payment to existing customers.

For ESA, new medical and capability assessments, collectively to be known as the work capability assessment, will focus on what a person can do and identify what steps they might take towards taking up work. We intend to apply the new medical test to existing claimants, as their benefit entitlement comes up for reassessment, starting in 2010. We expect all existing claimants to have been assessed using the new test by 2013.

For the majority of new claimants, ESA will provide, through a series of six mandatory work-focused interviews, the necessary personal adviser and other support to enable them to realise their potential and gain independence by moving into the job market. This will be delivered through the successful pathways to work initiative, which will be extended and available nationally from next month and which has already helped over 64,000 people into work.

ESA will be payable to those with the most severe health conditions or disabilities without them having to undertake any mandatory work-focused interviews—they will be part of the support group. However, no one in the support group will be written off. They will be able to volunteer to receive the same support as the majority of claimants, who will be in the work-related activity group.

The regulations set out the rates of new benefit and ensure that a single person in the support group claiming income-related ESA will be guaranteed an income of at least £102.10 a week—£17.60 a week more than the long-term rate of incapacity benefit. This will be done by automatically passporting them to the enhanced disability premium, as part of our commitment to fairness for the most severely disabled.

Agency Targets and Business Plans

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): I am today able to announce the annual performance targets in 2008-09 for the executive agencies of the Department for Work and Pensions. The targets I have agreed are set out below.

Further information on the plans of Jobcentre Plus and The Rent Service in 2008-09 is contained in their individual business plans which have been published today. Copies have been placed in the Library. The Child Support Agency's business plan has also been placed in the Library and will be published shortly. The business plan for the Pension, Disability and Carers Service will be published in due course.

Jobcentre Plus

2008-09

Job Outcome Target (JOT)[1]
To achieve a total points score 5% higher than that achieved in 2007-08

[1]The target will be a 5% increase on actual outturn for 2007-08 which will be calculated in the autumn when the end of year JOT performance figures for 2007-08 are available.

Interventions Delivery Target	
To make sure that specified Jobcentre Plus labour market interventions take place within set timescales in 86% of cases checked.	
Components	*Planning Assumption*
IS Lone parent Review/Trigger Work Focused Interviews	85
JSA Interventions (JSA 13 and 26, 52 and 78 week interventions)	90
IB Interventions (Initial IB WFIs)	85

Average Actual Clearance Times

To process claims within specified Average Actual Clearance Times (AACTs) for Incapacity Benefit (IB), Income Support (IS) and Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)—15 days, 10 days and 11.5 days respectively.

Fraud and Error

To prevent and detect overpayments and underpayments of benefit consistent with DWP's aspiration for the proportion of expenditure overpaid and underpaid due to fraud and error as set out in the Department's Business Plan for 2008-09.

Customer Service Target

To achieve an 86% customer service level in the delivery of the standards set out in the Customers and Employers Charters.

Employer Engagement Target

At least 92% of employers placing their vacancies with Jobcentre Plus will have a positive outcome.

Pension, Disability and Carers Service

To deliver an annualised value of new successful Pension Credit applications of £767 million and to secure at least 250,000 successful new Pension Credit applications.

Achieve an accuracy rate of 92% on new claims and changes of circumstances to Pension Credit.

Achieve an accuracy rate of 98% on new claims and changes of circumstances to State Pension.

Clear new applications and changes of circumstances to Pension Credit within an average of 15 working days.

Clear at least 95% of new claims to State Pension within 60 days.

The number of Disability Living Allowance / Attendance Allowance cases referred to the Tribunal Service to be no more than 4.5 %.

Achieve 82 % of customers satisfied with the service they receive

Clear new claims for Disability Living Allowance within 38 days, Attendance Allowance within 16 days and Carer's Allowance within 13.5 days.

Reduce the cost of processing disability benefits to £34.35.

Achieve an accuracy rate of 94% on decisions on claims for Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance.

Achieve a financial accuracy rate of 98% for Carer's Allowance.

To have at least 93% of calls answered by an advisor with less than 1% receiving an engaged tone.

To prevent and detect overpayments and underpayments of benefit consistent with DWPs aspiration for the proportion of expenditure overpaid and underpaid due to fraud and error. Prevent and detect fraud and correcting fraud and error in a minimum of 50,600 cases.

Reduce staff sickness absence to less than 8.2 average working days lost.

Child Support Agency

Number of children	Maintenance will be collected or have been arranged by the agency on behalf of 790,000 children.
Total Maintenance Collection (Arrears)	Collect or have arranged £1,080 million in child maintenance between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009; of which at least £220 million maintenance will be arrears.
Maintenance Outcomes	By 31 March 2009, in 69% of cases across both the new and old schemes in which a liability to pay maintenance exists, the non-resident parent has either made a payment via the collection service or a Maintenance Direct arrangement is in place.
Uncleared applications to the New Scheme	By 31 March 2009, the volume of uncleared new scheme applications will be no more than 90,000.

The Rent Service

Service Delivery

To determine 94% of Housing Benefit claims with an inspection in 15 working days.

To determine 94% of Housing Benefit claims without an inspection in three working days.

To determine 94% of Pre-Tenancy Housing Benefit claims within four working days.

To determine 94% of Redeterminations within 15 working days.

To determine 94% of Fair Rents within 40 working days.

Quality

95% of all Housing Benefit determinations that are checked as part of our quality assurance processes are verified as being accurate.

95% of all Fair Rent valuations that are checked as part of our quality assurance processes are verified as being accurate.

Customer Satisfaction

To ensure that at least 95% of our local authority customers rate our service as satisfactory or better during the year.

To ensure that at least 95% of our Fair Rent customers, and those Housing Benefit customers that we inspect, rate our service as satisfactory or better during the year.

Valuation Assurance

To review in the first year of LHA 25% of Broad Rental Market Areas.

Value for Money for Service Delivery Teams

Productivity

To increase productivity within the Service Delivery function by 2% by the end of the year.

Cost per case

To reduce the Service Delivery function cost per case by 1.5% in real terms by the end of the year.

Sickness Absence

To keep sickness absence below 8 working days per employee per year.

JUSTICE

Coroners' Recommendations (Government Response)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and I wish to make the following statement to the House. It concerns the Government's response to recommendations made by the coroners following the inquests into the tragic deaths of Gareth Myatt at Rainsbrook secure training centre in April 2004 and Adam Rickwood at Hassockfield secure training centre in August 2004.

In reply to a letter from His Honour Judge Richard Pollard, who presided at the inquest into Gareth's death,

we promised a full response to his recommendations. To that end, we have drawn up an action plan which sets out the measures the Government and the Youth Justice Board have taken, and are taking, in response to Judge Pollard's recommendations and to those of Mr. Andrew Tweddle, who presided at the inquest into Adam's death.

We are placing copies of the action plan in the Library of the House. Copies have also been made available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. It can also be accessed on the publications section of the Ministry of Justice website at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm, or the publications section of the Department for Children, Schools and Families website at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications.

The action plan demonstrates the volume and variety of work that is being done to enhance safeguarding and child protection in the under-18 secure estate. One important strand of that work is the independent joint review of the use of restraint, which is due to report to Ministers of State for Justice and for Children, Young People and Families by 20 June.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 31 March 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Companies House Targets

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I have set Companies House the following targets for the year 2008-09:

To achieve a score of more than 86 per cent. in each quarterly Companies House customer satisfaction survey.

To achieve a 26 per cent. increase in the volume of documents submitted electronically by the end of 2008-09.

To achieve, on average, a target that a search customer can access their requested electronic document on our systems within 60 seconds.

To ensure that Companies House Direct, WebCHeck and WebFiling are available for 99 per cent. of the time between the hours of 7 am and midnight, Monday to Saturday for April to December 2008 and between the hours of 7 am and midnight Monday to Sunday for January to March 2009.

To achieve, on average, a monthly compliance rate for accounts submitted of 95.3 per cent.

To resolve 97 per cent. of all complaints within five days.

The chief executive to reply within 10 days to all letters from members of parliament delegated to him for reply.

To ensure that, on average, electronic transactions received are available to view on the public record within 72 hours.

To ensure that, on average, paper transactions received are available to view on the public record within eight days.

To ensure that 99.5 per cent. of images placed on the Companies House image system are legible and complete.

To achieve a target that 90 per cent. of staff rate Companies House as a good place to work.

To decrease the weight of non-recyclable office waste by 15 per cent.

To reduce CO_2 emissions for the use of gas and electricity by 1.5 per cent. per person.

To achieve by 2010-11 a reduction, in real terms, of 15 per cent. compared to 2007-08 in the operational monetary cost of the registry per company on the register.

To achieve, taking one year with another, a 3.5 per cent. average rate of return based on the operating surplus expressed as a percentage of average net assets.

To pay all bills within 30 days, or on other agreed credit terms, on receipt of goods or services or a valid invoice, whichever is later.

Insolvency Service Targets (2008-09)

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I have today agreed to the publishing of the Insolvency Service's Corporate Plan for the period 2008-11.

The Insolvency Service plans to deal with some 74,200 new insolvencies in the year to 31 March 2009 principally as a result of an increase in personal bankruptcies.

Its planning assumption for the level of redundancy payments and other insolvency-related claims is 80,000 in the year.

Action will continue to be taken against bankrupts and company directors in respect of financial misconduct or dishonesty and I have asked the Service to increase its enforcement output by 7 per cent. over that achieved in 2007-08.

Companies Investigation Branch will continue to investigate the affairs of companies in the public interest and I have set targets in relation to the timeliness of dealing with complaints made and the handling of investigations into live companies that follow from those complaints.

The Service's "Enabling the Future" strategy, a major programme of IT-led investment, will deliver savings over the period of the forthcoming comprehensive spending review and I have therefore set the Service a target to have reduced its case administration fees by 15 per cent. by 31 March 2011.

The Service's Corporate Plan 2008-11 will be available at: www.insolvency.gov.uk

Published Targets	*Target 2008-09*	*Target 2007-08*
Lower the fees for insolvency case administration in real terms from the 2007-08 level by 2010-11	15% (3 Year Target)	15%
User Satisfaction Index	92%	New Target
Level of public confidence in The Service's enforcement regime	66%	65%
To reduce the average time from insolvency order to the instigation of disqualification proceedings in appropriate cases	20 Months	22 Months
Increase the quantity of enforcement outputs in 2008-09 from 2007-08 baseline by	7%	7%
Complete consideration of vetting complaints about live companies within two months	90%	90%
Complete internal investigations into live companies within six months	90%	90%
Process Redundancy Payment claims for payment within:		
3 weeks	78%	78%
6 weeks	92%	92%

In addition to these targets the Service is required to meet centrally promulgated targets relating to replying to correspondence from hon. Members, making payments to suppliers. The Service will also look to maintain Charter Mark and Investors in People accreditation following reassessments during 2008-09.

Other Targets	*Target 2008-09*	*Target 2007-08*
Reply to correspondence from Members of Parliament within 10 days	100%	100%
Process payments to suppliers in 30 days	100%	100%

TREASURY

Northern Rock

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): On 18 March, *Official Report*, columns 53-54WS, I informed the House that the Government had formally notified to the European Commission proposals to continue to provide state aid to Northern Rock to support a restructuring of the company during the period of temporary public ownership. In addition, the board of Northern Rock plc set out in general its plans for the future direction of the business during the period of temporary public ownership. The Government's objectives in relation to Northern Rock remain the protection of taxpayers and consumers, and the maintenance of financial stability.

The board of Northern Rock plc has today published its annual report and accounts for 2007. These show that the Bank of England loan facilities to Northern Rock plc as at 31 December 2007 stood at £26.9 billion. Since then some £2.5 billion has been repaid and the gross loan stands at around £24 billion. These accounts also demonstrate that Northern Rock remains solvent and meets its regulatory requirements.

The board of Northern Rock has also published a more detailed business plan, which I have approved, based around four objectives:

Contracting to a smaller, sustainable business through a reduction of the asset base from £107 billion in 2007 to £49 billion in 2011, while maintaining on average around £5 billion a year of new mortgage origination over this period and continuing to treat customers fairly;

Repaying of the Bank of England loan by the end of 2010 and enabling the Government to release their guarantee arrangements gradually by 2011, subject to the Financial Services Authority being satisfied of the capital position of Northern Rock at that time. In the meantime, the existing Government guarantee arrangements remain in place. Depositors' money continues to be safe and secure. Retail deposits are projected to increase to £20 billion by 2011 providing closer to half the company's funding needs—but in total will remain below 2007 levels;

Restructuring the organisation and its operations so that these are aligned to the business objectives;

Strengthening risk management in key business areas.

This business plan meets the Government's objectives. As set out in the Budget, the Government will, during 2008-09, replace the Bank of England's loan to Northern Rock with direct Treasury funding. The Bank of England and the Treasury are agreeing with Northern Rock the terms of this financing. This will include a back-up liquidity facility, to meet the Financial Services Authority's requirements, that may remain in place beyond 2010 until sufficient alternative liquidity arrangements are in place. Northern Rock will maintain, but contract over time, its Granite securitisation vehicle.

Furthermore Northern Rock has published as part of its business plan a competitive framework, which is subject to European Commission approval, setting out its commitment not to take unfair advantage of Government support during the state aid period. It will commit to a series of steps, in particular Northern Rock will restrict itself from positions of market leadership on any product category for 2008.

I have also agreed with Northern Rock a shareholder agreement that sets out the framework within which HM Treasury will operate its shareholder relationship with Northern Rock. This sets out our intention to run Northern Rock on an arm's length, commercial basis, while approving strategy and holding the board to account for performance against the business plan.

I have placed copies of the accounts, business plan and shareholder framework agreement in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

A Strategy for 14-19 Qualifications

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I am today publishing a consultation document, "Promoting Achievement, Valuing Success: A Strategy for 14-19 Qualifications". Building on the aim that we set out in the Children's Plan for a world-class education system for all 14-19 year olds, this strategy will help to ensure that we can unlock the talent of every young person—enabling all teenagers to pursue qualifications that are understood and valued and allow them to achieve and succeed. This strategy builds on the advice we have received from a group of independent experts from all parts of the education sector and employers.

The current qualification system is overly complex—it is often difficult for young people and their advisers to understand which will best meet their needs and support their aspirations. Not every qualification option has clear progression routes to further study or to skilled employment. Not all the qualifications currently on offer enable young people to develop all the skills and knowledge they need, and that employers and universities want. We want more comprehensive and coherent qualifications for young people, supporting better progression through a set of clear, well-valued qualification choices.

Building on the vision set out in the 2005 White Paper, "14-19 Education and Skills", there will be four key national qualification routes: GCSEs and A levels; Diplomas; Apprenticeships; and the Foundation Learning Tier. These will offer a range of choices from general education to job-specific learning, and will support young people of all abilities throughout the country. This clear new offer will build on the best of existing provision, but will also secure a coherent system of 14-19 education that is truly fit for the future, with the flexibility to meet the needs and aspirations of each and every young person. We have said that we will conduct a first full review in 2013 to consider how diplomas, GCSEs and A levels and any other general qualifications publicly funded for young people at that point, are combining to meet the needs of young people, employers and universities.

These proposals are an essential part of our plans to raise the education and training leaving age to 18, so that all young people have the right skills to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world and can continue learning throughout life.

Some key elements of the strategy are as follows:

We will simplify the system, with a new process to bring in the best of existing qualifications, while building towards the more streamlined offer;

We will establish a step-by-step process through which we can be assured that in simplifying the qualifications available, we are continuing to meet the full range of learner needs. This will ensure that we can bring in the best of what currently exists, while managing a process of transition to the future simplified system;

This will include the development of a set of criteria against which we will assess whether qualifications will be approved for use for young people in the future;

The appointment of an expert body of external advisers—the Joint Advisory Committee on Qualifications Approval—to advise on how these principles should be applied;

As we are developing new qualification options, we will make sure they are made as comprehensive as possible, to better meet the needs of all young people through:

The extended diploma, which will recognise a wider range of achievement within the diploma framework;

Plans to make the Extended Project an option for all young people who study A Levels;

An extension of the diploma entitlement from the first 14 to all 17 diplomas post-16 from 2013.

We are confident that these proposals will go a long way towards our aim of attracting more young people to learning, transforming standards in the basics and in the wider skills for employability, and enabling all young people to be taking qualifications that have a real standing with employers and the public at large, establishing a strong progression route to further and higher education.

The formal consultation process will allow us to take the views of all those interested in these proposals, and to ensure that we are moving in a direction which will make our qualifications system more robust and responsive to the needs of all.

I am placing in the Library copies of the consultation document. The consultation period runs from Monday 31 March to Monday 23 June.

"Staying Safe: Action Plan"

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): I would like to update the House on the work we have undertaken and the further action we plan to take to safeguard children and young people from forced marriage.

Keeping children and young people safe is a top priority for this Government and my Department. The Government are committed to improving the safety and welfare of all children and young people, whatever their background or circumstances. We are determined to do all we can to make the existing systems and guidance as effective as possible and to strengthen them where needed. We have introduced new legislation, new guidance and new structures to make children safer. And we are committed to doing even more as set out most recently in the cross-Government "Staying Safe: Action Plan" published last month.

I gave oral evidence to the Home Affairs Committee on 4 March in relation to the Committee's Inquiry into Domestic Violence. My letter to the Committee of 11 March set out the range of measures that this Department has already put in place and the further action we are planning to take in order to make children safer and to tackle all forms of abuse, including domestic violence and forced marriage. It also addressed the specific questions asked by the Select Committee on action to safeguard children and young people from forced marriage and how this relates to the local authority duty to make arrangements to establish the identities of children not receiving a suitable education. This was informed by data gathered from 14 local authority areas, via Government Offices. The Committee has placed my letter in full in the public domain.

This Department recognises the importance of doing more to raise awareness about these issues among children and young people and signpost them clearly to sources of advice and support. Working with the Forced Marriage Unit, we will develop materials on the issue of forced marriage specifically for use by schools and tailored to young people and we will actively encourage schools to use them. We will draw on our recent data gathering exercise which indicates that a range of different approaches can be effective.

Within the next few weeks, Ministers in my Department intend to write to all schools and local authorities reminding them of their responsibilities and of the existing guidance—both general safeguarding children guidance, which includes the issue of forced marriage, and the specific forced marriage guidance for education professionals, issued jointly with the Forced Marriage Unit. We will also set out our plans to consult on revised forced marriage guidance which will then be placed on a statutory footing this autumn.

In addition, I have written to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector to ask Ofsted to provide their view of how well the duty on children not receiving a suitable education is being implemented. Following advice from Ofsted, the Department will work with local authorities to share best practice and lessons that can be learnt about putting in place more effective mechanisms.

My Department will continue to assist the Home Affairs Committee with its important inquiry. I look forward to seeing the Committee's report and recommendations in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regeneration

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs, the Member for Wolverhampton, South-East (Mr. McFadden), and I are today publishing a consultation paper: "Prosperous Places: Taking Forward the Review of Sub-national Economic Development and Regeneration"

We are consulting on three main issues—the implementation of new regional strategies; the creation of a duty on local authorities to carry out an economic assessment of their area; and options for a legal framework to encourage local authorities to collaborate on economic development.

This develops the plans set out in the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration that I announced to the House on 17 July 2007.

The consultation papers are available in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be accessed online at: http://www.bmgresearch.co.uk/SNR-Consultation.

The consultation will run until 17 June 2008. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs and I, and regional Ministers, will hold wide-ranging discussions over the next few months as part of this consultation.

DEFENCE

Chemical Weapons Convention

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The UK's chemical protection programme is designed to protect against the use of chemical weapons. Such a programme is permitted by the Chemical Weapons Convention, with which the United Kingdom is fully compliant. Under the terms of the convention, we are required to provide information annually to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). In accordance with the Government's commitment to openness, I am placing a copy of the summary that has been provided to the organisation outlining the UK's chemical protection programme in 2007 in the Library of the House.

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence has signed a 27-year Private Finance Initiative contract with AirTanker Ltd, to provide a replacement air-to-air refuelling and strategic air transport capability for our armed forces. The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) service will replace our VC10 and TriStar aircraft from 2011.

FSTA is an innovative PFI programme that will provide modern air-to-air refuelling and passenger air transport capability. Since June 2007, the Department has been working with AirTanker to raise the necessary private sector funds. This work has now been completed and I congratulate all those involved in securing the deal.

The contract will provide a comprehensive and integrated service solution, based on new Airbus A330 aircraft modified to provide air-to-air refuelling capability. It will include provision of purpose designed training and maintenance facilities at RAF Brize Norton, together with through life training and maintenance support services.

Air-to-air refuelling and strategic passenger air transport are key capabilities in this era of expeditionary operations. This announcement is excellent news for our armed forces, for the taxpayer, for AirTanker, and for UK industry.

JUSTICE

Land Registry Targets (2008-09)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): The following list sets out the key performance indicators and targets that have been set for Her Majesty's Land Registry for 2008-09.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Speed:

Percentage of Official Copy and Search applications processed within two working days: 98%

Percentage of all registrations processed within 18 working days: 80%

Accuracy:

Percentage of registrations processed free of any error: 98.5%

Overall Satisfaction:

Percentage of customers who rate the overall service provided by Land Registry as excellent, very good or good: Better than 95%

FINANCIAL

Percentage return on average capital employed: 3.5%

EFFICIENCY[1]

Cost per unit in cash terms[1] (*real terms*)[2] : £30.32 (*£20.07*)

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREA TARGETS

Customer Service

Establish a customer contact centre to support portal and e-conveyancing users.

Land Registration

Through voluntary registration, add a further 325,000 hectares of land to the total areas of registered freehold land in England and Wales.

Electronic Service Delivery

Introduce a prototype e-charge registration service (Land Registry's first e-deed—electronic charges in standard form (eCSF)).

Other Business Development

Achieve a contribution earned from commercial services sales, after taking account of direct costs and product development costs, of 8 per cent. of income.

Copies of the Land Registry's business plan will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available on the internet at: www.landregistry.gov.uk

[1] Based on the GDP deflator issued by HM Treasury on 13 March 2008 (base year 1992-93).

[2] The real term unit cost in the base year of 1992-93 was £30.65.

CABINET OFFICE

Power of Information Review (Government's Interim Progress Report)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Tom Watson): On the 25 June 2007, the Government published their response to the Power of Information Review (Cm7157). The review was an independent study by Tom Steinberg, director of mySociety and Ed Mayo, chief executive of the National Consumer Council to:

"explore new developments in the use and communication of citizen and state-generated public information in the UK, and to present an analysis and recommendations to the Cabinet Office Minister as part of the policy review"

The Government welcomed the findings of the review, agreeing to the majority of the reviewers' recommendations and outlined how they would be taken forward.

I am pleased to announce the publication of the Government's interim report into these recommendations.

This report takes stock of progress made by Government in the past six months and highlights the concrete actions departments are taking to implement the review.

Copies of this report have been placed in the Library.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Parliamentary Constituencies (Northern Ireland) Order 2008

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992, requires that the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland undertake periodical reviews of constituencies in Northern Ireland. The Commission are required to submit a report to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland not less than eight or more than 12 years from their last report. The report was submitted to the Secretary of State on 14 September 2007. The previous report was submitted in October 1995.

I am pleased to announce that the Fifth Periodic Report on Parliamentary Constituencies has been laid before Parliament today with a copy of the draft Parliamentary Constituencies (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 to give effect to the recommendations of the report without modification. The recommendations of the Commission are that 18 constituencies should be retained for Northern Ireland with revisions made to the boundaries of the 12 Constituencies of Belfast East, Belfast North, Belfast South, Belfast West, East Antrim, East Londonderry, Foyle, Lagan Valley, North Antrim, South Antrim, South Down and Strangford.

Copies are available in the Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Discretionary Social Fund (Allocations 2008-09)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): I am pleased to announce that the gross discretionary social fund budget for 2008-09 will be £682 million. This includes a £40 million injection of net funding, being the third of three which in total comprise a substantial £210 million boost to support changes to the loans scheme.

With the net funding available, I have been able to allocate a gross national loans budget of £540 million and a national community care grants budget of £141 million from 1 April 2008. £1 million will be retained centrally as a contingency reserve. For example it is available to provide help to Jobcentre Plus budgets facing unexpected and unplanned expenditure.

Details of individual budget allocations will be placed in the Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 1 April 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Defence Exports

The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. John Hutton): The Prime Minister's statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 83WS announced a machinery of Government transfer moving responsibility for defence trade promotion from the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). As outlined in my ministerial statement of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 16WS, this transfer takes place today, 1 April 2008, with the launch of the new UKTI Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO).

This statement is made in close consultation with my colleagues the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. With this transfer, ministerial responsibility for trade and investment in the defence and security sectors now rests with the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, a joint BERR and FCO Minister. Close links with MOD Ministers will be maintained.

The Government remain fully committed to supporting the defence sector and its continued export success. Defence equipment manufacture is highly important to our economy and the creation of the new UKTI Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) will allow us to develop our support for the defence sector building on the good work of DESO in the past and taking advantage of UKTI's experience in helping other sectors.

In line with normal machinery of Government transfers, the relevant resources transfer at current levels from MOD to UKTI (and its parent departments BERR and FCO). Some 240 posts and the associated resources transfer with effect from 1 April, 200 in the UK and 40 overseas. To ensure UKTI DSO has continued defence expertise, around half of the posts will be filled by military and civilian staff on loan from the MOD. The remaining posts will be filled by staff transferring permanently.

A new security directorate is being established within UKTI Defence and Security Organisation, to enhance the support provided to business in the military and civil security sector. This will bring together support previously provided separately by DESO and UKTI into a coherent and co-ordinated national effort to help UK companies in this increasingly important area of the economy to win business from overseas Government and business customers.

This transfer will also enable us to enhance support for defence exports in a way that emphasises our commitment to the highest business standards. UKTI Defence and Security Organisation will seek to assist the defence industry to achieve a more consistent performance across industry as a whole, demonstrably supporting good governance and responding to the compelling business case for transparency and ethical behaviour.

The UKTI Defence and Security Organisation will continue to have strong links to the MOD. Arrangements have been formally set out in a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between UKTI and MOD (published today, 01.04.2008, and a copy of which will be placed in the libraries of both Houses). The terms of the SLA include the provision support for overseas campaigns, ongoing engagement of Defence Ministers, and the loan from the MOD to UKTI of both military and civilian personnel.

In line with the Prime Minister's statement and my previous statement, no changes are envisaged to existing and planned agreements between the MOD and other Governments. The MOD export licensing function, previously part of DESO, is being retained within MOD.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools Revenue Balances (2006-07)

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): Following my statement of 30 October 2007 on school finances, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has today published information on the end of financial year revenue balances of all local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools for the year 2006-07.

This information is presented alongside information on schools' revenue balances for the financial years 1999-2000 to 2005-06, published on 15 March 2007. The information is taken from local authorities' published section 52 outturn statements for the years in question but presents this in summary form. Copies of the information have been placed in the Libraries and will be accessible from the TeacherNet website, with supporting information, at: www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbalances/.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Gypsies and Travellers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): I am today publishing the Government's response to "The Road Ahead: The Final Report of the Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers".

In 2006, the Government appointed Sir Brian Briscoe to chair a task group to examine the barriers local authorities face in taking effective enforcement action against unauthorised encampments and developments by Gypsies and Travellers. We were pleased to accept the task group's request that their terms of reference be amended to also include an examination of the barriers to effective site provision. The task group published their final report in December 2007 and

made 36 recommendations which covered the roles of central and local government as well as a range of other stakeholders.

The Government's approach balances firm but fair enforcement against those who camp on land without permission or who breach development control, with proactive measures to increase site provision. We are pleased that the task group agreed that this is the right approach.

In our response, the Government are today announcing our intention to provide an annual policy update to Parliament on Gypsy and Traveller issues, as well as to co-ordinate an annual meeting between Communities and Local Government and the organisations represented on the task group, or their successors.

Copies of the publication are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Executive Agencies

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): With effect from 1 April 2008 the Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) and the Defence Medical Education and Training Agency (DMETA) will cease to have the status of executive agencies of the Ministry of Defence.

DASA was established as an executive agency in 1993 to provide professional analytical, economic and statistical services and advice to the Department, and defence-related statistics to Parliament, other Government Departments and the public. The case for a change in status arises primarily from its developing role in supporting the exploitation of the substantial information resource which new departmental systems will provide. For the Department to fully exploit the additional value of these new systems it will have to adopt a more co-ordinated, cross-MOD approach than previously. DASA's ability to play its full role in these future developments will require greater flexibility of role and responsibility than is compatible with agency status.

DMETA was established in 2003, as part of the Defence Medical Services. Its principal objective has been to make available secondary care personnel for deployments who are medically educated and trained, to meet military operational requirements. The agency has also taken on additional roles, beyond its original mission, in the delivery of secondary and tertiary healthcare and operational capability at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre. As part of planned improvements to the structure of the defence medical services, we have decided to subsume DMETA's roles within a new joint medical command (JMC), which will be formed on 1 April. The JMC's wider role will in due course make it responsible for the delivery of all joint medical services, including joint medical and dental outputs, force generation, healthcare acquisition, training and education. We are planning for the JMC HQ, which will be established initially at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport, the current home of the DMETA HQ, to be re-located to Whittington Barracks, Lichfield as part of the Midland Medical Accommodation project.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

FCO Services

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): FCO Services today becomes a trading fund of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Mr Christopher Moxey was appointed as chief executive when FCO Services became an executive agency in April 2006 and will continue in that role for the FCO Services trading fund. The necessary statutory instrument comes into effect today (SI 2008/590).

FCO Services is our in-house support organisation, delivering key services to enable our global network to function efficiently. It protects our staff, buildings and communications from the wide variety of threats they continually face in many parts of the world and has particular expertise in secure logistics, secure IT and in the security of buildings. It is already a substantial business employing nearly 1000 staff and with an estimated turnover of around £125 million in 2007-08.

As an executive agency FCO Services has made real progress in customer satisfaction, internal efficiency and financial performance. I am now moving it to trading fund status where the additional commercial disciplines and freedoms will enable it to enhance service delivery and innovation and improve overall value for money. FCO Services will remain part of the FCO as a trusted partner under our overall strategic direction. The FCO will be assured of a continuing reliable supply of vital support services.

At the same time we will ensure that all the services FCO Services provides will be regularly tested and benchmarked for value for money; FCO Services will be encouraged to increase business with non-FCO customers, enabling it to finance its own investment plans and deliver economies of scale to the FCO. The more arms-length management arrangement will free up FCO resources to focus on the Government's strategic priorities abroad. This move is in the best interests of the FCO, the Government and the taxpayer.

In his written ministerial statement of 18 March, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown announced a set of key targets for FCO Services in 2008-09 to encourage the creation of a stable business and improvements in performance. FCO Services will report to Parliament on its success against these targets in its 2008-09 annual report.

Copies of the new framework document covering FCO Services' role and responsibilities will be placed in the Library of the House. A copy will also be available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk.

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) announced this week that, in accordance

with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor has decided to authorise the following NHS acute and mental health trusts as NHS foundation trust from 1 April:

The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust;

Medway NHS Trust; and

Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts to 92. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to apply for foundation status as soon as practicable. Monitor is now authorising trusts on a monthly basis, and further waves of NHS foundation trusts are set to follow.

Vascular Disease

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The Prime Minister set out his vision for the NHS earlier this year: a more personal service supporting people to stay well and maintain good health. It placed individuals' centre-stage, engaged and taking greater control over their own health. He promised to set out plans for a "predict and prevent" approach to identify vulnerability to vascular disease—heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

I am pleased to announce the development of a systematic programme of vascular checks for everyone between the ages of 40 and 74. "Putting prevention first" explains this in more detail and has been placed in the Library. Copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Independent Safeguarding Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): Further to the written statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and families on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 36WS, I am pleased to announce plans for the work of the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), together with the fee to be charged for applications.

The Independent Safeguarding Authority was established in January this year under powers in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. It will meet the aims of one of the key recommendations made by the Bichard inquiry, which pointed to the need for a scheme to register those seeking work with children or other vulnerable groups.

The ISA's role will be to consider all relevant information relating to the risk of harm posed by persons seeking to work with children or vulnerable adults, in either a paid or voluntary capacity, and to bar those considered unsuitable for such work. The transition to the new scheme is now under way. From 31 March this year, the ISA began to advise the Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families and for Health in connection with new cases arising under the existing barring arrangements, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of schedule 8 to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act. From 7 April this year, cases will be referred to the ISA under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (Transitional Provisions) Order 2008., under which ISA must include, or consider including, in the new barred lists those individuals who are barred under the current schemes.

From October 2009 the new ISA scheme will "go-live". From that point, the scheme will consider new applications in relation to persons seeking work with children or vulnerable adults. The fee charged for ISA scheme applications has been set at £28. This is based on cost recovery of the operational costs for the scheme over its first five years of operation, estimated at £246 million. The scheme will cost £84 million to set up.

Taken together with the fee required for a Criminal Records Bureau disclosure check, the total fee for an initial application will be £64. Under the planned arrangements, the ISA element of the fee will be payable only on first joining the scheme. Once registered, employers will be able to verify an applicant's registered status in the scheme by means of a free on-line check. No fee will be payable by those in unpaid voluntary work. The need for subsequent CRB checks will remain a matter for employers, except in those sectors where it is a legal requirement.

The establishment of the ISA plays an important part in the Government's agenda to meet the Bichard recommendations and ensure the most robust procedures are in place to safeguard children and other vulnerable groups.

JUSTICE

Probation Trusts (Implementation)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): I wish to inform the House that from 1 April 2008, there will be established six new probation trusts operating in England and Wales: Dyfed Powys; Humberside; Leicestershire and Rutland; Merseyside; South Wales; and West Mercia. The Government will be continuing to work closely with and to support those first six probation trusts in the learning year of 2008-09 as they develop and evolve.

There remain 36 local probation boards that continue to operate in all other areas of England and Wales. The Government are currently assessing the performance of all the local probation boards while considering the implications of wider issues around efficiency and effectiveness. We will continue to learn from, and with, our first probation trusts during this time.

In accordance with sections 7, 8 and 10 of the Offender Management Act, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice has published national standards for the management of offenders; his annual plan for discharging his functions in relation to the provision of probation services; and guidelines for the

qualification of officers supervising offenders. Copies have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses and are also available on the NOMS website at www.noms.justice.gov.uk/about-us/OffenderManagementAct/.

Child Care Proceedings System

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Following a statement I made to the House on 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 103WS, and in agreement with my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Member for Cardiff, West (Kevin Brennan) and the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Assembly Government (Gwenda Thomas), I am delighted to inform the House that two key reforms to the child care proceedings system have today come into force in England and Wales.

The Public Law Outline has been introduced to replace the existing Protocol for Judicial Case Management in Public Law Children Act Cases. This is underpinned by revised statutory guidance to local authorities in England and Wales issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 to support them in preparing care applications to the court.

Together these key reforms, which arose from the recommendations of the "Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England and Wales in May 2006", seek to ensure that vulnerable children involved in care cases have safety and stability in their lives and that decisions as to their future are made fairly and as speedily as possible. It is vital that all agencies work together collaboratively to establish safe, permanent and timely child focused solutions and reduce the stress caused by unnecessary delay in care proceedings.

In order to further inter-agency unity, a partnership of Government Departments and agencies commissioned Children Law UK to deliver training courses to support the introduction of the Public Law Outline and revised statutory guidance. Some 25 interdisciplinary seminars took place in England and Wales between January and March 2008, attended by nearly 2,000 people. Delegates included social workers, local authority legal advisers, legal practitioners, family court staff, and Cafcass and Cafcass Cymru staff. The seminars were delivered by family legal and social work experts who provided the attendees with the skills and knowledge necessary to cascade the training to their peers.

The revised statutory guidance places greater emphasis on the work undertaken by local authorities before care proceedings can commence. In particular, they are required to notify parents of their intention to make an application to the court and to set out the basis of their concerns and an outline of their future plans for the child. On receipt of this, parents have immediate access to non-means tested legal help from a solicitor, funded by the Legal Services Commission, with the aim of avoiding proceedings or narrowing the issues to be determined by the court.

Where cases do proceed to court, the Public Law Outline introduces a more streamlined court process (reducing the current six stages to four). It promotes better quality applications through following the revised local authority guidance; requires timetables for the court process to be set which are focused on the needs of the children involved; and, introduces enhanced case management procedures which include earlier identification of the key issues leading to better targeted and effective use of experts evidence in those cases where it is required.

The final versions of the Public Law Outline and local authority guidance have been prepared with input from a wide range of stakeholders. A full public consultation on the revised statutory guidance was undertaken during 2007, while the Public Law Outline was tested in 10 care centres and their linked family proceedings courts selected by Sir Mark Potter, president of the family division, in consultation with relevant designated family judges. The experiences of the 10 initiative areas have played a crucial role in helping to inform both final versions of these key reforms, and the nationwide implementation plans.

Copies of the Public Law Outline and the revised statutory guidance have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Parole Board

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The purpose of this statement is to advise the House as to changes I am making in respect of arrangements my Department makes for sponsoring the Parole Board, an executive non-departmental public body (ENDPB).

In its judgment handed down on 1 February in the case of "Brooke" the Court of Appeal ruled that, as a consequence of its current sponsorship arrangements, the Parole Board was not sufficiently independent of the executive to meet the requirements of article 5(4) of the ECHR. In reaching this conclusion the Court acknowledged that the Parole Board had evolved from an advisory body to a judicial body.

The Court of Appeal found that the Parole Board should not be sponsored by the National Offender Management Service as is currently the case and that the Secretary of State should ensure that the sponsorship responsibility for the board was placed in another part of the Ministry of Justice where its independence is not open to question. However, the Court of Appeal also ruled that the status of the board as an ENDPB is not incompatible with independence.

The Parole Board has an important role in determining whether to release some of potentially the most dangerous offenders within the criminal justice system. I fully recognise that its decisions in individual cases must both be and be seen to be free of interference by its sponsoring Department.

I have decided not to seek leave to appeal against the court's findings. Instead I have given careful consideration to how the Parole Board's sponsorship arrangements should be altered to meet the concerns of the court.

From 1 April sponsorship of the Parole Board will be transferred from the National Offender Management Service to the Access to Justice Group in the Ministry of Justice. Although responsibility for sponsorship of the Parole Board will remain within the Ministry, there

will be a clear separation between responsibility for the board's sponsorship and responsibility for the management of offenders.

These new sponsorship arrangements underline my commitment to enhancing and protecting the independence of the Parole Board and I commend them to the House.

Prison Policy

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): Further to my statement on prison policy on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 37WS, I am pleased to announce that the evaluation of the Dedicated Drug Court pilots has now been completed. Copies of this, the "Dedicated Drug Court Pilots: A Process Report" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. The report is also available online at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research010408.htm

The Dedicated Drug Court model establishes a new framework in the magistrates courts in dealing with drug misusing offenders committing low level crime to fund their addiction, aiming to reduce their drug misuse and therefore their associated offending behaviour. The model makes use of specialist panels of magistrates or district judges to provide continuity when sentencing and reviewing offenders' progress on drug treatment orders to completion or any breach, seeking to improve offenders' motivation to stay in treatment and so reduce drug use and related offending

Pilots were launched at Leeds and West London Magistrates Courts in December 2005. An independent evaluation of these pilots has now been completed. The process report published today provides positive indications of the impact of continuity of judiciary on several key outcomes, including offenders being less likely to miss a court hearing, less likely to be re-convicted and more likely to complete their community order.

The Dedicated Drug Court model will now be extended to up to four more sites. This will allow the viability of the model to be tested in an increased number of sites and the conclusions of the current evaluation to be strengthened with evidence from an increased number of cases. The new pilot sites will be selected through consultation with the judiciary, court staff and other key partners and the pilots will commence in October 2008.

Her Majesty's Courts Service

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Lord Chief Justice and I are today issuing the following joint statement:

In January this year we announced the main principles of a partnership between us, as Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice, in relation to the governance, resourcing and operation of the courts. A new framework document for Her Majesty's Courts Service (Cm 7350) has today been laid before the House, which sets out our partnership in greater detail and gives effect to its provisions.

Our partnership builds on a series of recent developments including the concordat agreed in January 2004 between our predecessors, the creation of HMCS in April 2005, the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 and finally the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007. The concordat contained provisions in paragraphs 24 and 25 for the engagement of the Lord Chief Justice and judiciary in the resourcing of HMCS. We have agreed that these provisions are superseded by the new and more extensive arrangements put in place by the HMCS framework document.

The new arrangements place the leadership and broad direction of HMCS in the hands of a new board with an independent non-executive chair. We are pleased to announce the appointment of Sir Duncan Nichol to this position with effect from today, for a period of three years. Sir Duncan has extensive experience in public service delivery within the justice system and more widely.

The founding principles of our partnership are a firm and shared commitment to the delivery of an efficient and effective 21st century justice system and upholding the independence of the judiciary. We look forward to working closely with Sir Duncan and the new board in achieving our shared aims and endeavours.

TRANSPORT

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): I am pleased to announce the broad objectives and specific ministerial targets for the Maritime Coastguard Agency for 2008-09. These are:

Safety Objective—Through accident prevention and effective search and rescue co-ordination and response, improve the safety of ships and people at sea and at the coast.

Performance under this objective will be measured against the following ministerial delivery targets:

MT1. Conduct operational standards and training audits and secure year-on-year improvements in the average scores covering both exercise and individual assessment elements to maintain the quality of maritime emergency co-ordination and response by the Coastguard.

MT2. Helicopters tasked to respond to incidents will be airborne within 15 minutes during daylight hours and 45 minutes at night in at least 98 per cent. of cases.

MT3. Meet the internationally required target to inspect 25 per cent. of foreign vessels in UK ports under PSC arrangements, with an increasing emphasis on inspecting available ships judged to be high risk.

MT4. Maintain the quality of the UK ship register by reducing the level of deficiencies recorded on UK ships inspected abroad, and maintain a position on the Paris MOU white list which is comparable to registers of a similar size and reputation.

MT5. As a category 1 responder, continue to meet the provisions of the Civil Contingencies Act including increased engagement with Local Resilience Fora.

Under this objective the MCA will also take forward a three year programme of work in the following areas:

Seafarer Fatigue—working with the shipping industry and seafarer unions on a coherent strategy to reduce seafarer fatigue.

Fishing Vessels—working with the fishing industry to improve the safety of small fishing vessels (under 15m).

Lifejackets— working with the agency's partner organisations (including the Royal National Lifeboat Institute and the Royal Yachting Association), to promote the wearing of lifejackets within the leisure sector.

Environment Objective—Through our monitoring of ships and response to pollution incidents protect the marine environment.

Performance under this objective will be measured against the following ministerial delivery target:

MT6— Respond promptly to potential and actual pollution from ships around the UK coast, drawing effectively on resources including our emergency tugs, and following the procedures set out in the National Contingency Plan.

Under this objective the MCA will also take forward a three-year programme of work covering:

Vessel Traffic Management—Identifying the future requirements of sea space management and the role the agency may perform.

Beyond these objectives and targets are the agency's service standards and measured outcomes. Together these measures cover all aspects of the agency's work and provide continual assurance about the quality of our performance.

The agency will also continue to monitor its performance through a range of service standards and measured outcomes which will be reported in its published annual report and accounts.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Domestic Violence

The Minister for Women and Equality (Ms Harriet Harman): Last July I made a statement to the House setting out three key priorities for the Ministers for Women. One of these priorities is, "tackling violence against women and improving the way we deal with women who commit crimes".

We have done a great deal to step up action against domestic violence, sexual offences and human trafficking, but there is more to do. Domestic violence still results in two homicides every week. It not only harms women but has a devastating impact on children. Human trafficking takes many forms and blights the lives of men, women and children in many different continents. Britain is a major focus for the global trade in the sexual exploitation of women by traffickers, who trick or abduct young women and force them into prostitution.

We need to ensure that the substantive law is right and make it clear beyond doubt that domestic and sexual violence against women, and human trafficking for prostitution, will not be tolerated.

Today the Government is publishing "Tackling Violence Against Women: A Cross-Government Narrative". This report draws together work being done across Government to tackle violence against women and responds to the End Violence Against Women (EVAW) coalition's annual Making the Grade survey. EVAW campaign's work is a valuable part of the work to tackle violence against women, and I welcome both the challenge and opportunities which Making the Grade offers.

Copies of "Tackling Violence Against Women: A Cross-Government Narrative" will be available in the Commons Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

New Deal

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): On 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, vol. 473, column 30 WS, I announced my plans for implementing the flexible New Deal to build on the success of the existing New Deals for jobseekers it replaces, helping to underpin our objectives for full employment and eradicating child poverty. Based on our previous experience in implementing successfully the commercially delivered Pathways to Work in just two phases, I announced that we would adopt a similar approach for the flexible New Deal with phase 1 being delivered from October 2009 and phase 2 from October 2010.

Following further consultation between my officials and the Welsh Assembly Government I have decided to make changes to the phase 1 contracting arrangements as they will affect Wales so that there will be two contracts wholly within Wales.

These changes take account of existing partnerships in Wales and by doing so the implementation of flexible New Deal should be enhanced.

The list of Jobcentre Plus districts to be included in each phase that I announced in my earlier statement now is:

Phase 1	*Phase 2*
Birmingham and Solihull	Merseyside
North and East Yorkshire and Humber	Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside
Tees Valley	Glasgow
South Yorkshire	West London
Derbyshire	City and East London
Surrey and Sussex	North and North East London
Kent	Essex
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
Nottinghamshire	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
Central London	Cumbria and Lancashire
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	South London
Devon and Cornwall	Dorset and Somerset
South Wales Valleys	West of England
South East Wales	Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon
South West Wales	Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
North and Mid Wales	Highland, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian
Black Country	West Yorkshire

Phase 1	*Phase 2*
Greater Manchester Central	Northumbria
Greater Manchester East and West	South Tyne and Wear Valley
Coventry and Warwickshire	Cheshire, Halton and Warrington
The Marches	
Staffordshire	
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	
Norfolk	
Lincolnshire and Rutland	

Advertisements for organisations interested in bidding for phase 1 contracts will be published in the press from today.

Transforming Britain's labour market: "Ten Years of the New Deal" is available at: http//www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/docs/PMNewDeal2-01-08.pdf.

DWP "Commissioning Strategy" is available at: http//www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/com-strategy/cs-rep-08.pdf.

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TREASURY

United Kingdom Coins

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): The Royal Mint has today unveiled the definitive reverse designs for new United Kingdom circulating coins from the one pence to the one pound piece. The designs were chosen following a public design competition to which over 4,000 entries were submitted. Coins bearing existing designs will continue to circulate alongside those bearing the new designs. Copies of the new designs have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoptions from Cambodia

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): I am today announcing the outcome of a review of the suspension of adoptions of Cambodian children by UK residents.

In June 2004, the then Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge), announced the suspension of adoptions in response to concerns raised and investigated by officials from the DfES (now DCSF) who visited Cambodia, by the British Embassy in Cambodia and, separately, by other stakeholders about the intercountry adoption process in Cambodia.

A review of the suspension was announced last year and was carried out by my Department. The purpose of the review was to update the information on which the suspension was based, to find out what concerns, if any, remain valid and whether there are any other concerns about practices taking place.

The review work assessed the current situation in Cambodia regarding intercountry adoption, including what changes, if any, to practice and legislation have been made in the three years since the temporary suspension was introduced. The review also took account of Cambodia's accession to the Hague Convention (on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption 1993).

On 12 December, the UK lodged an objection to Cambodia's accession to the Hague Convention, in accordance with article 44 of the convention. Cambodia's accession to the convention therefore has no effect as regards relations between the UK and Cambodia.

Evidence from the review demonstrates that: adoption legislation, practice and procedure in Cambodia remain insufficient to ensure the proper protection of children and their families; lifting the suspension at the current time would expose Cambodian children and their families to an increased risk of improper practices that are contrary to the principles of the Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Hague Convention) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The suspension of adoptions of Cambodian children by UK residents therefore still remains in place. I will of course consider the effect of any changes to adoption legislation and practice in Cambodia in keeping the suspension under review.

I am also announcing today the outline timetable for the implementation of the statutory provisions relating to the restrictions of adoptions from abroad in the Children and Adoption Act 2006. I intend to implement sections 9 and 10 and, in so far as they are not already in force, sections 11 and 12 of the 2006 Act in summer 2008.

Qualifications Regulation

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I announced plans last September to set up an independent regulator of qualifications and tests. In December, along with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills I announced, for consultation, more detailed proposals. Subject to legislation, the new Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) will act as independent guardian of standards across the tests and qualifications system in England. The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) will develop curriculum, assessment and qualifications. I wish to update the House on progress with these plans.

As we develop and reform qualifications and tests, it is critically important not only that they are of the highest quality, but also that they are seen so to be. The new arrangements that we are putting in place will help to achieve this, underpinning high quality qualifications and tests with high levels of confidence. In making this change, we are building on the principles that underpinned the establishment of, for example, the Monetary Policy Committee and the Statistics Board, which have improved public trust in the systems they regulate through a combination of independence, clarity of remit and a transparent accountability framework. The joint command paper (Cm 7281) "Confidence in Standards: Regulating and Developing Qualifications and Assessment" published in December sought views on the roles and powers of the independent regulator and of the development agency for curriculum, assessment and qualifications into which QCA will develop. The consultation period closed on 10 March. The proposals were generally well received, and there were lots of valuable and detailed points on which we will need to reflect as we develop our detailed proposals. We will publish a formal response to the consultation paper by mid-June.

In the meantime, we will continue as planned to make those changes we can achieve within the existing legislative framework, so that we can secure benefits from the

reforms as soon as possible. As a first step the Office of the Qualifications and Examination Regulator will shortly be established on an interim basis carrying out the QCA's regulatory functions across this spring and summer test and examination period. While working within current legislation, Ofqual will be operationally independent. These interim arrangements will be an important step towards the new regulatory landscape that we are developing, and in themselves will contribute to confidence in the standards of the tests and qualification system in England.

In the consultation paper on the reforms we confirmed that we were setting in motion an appointments process for a chair of the regulator. Following a process overseen by the Office for the Commissioner of Public Appointments, I am delighted to tell the House that Kathleen Tattersall OBE has been appointed to be the first chair of the new independent regulator. Kathleen is the chair of the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors (which today receives its Royal Charter). Until 2003 she was director general of the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA), having been chief executive of a succession of awarding bodies over the previous 20 years. She will join the QCA Board and lead Ofqual in its interim form. Subject to legislation, she will become the regulator's first chair when it is established as an independent statutory body. Kathleen Tattersall and Ofqual's acting chief executive, Isabel Nisbet, will play critical leadership roles in setting up the new organisation, setting its strategic direction and developing the new regulatory framework which it will operate.

Setting up a new regulator will help ensure that learners of all ages and their teachers feel that their hard work and achievements are properly recognised. We are confident that these reforms to the regulatory landscape will both provide greater transparency in the arrangements for regulating and developing qualifications and tests, and secure the confidence in standards on which they depend.

School Admissions System

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I made a statement on 11 March in which I set out concerns about compliance with the school admissions code and admissions legislation, based on an internal review of the published admission arrangements of schools in a sample of three local authorities. I explained that my Department was verifying the findings with the local authorities and schools concerned, and that we would present the detailed information to Parliament once we had given them the opportunity to respond.

I have today passed the results of this exercise onto the schools adjudicator to inform the work he is doing to ensure full compliance with all statutory requirements for admissions in 2009. A copy of my letter and a report including tables summarising the results of this exercise have been placed in the Library of the House.

I have also today published draft amendments to the Education and Skills Bill for consideration at Commons Report. The effect of the amendments will be to require local authorities to report to the schools adjudicator on admission arrangements in their areas; to extend the adjudicator's powers so that he can act where he considers that any admission arrangements are not compliant with the statutory requirements; and to improve the process of consultation on admission arrangements in order to ensure that parents and communities can contribute to the development of admissions policies for their schools. Copies of the draft amendments have been placed in the Library of the House.

We are publishing today a step-by-step guide to the admissions and appeal processes for parents. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. The guide contains straightforward advice for parents on all aspects of choosing a school place for their child, and sets out what they can do if they have concerns about the legality of a school's admission arrangements. A copy of this guide will be made available for every parent applying for a school place in 2009.

My Department will publish further detailed proposals in the early summer to improve the application and allocation process for parents and to further strengthen the admission system so that it works for all children. This will include an improved process for ensuring that parents and communities are consulted on admission arrangements for their schools and improvements to admission forums.

The steps I have taken today will help ensure that every parent has a fair chance of getting their child a place at a school of their choice, and that no parent or child will be disadvantaged by unfair admission arrangements.

School Playing Fields

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Kevin Brennan): Before October 1998 there were no checks in the system to prevent the sale of school playing fields. Local authorities could sell school playing fields and use the proceeds for whatever purpose they saw fit.

Since 1998, under section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, all local authorities and maintained schools in England have needed the consent of the Secretary of State before they can dispose of a school playing field or any part of a school playing field.

Published guidance sets out the criteria for giving consent and makes it clear that a disposal will only be allowed if the sports and curriculum needs of schools and their neighbouring schools continue to be met. Community usage of school playing fields is considered in decisions and any sale proceeds must be re-invested in outdoor sports facilities where possible, or, if not, in indoor sport or education facilities.

In addition, since July 2001 all applications to dispose of school playing fields have been scrutinised by an independent School Playing Fields Advisory Panel. The Panel comprises representatives from Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association), the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Learning through Landscapes, the National Association of Head Teachers and the Local Government Association.

The Panel advises the Secretary of State on the extent to which applications meet the published criteria for giving consent. The Panel brings a rigorous independent scrutiny to the assessment process.

In November 2004 the rules governing the sale of school playing fields were tightened so that the sale of a playing field is an absolute last resort with local authorities having to demonstrate that they have exhausted all other sources of funding. Sale proceeds must be used to improve outdoor sports facilities where possible and new sports facilities must be sustainable for at least 10 years.

This Government have not committed itself to end the sale of surplus school playing fields in any circumstances. What we did commit to end was the previous position of putting local authorities in a position where they had to sell those fields simply to pay for essential repairs. Our record levels of capital investment in schools - from under £700 million in 1996-97 to over £8 billion by 2011 - have also helped bring that situation to an end. 1,100 completely newly rebuilt schools have already been built - with brand new sports facilities and outdoor play areas. Another 2,450 schools have made massive improvements to sports provision, with newly built sports halls, all- weather pitches, gyms, playgrounds or changing rooms.

This Government legislated to ensure that school playing fields are sold only where they are genuinely surplus to local needs, including those of neighbouring schools. This Government have ensured that the proceeds of sales are invested mainly in providing new sports facilities, including new grassed pitches, all-weather pitches and sports halls. Where no sports improvements are needed the money from sales must be used to improve educational facilities.

The attached table shows details of the 19 applications which were approved on this basis in 2007.

Approved Applications to Sell an Area of Land Capable of Being Used as a Small Sports Pitch of 2,000m² in 2007

School	*Local Authority*	*Approved*	*Details*
Beanfield Community College	Northamptonshire	17 May	Closed school—proceeds used to improve sports at other schools. All-weather hockey and tennis pitch. Floodlit, all-weather, multi-use games court. Four-court sports hall.
Blackdale Middle School	Norfolk	2 November	Closed school—proceeds used to improve outdoor sports at four other schools. Two multi-use games courts. One new grass pitch. One new playing field. One tennis court. New outdoor cricket facilities.
Cliftonville Middle School	Northamptonshire	8 May	Closed school—proceeds used to improve sports at eight other local schools. New all-weather, multi-use games courts. New grass pitches. Upgrade gymnasium facilities.
Deedmore School	Coventry	20 April	Closed school—proceeds spent on new school. New hydrotherapy pool. New outdoor classrooms. New sensory garden. New all-weather pitch.
Eastwood Comprehensive	Nottinghamshire	24 May	Sale of part of playing field at closed lower site—proceeds used to improve sports provision on upper site and other local schools. Improved outdoor facilities and indoor sports facilities at upper school site. New sports pitch.
Green Lanes Primary	Solihull	12 March	Closed school—proceeds spent on sports at other schools. Grading and levelling of grass pitches. Improved grassed pitch. New hard play area. New sports hall.
Harefield Primary	Southampton	13 December	Surplus playing field sold to fund sports hall. New sports hall. New hard games court.
Hayesfield School and Technology College	Bath and NE Somerset	12 March	Off-site playing field sold to fund new on-site sports provision. New sports Hall. New dance Studio. New all-weather pitch. New running track. New netball and tennis court.
Highbury Primary	Wiltshire	16 May	New build—surplus playing fields sold to fund new sports facilities. New hard play area. New games court. New sports hall.
Leigh C of E Primary	Wiltshire	5 April	Closed school—proceeds used to improve sports at other schools. New hard play area. New sports hall.

Approved Applications to Sell an Area of Land Capable of Being Used as a Small Sports Pitch of 2,000m² in 2007

School	*Local Authority*	*Approved*	*Details*
Meadway School	Reading	4 April	Closed school—proceeds used for sports facilities at new SEN school. New grass pitch. New game court. New outdoor play space. New sports hall. Therapy and hydrotherapy pool.
Pembroke Primary School	Wiltshire	8 May	First school site sold—proceeds used to fund sports facilities at new primary schools. New external play area. Improved sports hall. New reception play ground. Refurbished playground. New netball court. New sports hall.
Portland School	Nottinghamshire	8 January	Surplus playing field sold to fund new on-site sports facilities. New all-weather pitch. New multi-use games court. Improved running track. New sports hall. Improved grassed pitches.
Senacre Technology College	Kent	4 September	Closed school—proceeds used to fund sports facilities at two new academies. New multi-use games court. Improved grassed sports pitch. Two new gymnasiums.
Sir Bernard Lovell	South Gloucestershire	30 January	Sale of part of detached playing field to fund new on-site sports facilities. Two improved grass pitches. Two floodlit, all-weather, multi-use games courts. Two six-court sports halls.
St. Michaels C of E Controlled School	Wiltshire	8 May	Closed school—proceeds used to fund sports and education at other schools. New hard games court. New soft games area. Two classroom extensions.
St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary	Surrey	17 May	Sale of part of detached playing field to fund on-site sports facilities. New all-weather games court. Improved grassed pitches. Refurbishment of two sports halls.
Tyning Hengrove Junior School	Bristol	8 May	Closed school—proceeds used to fund sports at other schools. Purchase new school playing fields. All-weather, multi-use games court. New sports hall.
Warblington School	Hampshire	20 November	Sale of surplus playing field to fund new sports facilities. Floodlit, all-weather, multi-use games court. Refurbished school tennis court. New sports hall.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): On 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 47WS, I laid before Parliament a written ministerial statement about payments under the Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme (LABGI) in the light of legal challenge. I am now in a position to announce the methodology the Government intend to use, to make additional payments to local authorities for years 1 and 2 of the scheme and to make payments for year 3 of the three-year scheme.

For years 1 and 2, the Government propose to make additional payments to eligible local authorities using all Valuation Office Agency change codes which record an increase in rateable value and which were not previously used in LABGI calculations. This will ensure that all codes that could contain elements of business growth are taken into account. As a result, we propose that additional payments totalling approximately £50.9 million should be made to authorities (approximately £13.5 million for year 1 and £37.3 million for year 2).

For year 3, the Government intend to replicate the revised methodology for years 1 and 2 of the scheme in year 3. As I indicated in my statement of 4 February, it is necessary at this stage to retain a portion of the year 3 funding as a contingency and I intend to retain £100 million.

A further announcement about the distribution of the remaining funding will be made in due course. This funding will be allocated to local authorities in full, in line with the policy purposes for which LABGI was designed. The exact methodology will be confirmed once any uncertainty associated with legal challenges has been resolved.

The Government, therefore, are able to allocate around £246 million to authorities at this stage for year 3 of the scheme. As in previous years, it will be necessary to apply a scaling factor to the calculated allocations in year 3 to ensure that the funding distributed does not exceed the amount available. Each authority's allocation will be scaled back to 28 per cent.

Further details of the methodology used for calculating the latest payments for all three years of the scheme can be found in a technical note which is being published today on the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/technote0708.pdf

Details of the proposed funding for each qualifying authority under the Government's proposals can be found at: http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/draftdtmn0708v2.pdf

Copies of these documents are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Authorities will now have until 16 May 2008 to raise any queries or issues about the methodology. I intend to confirm and make payments to authorities as soon as possible after this period.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Draft Heritage Protection Bill

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): I am today laying the draft Heritage Protection Bill and explanatory notes for pre-legislative scrutiny. Copies of the related Impact Assessment are available in the Vote and Printed Paper Offices.

This is a draft Bill for England and Wales, which sets out the legislative framework for a unified and simpler heritage protection system that will be more open, accountable and transparent. The new system will provide more opportunities for public involvement and community engagement in understanding, preserving and managing our heritage. As the Impact Assessment makes clear, the main benefits of the reforms introduced by the Heritage Protection Bill are not best expressed in terms of the financial balance sheet, but are better understood in terms of public value and sustainability. The reforms set out in this Bill will enable us to preserve the historic environment and manage its transition to the future, in the light of both present values and in the interest of future generations.

The draft Bill is based on the proposals set out in the White Paper, "Heritage Protection for the 21st Century" (March 2007), which itself was based on three key principles: the need to develop a unified approach to the historic environment; maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system.

The draft Heritage Protection Bill contains provisions for a single system for national designation ("registration") of terrestrial heritage assets to replace the listing of buildings, scheduling of monuments and registering of parks, gardens, battlefields and, in Wales, historic landscapes. In England, we will be transferring responsibility for national designation of all these assets to English Heritage; in Wales that responsibility will remain with the Welsh Ministers. There will be new Heritage Registers, one each for England and Wales, containing details of all nationally designated heritage assets, as well as world heritage sites in England and Wales. There will also be formal appeals or review mechanisms for registration decisions, and provisional registration to give "interim protection" to historic assets while they are being considered for registration, as well as wider formal consultation on applications to register.

Alongside this unification of designation, we will be unifying and streamlining the associated consent processes, with the introduction of a new Heritage Asset Consent to replace Listed Building Consent and Scheduled Monument Consent, and the merger of Conservation Area Consent with planning permission. In England, the new Heritage Asset Consent will be administered by local planning authorities, allowing the management of the historic environment to take place at local level; in Wales, the draft Bill will provide flexibility to allow central decision making where appropriate, recognising the different levels of capacity in Wales.

We recognise the need for effective conservation and management of the historic environment at local level to be knowledge-based, and for the records of our historic environment to be available to as many people as possible. This Bill will secure the basis for informed stewardship of the historic environment, within and beyond the planning system, by placing local authorities under a new statutory duty to maintain or have access to an Historic Environment Record (HER). HERs are a comprehensive resource on the local historic environment, containing information on archaeological sites and finds, historic buildings and historic landscapes, complementing and enriching our existing collections of museum, archives and libraries.

In keeping with this drive towards greater accessibility, the new Heritage Registers will also be available online and new records will be simpler, clearer and more detailed.

The draft Bill will also introduce a new statutory framework for voluntary management agreements between the owners of heritage sites and structures and local or other authorities. These agreements will free owners from the need for repetitive consent applications for similar works, reducing the bureaucratic and administrative burdens for owners and local authorities alike, and providing greater certainty on the long-term management of the site.

Striking the balance between flexibility and the need to ensure protection alongside conservation and management characterises our proposals to reform the marine heritage protection system in England and Wales. We have broadened the range of marine historic assets that can be protected, ensuring that there is greater consistency—where appropriate—with the terrestrial system, and brought greater flexibility to the licensing system. As we have done for terrestrial designations, we have also built a formal consultation process into the registration of marine heritage sites and ensured protection for those assets formally being considered for designation.

These reforms will give us a heritage protection system that is open, flexible and accountable. Our heritage is an important source of national and community identity; people recognise its value and

work hard, voluntarily and professionally, to ensure its conservation and pass it on. We are increasingly recognising the value of the historic environment in contributing to the Government's wider agenda in terms of place-making and promoting economic prosperity through regeneration and sustainable use of existing resources. The proposals in the draft Heritage Protection Bill will enable us and future generations to benefit from a thriving, well-managed, sustainable and widely-enjoyed historic environment.

The draft Bill we are publishing today follows long and extensive consultation. We are publishing in draft to generate and benefit from the widest possible debate. If there are proposals for further changes, we will consider them carefully in the light of all the views expressed.

DEFENCE

Reservists (Balkans)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): A new call-out order has been made under section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 so that reservists may continue to be called-out into permanent service to support military operations in the Balkans. The order takes effect from 2 April 2008.

Over the next 12-month period we expect to have some 20 reservists in theatre at any one time filling a variety of different posts, including staff officers, specialists and members of the training teams.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Artist's Resale Right

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Ian Pearson): I am today placing in the Libraries of both Houses copies of a study by the Intellectual Property Institute (IPI) into the effect on the UK art market of the introduction of the artist's resale right (ARR).

The Directive 2001/84/EC on the resale right for the benefit of the author of an original work of art was adopted in 2001. This required a new right, "artist's resale right" (often referred to by its French name droit de suite) to be introduced into the United Kingdom by 1 January 2006.

Due to concerns over the potential impact that the introduction of ARR might have on the UK art market, the UK Government successfully secured a number of concessions within the directive to lessen its impact. These were:

A cap of €12,500 royalty on any one sale.

A commitment from the EC that they would make it a priority to negotiate internationally to make the relevant article of the Berne Convention mandatory so that the right would be introduced in the USA and Switzerland (on which little has yet been done nor it seems is likely to be done).

A derogation to 2010, extendable upon request to 2012, allowing the UK to delay applying the right to works by deceased artists.

The implementing regulations were brought into force in the UK on 14 February 2006. ARR entitles artists and, for 70 years after death, their successors in title, to a percentage of the sale price whenever original works of art are re-sold in transactions involving art market professionals.

The purpose of the study, commissioned by the UK Intellectual Property Office, was to provide:

An assessment of the impact on the UK art market of the introduction of artist's resale right (ARR).

An assessment of the costs, both to business and collecting societies of administering the right.

An assessment of the benefit to artists in the introduction of the right.

The Government are considering this evidence to develop our understanding of the impact of ARR on UK creativity and the UK art market.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Palestinian Authority

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): We are gravely concerned about the situation in Gaza. The closure of Gaza's crossings is contributing to the collapse of the economy. There are shortages of essential humanitarian supplies such as medicines, foodstuffs and hearing aids. Restrictions on supplies of fuel and electricity have led to widespread power cuts and water shortages. While we fully understand Israel's security concerns, we do not support the decision to close Gaza crossings. The Foreign Secretary and I have called on Israel to open them, and to lift all restrictions immediately on humanitarian supplies and electricity. While resolving the humanitarian situation is in the hands of the parties concerned, we are doing what we can to help alleviate the situation.

In order to address the humanitarian situation, to support the Palestinian economy and to meet the urgent funding needs of the Palestinian Authority, we intend to provide an additional £30 million in support to the Palestinians in 2007-08, taking our total contribution to £63.6 million for this financial year. This is part of the pledge of up to £243 million over three years, linked to political progress, which I announced at the Paris donor conference last December. The UK is leading the international community in following through on its Paris pledges promptly, providing funding when it is most needed before other pledges come through.

This new funding will strengthen the Palestinian Authority's ability to take forward reform at a critical time. It will help pay teachers, doctors and engineers, keep basic services running and meet the budget shortfall facing the government of Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. It will directly benefit Gazans, as well as Palestinians living in the West Bank.

All funding will be delivered through reputable international institutions and safeguards will be put in place to ensure it is properly used. Our support for the

Palestinian Authority will be routed through the World Bank and the EC's new aid fund known as "PEGASE".

DFID's support for Gazans includes our agreement to provide £100 million over five years to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). UNRWA provides healthcare, housing, education and food to Palestinian refugees across the Middle East. Seventy per cent. of people in Gaza are refugees who will benefit directly from this assistance.

I also announced to the House on 12 March that we will provide £2 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) as a further response to the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

JUSTICE

Tribunals Service (Key Performance Indicators 2008-2009)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The following list of key performance indicators have been set for the Tribunals Service for 2008-2009.

1. 75 per cent. of tribunal applications will be dealt with within each individual tribunal's target time.

2. 72 per cent. of Tribunals Service customers are satisfied with the service they receive.

3. To reduce annually the operating costs of the Tribunals Service in real terms. The Tribunals Service is committed to achieving efficiency savings of £9 million in 2008-2009.

Copies of the Tribunals Service Business Plan for 2008-2009 have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

*More information on these and other supporting targets are published in the Tribunals Service Business Plan.

Legal Aid Reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, has made the following written ministerial statement.

"The Legal Services Commission (LSC), the Ministry of Justice and the Law Society of England and Wales today reached agreement on the best way forward for legal aid providers following the Court of Appeal judgment on the Unified Contract (29 November 2007).

The agreement was achieved through a series of constructive discussions between the three organisations. The agreement is designed to provide a significant period of certainty and stability for civil legal aid providers to enable them to adapt to the changes to the legal aid system that have already been introduced, and to consider and plan for the future. The agreement also addresses a number of specific issues that the Law Society has identified to the LSC and Ministry as being of concern to civil legal aid providers and, where these issues require further consideration, sets up joint mechanisms to address these collaboratively.

The main points of agreement are:

in order to provide a period of certainty and stability for civil legal aid providers it is agreed not to terminate the existing civil Unified Contract until it expires in 2010, subject to the conditions set out in the agreement;

my Department and the LSC agree not to introduce any other changes to civil, family and asylum contracts for solicitors and Not-for-Profit providers before April 2010, other than those set out in the agreement;

the Law Society agrees not to pursue its current legal challenge to the new civil fee schemes introduced in 2007 and early this year, and not to support any further such challenges;

to assist providers in planning for the future, my Department and the LSC agree to publish details and a timetable of the future programme of civil legal aid reforms;

that all three organisations have a strong commitment to work together in the future to develop the reforms and to seek to resolve any disputes in this way rather than through litigation;

there will be a few targeted increases in some of the fees in the civil fee schemes already introduced; and

further practical issues, including arrangements for dealing with payments on account and claims on cases over six years old are set out in the agreement.

A copy of a joint statement agreed by all three parties has been made available in the Libraries of both Houses. Further details of the agreement will be available shortly on the website of the Legal Services Commission at www.legalservices.gov.uk.

The legal aid reform programme will continue. The Government remains fully committed to its objectives of improving client access to quality services and providing value for money for the taxpayer."

Probation

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On Wednesday, 9 April, I will publish a consultation document about the introduction of a Best Value system into probation. The consultation period will run until 2 July 2008.

During the passage of the Offender Management Bill last year, the Government signalled a move away from a target-based regime in which probation areas had to outsource a proportion of their work to a model based on the principles of best value. In discussion with interested parties, we have drawn up a proposed model for how Best Value would work and we are now consulting publicly on this.

The proposed Best Value model would apply to all services funded by probation boards and trusts. It would enable boards and trusts to demonstrate, in a transparent way, the value for money of their services, and to drive improvements in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of their service delivery. Best Value reviews would be based around five areas—consult, compare, challenge, collaborate and, where appropriate, compete. The reviews may result in the competition of services, but only if they have shown that that would be the most efficient and effective delivery option; the Best Value process is neutral as to the final result. By delivering efficiency savings, Best Value will provide value for money to the taxpayer and, by improving the effectiveness of service delivery to offenders, it will contribute towards our aim of reducing reoffending.

Copies of the consultation document will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office and on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations.htm

HM Chief Inspector of Prisons

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): Today I am delighted to announce that the appointment of Anne Owers CBE as HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales has been extended until 31 March 2010.

Ms Owers' expertise and knowledge will continue to play a key role in enabling the prisons inspectorate to deliver a credible and effective inspection programme for prisons and immigration removal centres.

TRANSPORT

Transport Innovation Fund

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): In July 2005, in a written statement to the House, local authorities were invited to bid for £18 million of pump-priming development funding to bring forward packages of measures that combined better local public transport with hard demand management measures, such as road pricing. We also announced that we were prepared to ensure that up to £200 million a year would be available from the Transport Innovation Fund to support such packages.

So far 10 areas have benefited from this pump-priming funding, enabling them to analyse their current and emerging congestion issues and consider how demand management could form part of the solution. In March 2008, we announced that we were extending the commitment to make available up to £200 million a year up to 2018-19, in line with our long term funding profile for transport, and inviting authorities to bid for further pump-priming development funding for 2008 and 2009.

I am today announcing the first successful area to benefit from this additional funding. We are making up to £500,000 available to the West of England Partnership (covering Bristol City council, Bath and North East Somerset Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council) to take forward the development of their proposals for improved public transport and demand management.

I should be clear that receipt of this pump-priming funding is no guarantee that an authority will be successful in bidding for the main Transport Innovation Fund. We are, however, committed to working closely with the successful authorities to deliver the work programmes set out in their pump-priming bids and to support future decisions on the main Transport Innovation Fund.

Local authorities have until 30 May to submit bids for this additional pump-priming and I shall announce further successful authorities after that date. We will also work with other local authorities developing proposals for improved local transport and demand management and this decision does not affect their ability to bid for substantive TIF funding in the future.

Highways Agency (Roadside Facilities)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): I have today published a new policy for roadside facilities on England's strategic road network, "Policy on service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all-purpose trunk roads in England."

The policy has been developed in the light of responses to a recent public consultation and is aimed at improving service to road users. The policy covers issues including:

- the location of motorway service areas (MSAs)—determining the need for such sites and the spacing interval between them;
- facilities at MSAs—the type of facilities, how they are signed and their standards;
- service areas on trunk roads;
- lorry parking and;
- the provision and use of lay-bys.

Copies of the policy and impact assessment have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Bulk Mail Handling

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): On 17 December, the Secretary of State for Transport announced to Parliament a number of immediate measures to improve the security of personal data handled by the Department for Transport and its Agencies. This included the precautionary requirement that any bulk transfer of personal data not by electronic transmission should take place through point-to-point transfer by a secure courier.

We have kept all security arrangements under active review, and continue to improve them as needed. We have also kept closely in touch with our customers, and with the Cabinet Secretary's ongoing review of data handling in Government.

In the light of this feedback, and the need for high standards of data security combined with greater operational flexibility to meet some customer needs, I have now agreed that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, and other Department for Transport Agencies where necessary, may use secure distribution services which are not restricted solely to point-to-point networks, providing that the security arrangements are high, including identification and tracking of each individual package at each stage of the journey, as well as the use of secure premises where necessary. This is a significantly higher standard than the position prior to December.

I will keep these arrangements under review in the light of practical experience and the Cabinet Secretary's continuing review.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 3 April 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 4 March 2008. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury attended for the UK. Items on the agenda were as follows:

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact. Stability and Convergence Programmes: Second series of Member States

Ministers adopted Council opinions on the stability programmes of Austria, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, Greece, Malta, Cyprus, Slovenia, and on the convergence programmes of the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, and Lithuania. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) which takes into account the economic cycle, sustainability and the important role of public investment.

Preparation of the European Council (13-14 March)

i) Broad Economic Policy Guidelines 2008-10/11 and Country-Specific Integrated Recommendations

Following the orientation debate on these documents at the January ECOFIN and further drafting amendments in the Economic Policy Committee and Economic and Financial Committee, Ministers adopted reports which were sent to the spring 2008 European Council. These reports included reformulated draft texts which were endorsed by Heads as part of the launch of the next three-year cycle of the Lisbon strategy. The UK believes that implementation of the Lisbon strategy, including these recommendations, should now be a priority for member states.

ii) Financial stability

Ministers prepared the spring European Council's discussion on issues related to financial stability on the basis of a report drafted by the Economic and Financial Committee which examined the causes and possible policy responses to recent financial market turbulence, preparing a contribution for Heads of State and Government on the matter. Ministers agreed that key issues for discussion were: improving transparency, valuation of financial products, strengthening prudential requirements and making markets function better. The UK believes that as a key global marketplace, EU has an important role to play in the international response to market turbulence.

iii) Sovereign wealth funds

Ministers prepared the spring European Council's discussion on Sovereign Wealth Funds, following the publication of a communication by the European Commission on the framework for investments made by Sovereign Wealth Funds. The UK welcomes the Commission's recognition of the benefits of open trade and investment.

General Budget of the European Union—Council priorities for the 2009 budget

Ministers adopted conclusions agreeing the Council's budget guidelines for the 2009 EC budget. These guidelines are a set of broad principles which are designed to inform the subsequent and more detailed discussions on the level of appropriations required for the different areas of the budget. The subsequent negotiations throughout 2008 will determine the amounts to be spent under each budget heading. The UK supports the conclusions, which place appropriate emphasis on maintaining budget discipline and sound financial management.

Taxation

Fight against tax fraud

At the March ECOFIN, Ministers had an initial discussion of a Commission Communication on far-reaching changes to the VAT system to help counter fraud. The issue will be re-examined at a future meeting. The UK is strongly supportive of work that will help in the fight against Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) and other VAT fraud, while remaining committed to minimising the burdens on legitimate businesses.

Taxation of savings

The European Commission updated ECOFIN on its discussions with Singapore, Hong Kong and Macao with a view to bringing them into the framework of the Savings Directive. The Savings Directive enshrines the principle of exchange of information on taxation of savings and extends beyond the EU through agreements with third countries and territories. The UK strongly supports the Commission's continued dialogue with these financial centres.

Ministers also discussed the problem of cross-border tax evasion in the context of recent developments concerning Liechtenstein. The Commission offered to bring forward its report on the operation of the Savings Directive and Ministers welcomed this. The EU has an important role to play in combating tax evasion and the Savings Directive is a key instrument in promoting transparency.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children's Plan

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): In December, the Government published their Children's Plan and set out their ambition to make this the best place in the world to bring up children and young people. I am today making a number of announcements that will support the delivery of our vision:

to unlock the talent and promote the health and happiness of all children, and not just some;

to back parents and help them meet their responsibilities to bring up their children; and

to build a culture of prevention and early intervention so that no child can fall behind.

Play

The Children's Plan set out the biggest ever investment in play by Government of £225 million over three years. I have now been able to add an additional £10 million to this amount, making a total investment of £235 million. This will fund 30 new adventure playgrounds and up to 3,500 inclusive play sites, creating attractive play areas for children and particularly 8-13 year olds in disadvantaged areas.

I am today announcing the first 20 pathfinder local authorities who will this year begin spending this investment as play pathfinders. Each pathfinder will receive around £2 million capital funding plus approximately £500k revenue funding over three years. A further 10 pathfinder authorities will be selected in the autumn. In additional 43 other local authorities (LAs) will receive funding from this year to develop play areas in their communities. These LAs will receive capital funding of around £1million over three years. A list of the pathfinders and those LAs benefiting from capital funding this year is attached to this statement. This funding will help them transform play opportunities in their areas in partnership with children, families, communities and the third sector. Over the next three years every local authority will receive substantial capital funding to develop public play areas.

We want local authorities to give a high priority to supporting and promoting outdoor play, with play and public play space being seen as an essential characteristic of every healthy community. That is why, from 2009, we will introduce a new national indicator to monitor progress on what children think about the parks and play spaces in their local area.

The package outlined in the Children's Plan will be detailed in full in a national Play Strategy "Fair Play"[1] which I and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport are launching for public consultation today. I believe that this strategy and the investment underpinning it represents an excellent opportunity to improve local play opportunities, and support children's play across the whole country.

myplace—delivering world class places for young people to go

Young people in their teenage years also need interesting and exciting places to go where they can meet friends and take part in positive and enriching activities. This is particularly important in those areas affected by problems with anti-social behaviour and youth crime.

I am today announcing the launch of *myplace*, a £190 million programme delivered by the Big Lottery Fund, to invest in world class places for young people to go, delivering on our Children's Plan commitment to improve youth facilities. I want this funding to start making a difference to our neighbourhoods as soon as possible, so while *myplace* will open to applicants on 6 May 2008,1 am setting out today the timescales and criteria for the competitive bidding process.

By making grants of between £1 million and £5 million, I expect *myplace* to transform the way that facilities for young people are planned and delivered across England. In particular, I want the programme to support projects that:

reflect real cross sector partnership, maximising leadership from within the community while ensuring the strategic involvement of local authorities and encouraging support and backing from the private sector *myplace* will accept bids led by public, third or private sector partners;

demonstrate the active participation of local young people, particularly the most disadvantaged, in the development, design and future running of the project;

are sustainable in the long term and for third sector organisations, who often find this most challenging, we will provide £50,000 to fund development work in this area; and

are linked to wider corporate asset management strategies and Children and Young People's Plans for improving places to go in every local authority area ranging from ambitious flagship projects, as supported by the *myplace*, to smaller scale projects, particularly in the most deprived estates and communities.

The first round of funding will commit up to £160 million, of which up to £50 million will be available through a fast track route which will be open to applicants until the end of July. This will enable early investment in projects that are already well developed, starting to deliver impact for young people and their communities this year. The standard route, which will be open to applicants until the end of September, will also encourage applications from those with further to go. The Big Lottery Fund will ensure that funded projects receive the support they need to succeed.

I urge local partners to start preparations now to take full advantage of this opportunity. Further details about *myplace* can be found in a leaflet that will placed in the House library and available on the Big Lottery Fund website[2].

Children's Trusts

Children's Trusts should bring together all the key partners at local level to achieve our ambition. Making a reality of the vision for our children set out in the Children's Plan requires 21st century children's services that put the needs of children and families first and work across traditional professional and institutional boundaries. This is essential to unlocking the potential of every child and is especially important for the most vulnerable children with complex needs.

I am today launching a consultation on draft guidance for Children's Trusts[3]. It recognises the significant advances that have been made in many areas in the planning and delivery of services through Children's Trusts. But it also makes clear that all Children's Trusts need now to raise their game to ensure that strong and purposeful partnership activity leads directly to measurable improvements in the lives of children and young people, in the support given to parents and families and, in doing so, making the vision in the Children's Plan a practical reality. I would also welcome the views of Children's Trust partners and other interested parties on whether further changes, including to the legislative framework, are needed to enable Children's Trusts to fulfil the challenging remit the Children's Plan now gives to them.

Children's workforce

The people who work directly with children are at the heart of delivering our Children's Plan ambitions, whether they work in schools, the NHS, youth services, or children's social services. I am publishing today "Building Brighter

Futures: next steps for the Children's Workforce."[4] The document gives more detail about the implementation of our commitments in the Children's Plan to:

invest £73 million in a package of proposals to improve training, recruitment and professional development of social workers working with children and families;

invest £305 million in early years to provide greater graduate leadership of practice in private, voluntary and independent settings towards our ambition of a graduate early years professional in every full day care setting by 2015; and

invest £7.5 million in the play workforce including to give 4,000 play workers access to level 3 qualifications from September 2008.

To help ensure that the whole children's workforce is of the highest quality, I am also today announcing the creation of an expert group drawn from across the whole children's sector—including unions, other representative organisations and people who provide frontline services—to advise me on the creation of a long term strategy to bring the workforce together around the needs of children, young people and their families. The Children's Workforce document I am publishing today asks a number of key questions of the expert group which will be co-chaired by Maggie Atkinson, the incoming President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services.

Together, this package of measures—major improvements in play and youth facilities, and further steps to improve children's services—represents a significant step towards achieving our Children's Plan objectives and helping every child and young person to fulfil their potential.

I will be placing copies of all the documents referred to in this statement in the Libraries of both Houses.

[1]Document can be found at: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultation

[2]Document can be found at: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

[3]Document can be found at: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1544

[4] Document can be found at: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides for a reformed conduct regime for local authority members in which responsibility for standards of conduct and dealing with allegations of misconduct by members is largely devolved to each council's independently chaired standards committee. The Standards Board for England will have the role of a light touch regulator, providing guidance to councils and their standards committees, monitoring the handling of misconduct allegations, and itself dealing with the most serious misconduct cases.

We intend this reformed conduct regime should be in force this May, following the local government elections. From this point all allegations of misconduct by council members will in the first instance be considered by the council's standards committee, which may thereafter pass the most serious cases to the Standards Board.

Accordingly, we will shortly be making the necessary order to commence the relevant provisions of the 2007 Act, and laying before Parliament regulations making provision about the procedures standards committees must follow when considering allegations of misconduct by Members.

Earlier this year we consulted local authorities and stakeholders about the provisions for such regulations. I am today placing in the Libraries of both Houses a summary of the 571 responses that we received together with the Government's response to the issues which have been raised.

Having regard to the consultation responses, we intend the procedure regulations will in particular make provision to ensure that standards committee members avoid any conflicts of interest when considering allegations; that given the personal nature of allegations that might be unfounded, there will be no public access to standards committee meetings or papers when allegations are being initially assessed; and to increase the maximum sanction available to standards committee from three to six months suspension from office.

Eco-towns

The Minister for Housing (Caroline Flint): In July last year, the Government published a prospectus outlining its intention to build up to ten "eco-towns".

Eco-towns are a response to the twin challenges of an acute housing shortage and climate change. They will test out new ways of designing and building towns to achieve zero carbon standards and promote more sustainable living.

The eco-towns prospectus outlined the criteria for a successful eco-town:

(i) That they should be new settlements of between 5,000 and 20,000 homes, separate and distinct from existing towns, but well linked to them;

(ii) The development as a whole should reach zero carbon standards, and each town should be an exemplar in at least one area of environmental sustainability;

(iii) It should include a good range of facilities—a secondary school, a medium scale retail centre, good quality business space and leisure facilities;

(iv) Between 35 per cent. of the housing should be affordable, with a particular emphasis on larger family homes;

(v) There should be a management body to help develop the town, support people and businesses moving to the new community, and to co-ordinate service delivery.

In response to our invitation, we received 57 proposals for eco-towns. There has been a rigorous cross-Government assessment of these bids, particularly focusing on the existing transport infrastructure and local environment. We have also looked at the likely benefits to existing communities, the contribution the eco-town would make to local housing needs, and the likelihood of the proposal being successfully delivered.

We are today publishing a short-list of 15 locations which will go through to the next stage of consultation. These are:

Pennbury, Leicestershire: 12,000 to 15,000 homes on a development incorporating brownfield, greenfield and surplus public sector land four miles south east of Leicester.

Manby and Strubby, Lincolnshire: 5,000 homes, largely on brownfield land including a former RAF base. The nearest town is Mablethorpe.

Curborough, Staffordshire: 5,000 homes on the brownfield site of the former Fradley airfield, 10 miles from Burton.

Middle Quinton, Warwickshire: 6,000 homes on a former Royal Engineers depot, six miles south west of Stratford upon Avon.

Bordon-Whitehill, Hampshire: 5,000 to 8,000 homes on a site owned by the Ministry of Defence. The nearest town is Guildford.

Weston Otmoor, Oxfordshire: 10,000 to 15,000 homes on brownfield land. Three miles south west of Bicester.

Ford, West Sussex: 5,000 homes on a site which includes the former Ford airfield. The nearest town is Littlehampton.

Imerys China Clay Community, Cornwall: Around 5,000 homes to be built on former china clay workings, industrial land and disused mining pits. Close to St. Austell.

Rossington, South Yorkshire: Up to 15,000 homes regenerating the former colliery village of Rossington, three miles south of Doncaster

Coltishall, Norfolk: 5,000 homes on a former RAF airfield, eight miles north of Norwich.

Hanley Grange, Cambridgeshire: 8,000 homes, incorporating a former science park.

Marston Vale and New Marston, Bedfordshire: Up to 15,400 homes, on both brown and greenfield land south of Bedford.

Elsenham, Essex: At least 5,000 homes north east of the existing Elsenham village.

Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire: An eco-town proposal was submitted for Kingston-on-Soar, to the south of Nottingham. In response to representations from Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC), this site is not to be pursued. However, the Government are proposing to carry out a further review in partnership with RBC to consider whether there is a suitable alternative location with the potential to be viable within the Rushcliffe local authority area.

Leeds City Region, Yorkshire: A number of eco-town proposals were submitted for locations within the area of Leeds City Region partnership of 11 authorities and principally between Leeds and Selby. The Leeds City Region Partnership has indicated support in principle for an eco-town within the sub-region. The Partnership has proposed a further study to compare the best alternative locations across the Leeds City Region partnership area. The Government have agreed to support this approach, on the basis that it will allow a further announcement to be made shortly of one or more sites for consultation.

These potential locations have been published as part of a consultation document "Eco-towns—Living A Greener Future", inviting views on both the broader objectives and benefits of eco-towns, and on those locations which we regard as the most promising.

We will also be looking at the proposed schemes from promoters and we expect each proposal to be further refined and improved over the coming months. We will be looking for clear evidence that each scheme:

achieves the highest possible environmental standards, not only mitigating the impact of development, but positively enhancing the site, as well as reducing the need for residents to rely on cars;

is clearly deliverable, with funding identified and proper management arrangements set out;

is affordable, with a clearly agreed basis for contributions from private investors and public sector agencies.

A panel of experts will advise and challenge those leading the proposals to improve the environmental credentials of each project. Government will also be providing support to the relevant local authorities, comparable to the support on offer to local authorities designated as growth points or growth areas. We will continue to work in partnership with local government and the LGA as we move forward.

This consultation is the first of four key stages in the planning process for eco-towns.

Stage One: Three month consultation on preliminary views on eco-town benefits and these shortlisted locations;

Stage Two: Further consultation this summer on a sustainability appraisal, which provides a more detailed assessment of these locations, and a draft planning policy statement;

Stage Three: A decision on the list of locations with the potential to be an eco-town as part of the final planning policy statement, later this year;

Stage Four: Like any other proposed development, individual schemes will need to submit planning applications which will be decided on the merits of the proposal.

Our objective is for five eco-towns to be completed by 2016, and up to ten by 2020. We expect work to begin on some sites by 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Draft Marine Bill

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): As the next major step in delivering the proposals set out in the Government's Marine Bill White Paper—A Sea Change, a draft Marine Bill will be laid before Parliament today. Copies of the draft Bill will be available in the Vote Office.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Foreign Ministers

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK at the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers ("Gymnich") in Brdo, Slovenia on 28 and 29 March 2008.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

Middle East Peace Process

The Presidency and High-Representative Solana briefed Ministers on recent developments in the region. Ministers reiterated their commitment to the Annapolis process, and agreed that the EU, in its capacity as a member of the Quartet, should continue to focus on practical efforts to support the political process. The EU should focus particularly on continuing its work on Palestinian economic development and security sector reform, including capacity-building measures within the judiciary and police.

Ministers shared concern about Syria's policies in the Middle East and concluded that the EU needed to speak with one voice to Syria. While Ministers recognised Syria's importance in helping to resolve the conflict in the Middle East, my right hon. Friend the Foreign

Secretary emphasised the need to send a clear message that Syria's continued interference in Lebanon was unacceptable. He also called for the EU to do all it could to continue to support the Lebanese Government.

Russia

Ministers discussed how to take forward EU-Russia cooperation under the Medvedev administration. Ministers agreed that the relationship was strategically significant, not just in the context of economic sectors such as energy, but with regard to issues in the common European neighbourhood and promoting security and stability more broadly. The majority view was that swift progress on a mandate to open negotiations on a successor Partnership and Co-operation Agreement with Russia would therefore be useful in providing a framework for the relationship. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary underlined the importance of maintaining EU unity when dealing with Russia.

Western Balkans

In a joint session with colleagues from the Western Balkans countries, Ministers focused on the region's prospects for joining the EU. The presidency's subsequent statement, which the Government broadly support, emphasised that it was important for the Western Balkans countries to make rapid progress on political and economic reforms, reconciliation and protection of ethnic minorities; welcomed the Commission's Communication on the Western Balkans; and called upon the EU to reaffirm its commitment to the success of enlargement within the region, so long as those countries aspiring to EU membership meet the established criteria.

Tibet

Ministers stressed their strong concern over events in Tibet. They stated that the EU condemned all violence and called for it to cease, while asking that those arrested be treated in conformity with international standards; wished to uphold the transparency of information and free access by the press to Tibet. Ministers also noted the Dalai Lama's recent public commitment to non-violence and to the autonomy not independence of Tibet; and called for substantive and constructive dialogue that addressed core issues such as preservation of the Tibetan language, culture and traditions. The Government supported this position.

Intercultural Dialogue

Ministers discussed the release of "Fitna", a controversial short film on Islam, by the Dutch MP Geert Wilders. They reaffirmed that the right of freedom of expression was a basic value of the EU but stressed the importance of respect for others' religious beliefs.

HEALTH

Pharmacy Services

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): We are today laying before Parliament the Government's White Paper, "Pharmacy in England—Building on Strengths, Delivering the Future" (Cm 7341). This fulfils an undertaking I gave to the House on 24 July 2007. It also meets the commitment the Government gave in paragraph 4.47 of "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" to develop pharmaceutical contractual arrangements in line with the wider ambitions of that White Paper.

This White Paper sets out our future proposals for developing pharmaceutical services. It demonstrates the Government's continued commitment to pharmacy, its place in the NHS and its role as a leading clinical profession in delivering better access to high quality services to patients and consumers.

It sets out how pharmacists will work to complement general practitioners in promoting health, preventing sickness and providing care that is more personal and responsive to individual needs. Pharmacists already play a vital role for local communities in dispensing medicines, and providing services such as supporting people who want to give up smoking. This extended role will see more pharmacists being able to prescribe for and deal with minor ailments on the national health service, as well as supporting those with long-term conditions and preventing illnesses through additional screening and advice.

This will enable pharmacies, many of which already open out of hours to provide increased access to the right medicines and the right care, in the right way—more personal and more responsive to individual needs.

Under the new proposals, pharmacies will:

become "healthy living" centres promoting health and well-being and helping people to take better care of themselves;

be able to prescribe certain common medicines and be the first port of call for minor ailments—saving every GP up to the equivalent of one hour per day or up to 57 million GP consultations a year;

provide support for people with long-term conditions—such as high blood pressure or asthma—50 per cent. of whom may not take their medicines as intended—especially those starting out on a new course of treatment;

be able to screen for vascular disease and certain sexually transmitted infections, such as chlamydia;

work much closer with hospitals to provide safe, seamless care; and

play a bigger role in vaccination programmes.

To support this important programme of work, the Department will appoint two new pharmacist clinical directors later this year who will champion change in hospitals and in the community.

The White Paper also provides the Government's response to a review of national health services pharmaceutical contractual arrangements led by Anne Galbraith, former Chair of the Prescription Pricing Authority. Her report, "Review of NHS pharmaceutical contractual arrangements", which was completed last year, has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. I am most grateful to Mrs Galbraith for the speed and efficiency in which she completed her report and her insights, which have helped shape our thinking as set out in this White Paper.

We have also taken account of the work of the All Party Pharmacy Group, which published its report "The Future of Pharmacy" in June last year.

The Government have concluded that a number of structural changes are needed—in terms of reforms which will enable appropriate action to be taken in the small minority of cases where performance is not meeting

accepted standards and to shift funding arrangements so that rewards are based on the quality, not the quantity, of the services provided.

We set out proposals to reform 100-hour a week pharmacies. We want the NHS to have adequate levers which ensure such pharmacies better meet local needs.

The White Paper also considers the position of dispensing doctors and appliance contractors—with proposals to allow dispensing doctors to sell over-the-counter medicines and for appliance contractors to meet professional and high quality standards.

We will proceed quickly with the next stages to support implementation of the actions set out here. We are holding a series of events around the country beginning on 1 May 2008, to hear views from the public, from the NHS and from the professions. We will then consult fully later this summer on some of the key proposals for structural reform needed. That consultation will take full account of the final "NHS Next Stage Review" report to be published in due course.

HOME DEPARTMENT

UK Border Agency

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): In a statement to Parliament on the 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 667, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a wide range of measures to counter terrorism, increase the resilience of communities to resist extremism and to strengthen our borders. The statement announced the decision to establish a UK Border Agency, a global organisation that will improve the UK's security through stronger border protection while welcoming legitimate travellers and trade.

The new UK Border Agency is today established as a shadow agency of the Home Office. The agency's purpose and objectives are set out in its first business plan which I am laying in the House today. That purpose is clear: it is to secure our border and control migration for the benefit of our country; protecting our borders and national interests; preventing border tax fraud, smuggling and immigration crime; and implementing decisions quickly and fairly.

The UK Border Agency will unite the work of the Border and Immigration Agency, Customs detection work at the border from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and UK Visas from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), to create an organisation with a budget of over £2 billion, 25,000 staff, and operating in local communities, at our borders, and across 135 countries worldwide. The agency will deploy unprecedented power in pursuit of its goals.

The new agency will deliver new powers to front line officers. I can announce that by the summer we will have cross conferred customs and immigration powers on over 1,000 front line staff. In addition, staff in England and Wales will be equipped with police-like powers as set out in the UK Borders Act. Passengers and goods will now be checked at a single primary line. Uniformed UK Border Agency officers will protect the UK searching for signs of smuggled goods or immigration abuse and will have new powers to improve their ability to detain suspected law breakers. Legislation to provide for full integration of customs staff will be presented to the House shortly. Wider powers demand tough accountability. The Independent Police Complaints Commission has therefore taken over investigation of individual cases from 25 February and we intend to appoint an independent inspector of the UKBA shortly.

Further, the new agency will unlock a new relationship with 1,600 uniformed police officers at ports and airports and the UK's 1,400 Special Branch officers for whom funding has been increased to around £75 million. Today I am placing in the Library of the House a new framework of co-operation between the police in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The framework establishes strategic direction for intelligence sharing and delivery of frontline operations.

In a response to a recommendation in the Cabinet Office report "Security in a Global Hub—Establishing the UK's New Border Agency Arrangements" published last November, the Home Office is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers for England, Wales and Northern Ireland to consider how policing—which is currently delivered by the local force for each port and airport—may be best organised to deliver a fuller level of integration at the border, taking into consideration the drive for greater collaboration which is at the heart of the Governments programme for improving protective services.

We are discussing with the Scottish Devolved Administration and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland ways of strengthening working relationships between the Scottish police service and the new agency taking into account the devolved nature of policing in Scotland.

By working in partnership with HMRC and the FCO, the UK Border Agency will contribute to the collection of £22 billion in tax revenue and the facilitation of international trade worth £600 billion per annum.

The agency will be more powerful than today's separate forces and will therefore deliver on tougher targets. It will:

Expel 5,000 FNPs from Britain, up from 4,200 last year.

Sustain last year's increase in the seizure of class A drugs by seizing at least 2,400 kg of cocaine and 550 kg of heroin by April 2009.

Increase by 50 per cent. the number of asylum cases concluded in less than six months.

Extend the UK's visas regime to cover a larger proportion of the world's population.

Increase our detention capacity by 20 per cent. over the next two years to help us increase the number of immigration offenders we can remove from the country.

Lin Homer as chief executive will be supported by a board including an HMRC Commissioner, Mike Eland, a senior FCO representative, James Bevan and a senior police representative, Roger Baker, the Chief Constable of Essex.

I am also placing in the Library of the House a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Home Office and the FCO which underpins the move of UKVisas into the new global agency.

The MOU sets out the respective commitments of the Home Office and the FCO. It details the financial, resource and management framework within which the UK Border Agency's overseas operations will function. From today UK Border Agency's overseas staff, drawn from the FCO, the Home Office and from external organisations will work as an integrated team to achieve the Government's objectives for immigration and border security.

Finally on 1 April my hon. Friends the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, and the Minister for the Middle East wrote to the Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs Select Committees outlining the new procedures for dealing with correspondence on visa-related matters. On the same day my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury wrote to the Treasury Select Committee about procedures for dealing with correspondence relating to frontier detection. I am placing a copy of these letters in the Library of the House today.

PRIME MINISTER

Council of Europe/Western European Union

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): My right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clywd) has been appointed as a full member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union in place of my hon. Friend the Member for Morecambe and Lunesdale (Geraldine Smith), my hon. Friend the Member for Lanark and Hamilton East (Jim Hood) has been appointed as a full member in place of my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow East (Mr. David Marshall) and my hon. Friend Baroness Gale has been appointed a full member in place of my right hon. Friend Baroness Taylor of Bolton.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Plea Negotiation (Fraud Cases)

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"The Government have today issued a consultation paper on a possible Plea Negotiation Framework for introduction in England and Wales. The consultation period will run for three months and we are keen to hear from as many people as possible.

The consultation paper gives effect to one of the key recommendations of the Fraud Review published in July 2006, which was itself subject to a period of public consultation. The relevant recommendations in the review attracted a good deal of public support and my predecessor established a Working Group to devise an appropriate framework. That Working Group was chaired by Stephen Hockman QC, former chairman of the Bar Council, and consisted of representatives drawn from across the criminal justice system. The framework that group devised is the centrepiece of the consultation paper".

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): I will attend the first Transport Council of the Slovenian Presidency which takes place in Luxembourg on 7 April.

There will be a progress report and policy debate on three proposals in road transport: a recast regulation on common rules for access to the international road haulage market; a regulation on common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with in order to pursue the occupation of road transport operator; and a recast regulation on common rules for access to the market for coach and bus services. The Government welcome the intention to clarify and simplify the existing provisions. The proposed changes in the legislation should maintain and improve road safety while minimising the burdens on industry and they should help to reduce distortion of competition through greater levelling of enforcement and compliance between the UK and other EU road haulage and coach operators. However, we have some reservations, particularly in relation to the proposed definition of cabotage, the responsibilities of transport managers and the information to be included in the interoperable national enforcement registers. I will be raising these issues at the Council.

On rail freight, the Council will be asked to adopt conclusions on the Commission Communication "Towards a rail network giving priority to freight". The conclusions broadly welcome the Communication and invite the Commission to devise measures to achieve the efficient operation of international rail freight services along cross-border corridors, mainly through improved co-operation between national infrastructure managers. Key UK concerns with the communication have been addressed satisfactorily in the conclusions: the Commission's suggestion of giving "priority to international freight" over domestic rail traffic (a problem for the UK and many other member states with mixed, passenger and freight, traffic) has been substituted with a more general objective of "facilitating efficient flows of international rail freight"; the Commission's apparent preference for new legislation to achieve its objective has been mitigated by an invitation to consider also the consistent implementation and rigorous enforcement of existing EC legislation, alongside new legislation where this may be required; and the Commission has been invited to develop relevant alternative proposals on the basis of an appropriate analysis of their impact and their relative costs and benefits and in accordance with the principles of Better Regulation. The UK can be satisfied with this successful outcome which will enable it to support these Conclusions in Council.

In November, Ministers agreed conclusions on the Galileo satellite navigation programme defining the general principles for a public sector governance and procurement strategy for the programme. This Council will be asked to reach a general approach on the text of a regulation to implement the agreement reached in November. The Government have sought to ensure the current text of the regulation provides for the implementation of sound project management principles where the risks can be effectively managed, a fair and competitive playing field

for suppliers at all levels, including SMEs, and robust measures for the control of costs. I believe the current text meets the UK's objectives. A number of issues remain under negotiation including the role and responsibilities of the European Parliament and ensuring a clear division of tasks between the Commission and the Galileo supervisory authority in the programme. It is possible that some of these will have to be resolved in discussions at Council itself. The Government are keen to ensure an efficient decision-making process, project management and governance structure.

The Council will be asked to reach a political agreement on a directive on airport charges, which aims to establish a framework of common principles as to how airports determine their charges for aircraft landing, take-off and handling of passengers. As well as setting standards for transparency and consultation, the directive requires an independent supervisory body to intervene in the case of disagreement over a decision on charges. As part of a political agreement, the UK supports the adoption of certain amendments proposed by the European Parliament where they strike a balance between the interests of airlines and airports without imposing unnecessary or disproportionate regulation.

The Council will also be asked to reach a general approach on a regulation on a code of conduct for computerised reservation systems, to replace the existing Regulation 2299/89. The UK supports the proposed general approach that aims to update and simplify the existing code and bring it into line with other European legislation, while maintaining safeguards against anti-competitive behaviour.

The Council will be asked to adopt conclusions relating to a Commission Communication entitled "An agenda for a Sustainable Future in General and Business Aviation". The draft conclusions welcome the Commission's overview of the sector and its coherent position on the future development of general and business aviation. We welcome recognition of the need for proportionality in any future European regulation, given the diverse nature of general and business aviation activities. We support the conclusions, which recognise that general and business aviation provides important social and economic benefits, and that there should be a common set of data on this sector, in order to contribute to safety improvements and a better understanding of the sector.

There will be progress reports and policy debates on two current legislative proposals in maritime transport. These are a directive on compliance with flag state requirements and a directive on the civil liability and financial guarantees of ship owners. The Government have consistently argued that the Commission has yet to establish either a compelling need or a robust better regulation case for these proposals. We recognise that the Slovenian Presidency has made a significant effort to reach an agreed compromise on these proposals. Despite this effort, however, the majority of the member states, including the UK, are continuing to voice their strong concerns on both proposals and agreement is unlikely in the near future. There are five other maritime safety, measures (ship classification, accident investigation, port-state control, vessel-traffic monitoring and carrier liability) which risk being delayed due to the ongoing discussion on flag state and civil liability. The Government consider that it is more important to finalise these five other proposals rather than to continue to pursue agreement on flag state and civil liability at the present time.

TRANSPORT

Safety, Service Delivery and Logistics Group

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has set a range of high-level targets for the 2008-09 year on behalf of the agencies within the Safety, Service Delivery and Logistics Group; the Driving Standards Agency, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Vehicle Certification Agency, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Government Car Despatch Agency. They are included in the Agencies' Business Plans together with their associated measures. The plans also include a range of management targets, performance indicators and key tasks which are appropriate to the agencies' businesses. Copies of the business plans will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses shortly.

The Key Targets for the Driving Standards Agency are:
Secretary of State Targets (target measures are italicised)

To achieve customer satisfaction with the overall service received at 90% for candidates and 73% for business customers.

To deliver 6,000 Arrive Alive presentations to include 10% or more targeted at special needs groups such as young offenders, older drivers and people with disabilities.

Initiate 5 pilot projects aimed at improving driver education and training and raining the driving standards of high risk groups such as young novice drivers.

Introduce new EU compliant CPC qualification for bus and coach drivers by 10 September 2008.

In order to deliver the new EU motorcycle test:
Develop a network of off-road manoeuvring areas for motorcyclists
By 29 September 2008 ensure that 51% or more of the population of Great Britain is within 45 minutes or 20 miles of such a facility

To reduce the level of impersonations we will progress to conclusion, by 31 March 2009, 750 investigations in relation to impersonation or identity fraud, and seek prosecutions where applicable.

Achieve online bookings of 65% for all existing services by 31 March 2009.

Deliver the first year of the Comprehensive Spending Review by achieving £6 million of efficiency savings. Maximise productivity by improved attendance management to reduce sick absence to an average of no more than 10 days per employee.

Secretary of State Targets (target measures are italicised)

The Key Targets for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are:

Maintain or improve customer satisfaction by private motorists to 90% and commercial customers to 90%.

Maintain or improve on the standard of services to the customer.
To achieve at least 16 out of the 18 customer service measures.

Accuracy (traceability)—increase the accuracy of the vehicle and driver register by being able to trace registered keepers from the record in 95% of cases.

Secretary of State Targets (target measures are italicised)

Launch 24/7 electronic access to vehicle and driver details for approved enquiries by Police Force or Court partners from September 2008.

Collect around £5 billion of VED and through enforcement action collect £30 million.

By restraining transaction unit costs and through other initiatives deliver financial savings of £19.5 million.

Increase customer take-up of electronic transaction channels by March 2009 to 42%.

Reduce average number of days absence for 2008-09 to 10.2.

Secretary of State Targets (target measures are italicised)

The Key Targets for the Vehicle Certification Agency are:

To provide a class-leading service in type approval and certification.
90% turnaround of system and component type approval certificates within 9 working days.
98% of appraisal reports on technical performance from independent panel members deemed to have no critical defects

Maintain or improve customer satisfaction.
Achieve an average of 85% of customer satisfaction ratings across all measures.

Delivery of services under the terms of the Recast Framework Directive
To have the systems and processes in place to deliver ECWVTA and National Small Series Type Approval under the Recast Framework Directive by March 2009

To ensure the continued consistency and quality of VCA's type approvals.
Carry out a programme of Conformity of Production verifications in accordance with the provisions of Directive 70/156.
Development of a mechanism so that a risk-based approach to Conformity of Production verifications can be implemented in 2009/10
To carry out a programme of conformity of production inspections for dangerous goods packaging

To monitor compliance of safety critical vehicle systems and components in the UK marketplace to meet EU standards.
To deliver the agreed 08/09 DfT test and enforcement programme.

To carry out and enforce an annual programme of in-service emissions testing.
Complete agreed 08/09 DfT in-service emissions test programme

To achieve efficiency savings consistent with the CSR07 settlement, whilst investing in VCA infrastructure and skills.
Delivery of the first year of the CSR 07 Efficiency plan of a reduction in DEL cover over 2007-08 of £300k by:
Increase utilisation to 62% or above in line with VCA's 10/11 end state of 65%
Invest £150,000 in professional skills and capability development.
Achieving a surplus on full cost basis in excess of £50,000.

The Key Targets for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are: Secretary of State Targets (target measures are italicised)

To maintain or improve overall customer satisfaction on 07-08 levels of 87%

Increase the range of electronic services available to citizens and businesses—4 new electronic services available by 31 March 09.
Book and pay for bulk annual tests online.
Receive updates on changes to legislation and standards.
Start application process for technical tests with forms available online.
Where requested, be reminded of private vehicle MOT test date by e-channels.

Improve the quality and availability of commercial vehicle tests
85% of tests at test station of choice within one working day of requested date, for tests booked at least 10 days in advance.

The Key Targets for the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency are: Secretary of State Targets (target measures are italicised)

Improve road safety through better targeting of non-compliant operators, vehicles and drivers
Deliver a programme of increased enforcement activities at hotspots on the strategic road network, contributing to a 15% increase in the number of dangerous vehicles and drivers being taken off the road compared with 07/08.

Improve the quality and consistency of vehicle testing
4% reduction in vehicles with a wrong MOT test result compared to 07/08
10% improvement in consistency of commercial vehicle tests compared to 07/08 national average
Implement a revised headlamp aim test.

Reduce the administrative burden of commercial operation.
Deliver DfT plan for graduated fixed penalties and deposits
Implement simplified fees structure for licensing and annual roadworthiness testing in readiness for implementation in April 2009.

Deliver 1st year of the 3 year CSR07 plan.
Reduce the cost base, excluding depreciation, by £4 million.
Reduce the average number of days lost per employee through sickness absence to 9.5 days (and 7.5 days by 2010/11)

Increase the take-up of existing electronic services available to customers to 32%.

Secretary of State Targets (target measures are italicised)

The Key Targets for the Government Car and Despatch Agency are:

Maintain a Customer Satisfaction index (CSI) score of at least 87

To maintain accreditation for ISO 9001
The quality of service is measured by means of ISO 9001, the internationally recognised standard for quality Management Systems

To maintain accreditation for ISO 14001.
Measured by means of ISO 14001, the internationally recognised standard for environmental Management Systems.

By March 2009 to reduce average CO2 tailpipe emissions of our fleet by at least 5% compared with March 2008 levels

To break even on an accruals basis.
As a not-for-profit organisation GCDA aims to recover costs. In delivering this target we will seek to ensure that our administration is as effective as possible, delivering excellent value for money to our customers

To reduce sickness absence rates to 8 days per employee per annum

To commission an online payment system for customers

Local Transport Bill

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): The Local Transport Bill will empower local authorities to deliver bus services that better meet the needs of their local communities. Among other things, it will enable quality partnership schemes to make more of a difference, by allowing them to cover frequencies, timings and maximum fares where there are no "admissible objections" from "relevant operators".

The Quality Partnership Scheme model was introduced by the Transport Act 2000 as a means by which a local authority agreed to invest in improved facilities at specific locations along bus routes (for example, bus stops or bus lanes) and operators who wish to use those facilities agree to provide services of a particular standard (for example, new buses, or driver training standards).

The Bill includes a power for the Secretary of State (and the Welsh Ministers) to make regulations defining the terms "admissible objections" and "relevant operators".

To assist the Public Bill Committee's consideration of the Bill, the Government will shortly be publishing a pre-consultation draft of these regulations, along with an updated draft of the supporting guidance which was first published in December 2007. The draft regulations and guidance relate to England only.

The draft regulations and guidance will be made available on the Department for Transport website, and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Biofuels and Tallow

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): During the debate on the draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order in the House of Commons Seventh Delegated Legislation Committee on 23 October 2007, I agreed to commission a review of the likely impacts of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) on the other UK industries which use tallow as a feedstock. I said that in the light of the review's findings, the Government would consider whether changes needed to, and could, be made to the design of the RTFO.

The Government are keen to publish the review prior to the start of the RTFO on 15 April. The review will therefore need to be published during recess, and I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Government will take the findings of the review into account in EU negotiations on the renewable energy directive as well as in policy decisions on the future design of the RTFO. The Government will also ensure that the review's findings are fed into the review of the wider, "displacement" impacts of biofuels which was announced by Ruth Kelly on 21 February, and which will be reporting in June.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Benefits (European Court of Justice)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): I notified the House on 13 December that following the European Court of Justice decision of 18 October 2007 I would publish details of the eligibility criteria for payment of the disability benefits (Disability Living Allowance (care component), Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance) within the European Economic area and Switzerland (EEA). I have now arranged for information to be placed on the Directgov (www.direct.gov.uk) and the Department for Work and Pensions (www.dwp.gov.uk) websites. This sets out which categories of customers in receipt of the benefits may continue to be paid if they move to another EEA state.

The interpretation of the judgment is particularly complex as these disability benefits are different in some respects to the other benefits covered by the European Regulations. My officials are continuing their discussions with the European Commission on the eligibility of people already living in another EEA state who wish to claim from abroad. I will place further information on the websites once these discussions are complete.

A specialist section has been set up in the Pension, Disability and Carers Service to deal with queries. Customers who would like more information about the effects of the judgment should contact the address below:

Website: www.direct.gov.uk

Address: Exportability Co-ordinator,

Pension, Disability and Carers Service,

RoomB120D,

Warbreck House,

Warbreck Hill Rd, FY2 OYE.

Email: exportability.team@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

We anticipate that first payments will start to be made to eligible claimants from later this month.

Lone Parents

The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Government are committed to continuing their work to eradicate child poverty and help all individuals reach their full potential by moving from unemployment and welfare dependency to paid work.

We announced in the command paper "Ready for Work: Full Employment in our Generation" our intention to require lone parents with older children who can work to look for work. This means that lone parents will no longer be entitled to income support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. Instead, those who are able to look for paid work will make a claim for jobseeker's allowance and be required to seek suitable employment actively.

We announced our expectation that this change would be introduced from October 2008 for lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over, and then from October 2009 and October 2010 when the youngest child turns 10 and 7 respectively.

I now intend that the arrangements for new and repeat lone parent customers with a youngest child of 12 or over will take affect a month later, in November 2008, to allow time to consider some additional flexibilities to jobseeker's allowance. The Government have been working closely with a range of groups who represent the interests of lone parents and has had early advice from the Social Security Advisory Committee. Additional flexibilities to jobseeker's allowance have been suggested to meet the specific needs of lone parents.

The Government intend to take forward a number of these suggestions in connection with proposals for regulations that I will provide to the Social Security Advisory Committee. I believe that the proposals will strike the right balance to ensure that jobseeker's allowance remains focused on helping people look for paid work while accommodating the varied and individual circumstances that lone parents will face.

As has been discussed with lone parent stakeholder groups, we intend that existing lone parent recipients of income support with a youngest child aged 12 or over will be progressively moved from income support from early 2009.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 21 April 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Correction to Parliamentary Answer

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Joan Ruddock):

An error has been identified in the figures in the table to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne, (Julia Goldsworthy), 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 503-10W.

Instead of providing the municipal waste sent to landfill by each local authority, the total municipal waste for each had been presented. The text of the answer correctly referred to waste to landfill; the numbers were incorrect for all years.

The correct figures are given below.

Municipal Waste to Landfill, per Person (kg per year)

Government Region	*Authority*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	87	84	37	26	49	51	19	51	59
North East	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	239	87	N/A	251	329	253	N/A	68	66
North East	Middlesbrough Borough Council	120	98	N/A	67	85	96	65	146	103
North East	Hartlepool Borough Council	119	63	119	104	78	86	64	101	64
North East	Darlington Borough Council	494	554	561	557	605	520	N/A	488	461
North East	Durham County Council	525	558	558	582	567	509	N/A	407	410
North East	Northumberland County Council	525	481	549	567	571	514	N/A	401	384
North East	Sunderland City Council	485	403	517	549	575	526	501	454	428
North East	South Tyneside MBC	439	441	442	459	467	471	N/A	485	469
North East	North Tyneside Council	225	237	282	433	505	516	549	450	424
North East	Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council MBC	637	696	N/A	583	639	611	N/A	465	508
North East	Gateshead MBC	776	764	794	911	897	724	535	471	455
North West	Warrington Borough Council	536	601	499	495	507	498	N/A	451	407
North West	Halton Borough Council	530	546	530	509	517	518	N/A	464	450
North West	Cheshire County Council	516	537	563	545	547	522	485	438	402
North West	Cumbria County Council	481	533	503	537	529	515	N/A	527	483
North West	Wigan MBC	584	536	525	604	642	633	592	485	426
North West	Greater Manchester WDA (MBC)	521	531	530	563	565	542	N/A	392	378
North West	Blackpool Borough Council	520	552	568	550	543	516	N/A	435	403
North West	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	450	456	460	485	476	439	474	425	397
North West	Lancashire County Council	361	489	501	459	442	403	N/A	356	340
North West	Merseyside WDA (MBC)	490	524	522	535	545	534	N/A	484	473
Yorkshire/ Humber	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	345	505	497	499	503	497	490	439	420
Yorkshire/ Humber	Kingston-upon-Hull City Council	506	545	534	510	534	533	426	466	435
Yorkshire/ Humber	North East Lincolnshire Council	431	527	496	510	496	458	N/A	136	129
Yorkshire/ Humber	North Lincolnshire Council	597	554	509	517	518	511	497	480	398
Yorkshire/ Humber	York City Council	561	536	528	538	545	523	N/A	461	379
Yorkshire/ Humber	North Yorkshire County Council	476	573	570	563	563	541	538	461	443
Yorkshire/ Humber	Sheffield City Council	296	314	160	339	242	197	187	167	69
Yorkshire/ Humber	Rotherham MBC	574	519	546	525	476	433	418	399	375
Yorkshire/ Humber	Doncaster MBC	568	577	642	626	600	541	535	481	469

Municipal Waste to Landfill, per Person (kg per year)

Government Region	*Authority*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Yorkshire/ Humber	Barnsley MBC	492	512	536	604	549	498	N/A	471	439
Yorkshire/ Humber	Leeds City Council MBC	481	495	501	480	478	421	N/A	371	355
Yorkshire/ Humber	Kirklees MBC	592	577	568	510	233	159	217	210	247
Yorkshire/ Humber	Wakefield City MDC	588	612	619	608	540	505	N/A	498	479
Yorkshire/ Humber	Bradford City MDC (MBC)	432	470	519	520	557	572	N/A	467	452
Yorkshire/ Humber	Calderdale MBC	501	352	442	418	494	459	389	355	349
E Midlands	Derby City Council	434	437	436	462	476	459	N/A	400	373
E Midlands	Derbyshire County Council	469	415	457	468	472	443	N/A	393	373
E Midlands	Rutland County Council	508	488	451	454	441	430	405	399	388
E Midlands	Leicester City Council	387	437	430	451	461	525	N/A	120	334
E Midlands	Leicestershire County Council	518	486	435	430	481	454	426	375	358
E Midlands	Lincolnshire County Council	343	430	431	454	436	411	394	356	323
E Midlands	Northamptonshire County Council	463	515	482	485	475	426	415	374	374
E Midlands	Nottingham City Council	246	249	232	244	302	224	N/A	232	182
E Midlands	Nottinghamshire County Council	424	436	409	436	434	397	N/A	297	286
W Midlands	Herefordshire Council	379	438	444	490	505	461	466	398	394
W Midlands	Worcestershire County Council	469	479	542	493	485	433	382	350	328
W Midlands	Telford and Wrekin Council	539	628	591	554	529	481	455	395	389
W Midlands	Shropshire County Council	508	542	541	563	514	464	447	407	381
W Midlands	Stoke-on-Trent City Council	80	87	82	105	121	111	139	141	129
W Midlands	Staffordshire County Council	339	352	328	328	325	319	N/A	220	245
W Midlands	Warwickshire County Council	486	499	483	488	475	446	N/A	388	376
W Midlands	Wolverhampton MBC	115	89	40	104	211	272	N/A	149	107
W Midlands	Walsall MBC	463	473	508	503	489	459	460	440	372
W Midlands	Solihull MBC	200	191	220	201	145	137	N/A	101	89
W Midlands	Sandwell MBC	412	419	440	424	379	439	N/A	409	334
W Midlands	Dudley MBC	150	127	105	97	101	72	N/A	72	73
W Midlands	Coventry City Council	51	104	N/A	63	185	116	N/A	80	75
W Midlands	Birmingham City Council	199	183	181	199	132	157	N/A	102	128
Eastern	Luton Borough Council	455	479	N/A	505	475	466	422	399	394
Eastern	Bedfordshire County Council	522	546	530	597	538	467	N/A	391	366
Eastern	Peterborough City Council	386	430	405	435	446	416	454	429	377
Eastern	Cambridgeshire County Council	400	389	388	372	384	355	355	328	306
Eastern	Thurrock Council	523	490	379	405	553	440	410	395	391
Eastern	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	460	481	471	476	481	463	N/A	408	376
Eastern	Essex County Council	470	434	425	425	416	403	N/A	368	346
Eastern	Hertfordshire County Council	409	412	409	423	403	378	N/A	338	340
Eastern	Norfolk County Council	443	467	453	452	444	388	373	329	301
Eastern	Suffolk County Council	478	471	459	461	458	422	380	341	372
London	Bexley LB	169	194	258	402	522	437	398	347	263
London	Tower Hamlets LB	449	473	490	488	500	481	N/A	449	418
London	City of London	11883	10629	10172	9290	8102	6721	5626	4706	3288
London	Westminster City Council	633	565	518	444	358	316	200	141	118
London	East London Waste Authority	505	417	521	521	538	492	460	442	371
London	North London Waste Authority	291	254	191	277	273	275	N/A	263	206
London	Southwark LB	462	458	421	355	373	372	N/A	338	253

Municipal Waste to Landfill, per Person (kg per year)

Government Region	*Authority*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
London	Lewisham LB	13	15	63	72	38	103	N/A	87	72
London	Greenwich LB	107	239	141	133	116	145	56	60	36
London	Sutton LB	454	427	416	459	434	413	N/A	406	373
London	Merton LB	526	536	450	455	476	464	N/A	402	386
London	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	447	483	471	458	460	416	N/A	330	337
London	Croydon LB	504	509	500	531	533	511	N/A	452	448
London	Bromley LB	526	577	568	581	393	336	N/A	313	237
London	West London Waste Authority	512	541	531	540	532	511	N/A	451	428
London	Western Riverside Waste Authority	552	550	598	540	518	489	N/A	417	421
S East	Wokingham Council	393	420	406	394	373	362	364	334	313
S East	Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council	554	548	488	526	506	465	399	372	340
S East	Slough Borough Council	504	430	437	497	482	555	493	431	418
S East	Reading Borough Council	485	523	482	558	535	492	452	427	387
S East	West Berkshire District Council	505	508	504	518	545	455	N/A	449	443
S East	Bracknell Forest Borough Council	448	438	439	421	421	400	488	445	378
S East	Milton Keynes Council	374	375	N/A	438	453	408	415	390	379
S East	Buckinghamshire County Council	424	434	406	417	418	402	398	348	347
S East	Brighton and Hove Council	434	481	406	406	398	382	N/A	324	308
S East	East Sussex County Council	308	322	340	284	291	415	419	395	371
S East	Southampton City Council	434	456	448	445	476	464	N/A	152	95
S East	Portsmouth City Council	428	448	497	446	422	369	364	85	72
S East	Hampshire County Council	174	405	409	422	393	306	N/A	106	98
S East	Isle of Wight Council	108	222	344	399	343	335	292	213	357
S East	Medway Borough Council	400	441	431	447	449	421	390	368	354
S East	Kent County Council	444	456	451	447	450	436	N/A	405	309
S East	Oxfordshire County Council	446	445	424	416	427	388	N/A	341	350
S East	Surrey County Council	483	439	454	444	462	466	415	419	377
S East	West Sussex County Council	497	537	522	495	473	441	435	402	385
S West	Council of the Isles of Scilly	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
S West	Bath and North East Somerset Council	396	387	424	436	434	435	422	366	338
S West	Bristol City Council	422	421	418	438	440	438	426	385	303
S West	Cornwall County Council	489	497	501	504	494	480	484	454	442
S West	Torbay Council	433	405	399	565	426	426	430	417	410
S West	Plymouth City Council	555	587	524	504	524	513	N/A	476	427
S West	Devon County Council	407	428	433	446	448	408	N/A	343	310
S West	Poole Borough Council	425	484	495	525	529	507	557	518	489
S West	Bournemouth Borough Council	453	502	503	474	477	465	N/A	451	391
S West	Dorset County Council	347	368	370	375	382	366	351	333	321
S West	Gloucestershire County Council	412	427	411	423	416	402	399	371	370
S West	North Somerset Council	481	463	470	544	522	465	467	443	363
S West	Somerset County Council	456	485	491	520	505	449	N/A	366	337
S West	South Gloucestershire Council	498	544	499	451	448	428	390	337	333
S West	Swindon Borough Council	357	369	384	382	384	372	407	352	349
S West	Wiltshire County Council	432	450	451	443	454	439	423	383	353

Source:
WasteDataFlow for 2004-05 onwards, Municipal Waste Management Survey for earlier years. ONS mid-year population estimates. 2004-05 was a pilot year for WDF and hence data are not available for all authorities. Data are municipal waste collected and sent for disposal in landfill by each local authority.
N/A = Not Available

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Zimbabwe

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The constitutional crisis in Zimbabwe continues as President Mugabe persists in his ambition to steal the election. It is over three weeks since the elections were held but the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission is yet to announce the presidential results. More worryingly President Mugabe and his ZANU(PF) party have unleashed a campaign of violence against those ordinary Zimbabweans, 60 per cent. of them, who in spite of everything voted against him. Political refugees from the rural areas that were once President Mugabe's heartlands but have had the courage to express their opposition peacefully through the ballot box have been pouring into urban centres to receive medical treatment and support. Local and international NGOs are highlighting these abuses daily. Evidence that they are taking place is irrefutable. I believe all would join the Government in condemning absolutely these acts of violence which are cynically intended to punish people for the choices they have made and to intimidate them into submission should any second round of the presidential election be called.

Meanwhile in spite of numerous legal protests by the opposition, the Electoral Commission has begun a recount in 23 constituencies. No one can have any faith in this recount. The ballot boxes have been kept in uncertain conditions. The Electoral Commission has seen 13 of their number arrested in a clear effort to threaten and punish those who did their job independently. The count itself is proceeding at a ludicrously slow rate. This only serves to fuel suspicion that President Mugabe is seeking to reverse the results that have been published, to regain a majority in Parliament, and to amplify his own count in the presidential election. If that is the case, then what we are witnessing is a charade of democracy. We can have little confidence that whatever is ultimately announced as the presidential election results will not have been sullied and contaminated by rigging during this recount.

We continue to engage intensively to resolve this crisis and our action is focused in three areas. First, we continue to work to support all those working for democratic change in Zimbabwe. In spite of the challenges they face, civil society in Zimbabwe remains committed to democratic and peaceful change. We applaud and support their efforts.

Secondly, we continue to work with states in the region. We believe they are still best placed to apply pressure on President Mugabe and those who surround him, many of whom recognise that it is time for change. I welcome the statements of the African Union and of the Southern African Development Community calling for the presidential results to be released. That SADC states met in an extraordinary session in Lusaka and discussed Zimbabwe and its crisis for over 13 hours shows their concern at what is happening and the threat that it poses to the stability and security of their region. But, as the former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, it is important that African leaders do more to engage directly in this crisis to help resolve it. The reaction of South African dockers to the direction to unload arms they believed destined for Zimbabwe shows that ordinary Africans do not condone the way in which President Mugabe is clinging to power and beating his own people to death to ensure he retains it. If President Mugabe and those who keep him in office will listen to anyone, they will listen to their peers in the region and in Africa more widely. But if they will not, Africans and their organisations should be clear in their public condemnation of what is happening and should withhold their recognition of President Mugabe's regime. His actions pose a threat to democracy and to the values that the SADC and the AU espouse. Democratic legitimacy throughout Africa is at stake.

Thirdly, we are working through the international community as it remains united in standing up for democracy, it reinforces the confidence of democratic forces, and speaks with a clear voice about the value not just to Zimbabwe but to the whole region of following the will of the people. At the UN Security Council session in New York last week, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister joined other voices from Africa, Europe and Latin America, along with the UN Secretary-General in calling for the election results to be released and in condemning the delay and violence. The UN Secretary-General has called for international monitors to observe any second round in Zimbabwe. We support that call and underline, as SADC leaders themselves did when meeting in Lusaka, that SADC observers must return now to observe the recount. They should be present in Zimbabwe until the election results are announced, so they may witness and ideally prevent the violence that is now occurring.

The European Union, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and many other states have called both for restraint within Zimbabwe and for credible results now to be released. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown and I continue to engage in intensive private discussions with African leaders and others with influence within Zimbabwe and the region. Our message is simple. Zimbabwe is on a knife edge: inflation is incalculable, life expectancy the lowest in the world and human rights abuses commonplace. Those metrics will all deteriorate if President Mugabe is allowed to steal this election. But if a Government that reflects the will of the people is allowed to emerge, Zimbabwe can begin the painful journey to recovery and once again become a full part of the international community.

Britain has always supported the Zimbabwean people. We are the second largest bilateral donor. We spent £45 million last year on support for the poorest and most vulnerable Zimbabweans. Our support helped feed up to 3 million people and provided treatment for more than 30,000 HIV/AIDS patients. That support will continue. It has become even more necessary in this period when President Mugabe has unleashed his youth militia on the people. But when there is positive change on the ground in Zimbabwe and a Government who are prepared to introduce sound governance and respond to the needs of ordinary Zimbabweans, Britain will play a full part in supporting recovery and development. It will be a huge task. But the Zimbabwean people will have the full support of the UK and the wider international community. The UK and other donors are ready to give that support when there is a return to real democracy and good governance within Zimbabwe.

I am sure the whole House will join the Government in committing themselves to working tirelessly for that day.

HEALTH

National Deep Clean Programme

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Further to the written ministerial statements given on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 134WS and 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 38WS strategic health authorities (SHAs) have confirmed that 97 per cent. of trusts have now completed a deep clean as part of the comprehensive national programme of deep cleaning.

Three hundred and twenty eight trusts agreed plans with SHAs as part of this national deep cleaning programme. As well as all 170 acute trusts, this included many primary care trusts with inpatient facilities, mental health trusts, learning disability trusts and ambulance trusts. All 328 trusts had started their deep clean programmes and 308 trusts, (94 per cent.) had completed their deep clean by the end of 31 March.

Since 31 March 2008, a further 11 trusts have now completed their deep clean programmes, bringing the total to 319 trusts. Nine trusts are still undertaking their deep clean and all are due to complete by the end of May 2008. There are valid reasons for trusts to complete after 31 March 2008, such as significant refurbishments or reasons relating to patient safety.

Information provided by SHAs shows that they have all made available the funding they promised for the programme, as set out in the written ministerial statement on 21 November 2007. In addition, SHA North West increased its planned expenditure by £5.1 million, as primary care trusts in the north-west provided additional funding to improve local services. The final total funding therefore made available for this programme at a regional level was £62.6 million.

Clean hospitals are essential for high quality, comfortable patient care. High standards of cleanliness also encourage a focus on infection control and provide a platform for consistent hand cleaning and thorough cleaning of beds between patients. Deep cleaning is part of a comprehensive range of measures to improve cleanliness and tackle infections set out in the strategy "Clean, Safe Care: Reducing Infections and Saving Lives".

The NHS will maintain the high standards of cleanliness that the current programme has provided. This will be monitored and performance managed at a local level. Deep cleaning will be included in patient environment action team inspection programme from next year. Specialist Healthcare Commission inspections began this month against the code of practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections so all acute trusts will be inspected every year on their clean environment. We will also publish best practice guidance on deep cleaning later on this year to help hospitals continue to achieve the best possible environment for patient care.

A list of the trusts which have undertaken or are undertaking a deep clean as part of this national programme has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Health Pay Review Bodies

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): I am responding on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the thirty-seventh report of the review body on doctors' and dentists' remuneration (DDRB) (Cm 7327) and the twenty-third report of the NHS pay review body (NHSPRB) (Cm 7337) which were laid before Parliament on 7 April 2008[1]. Copies of the reports are available in the Vote Office and the Library. I am grateful to the chairs and members of the review bodies for their hard work.

The DDRB has recommended that the national salary scales for all salaried doctors and dentists, and the top and bottom of the salary range for salaried general medical practitioners, should be increased by 2.2 per cent. for 2008-09. For general dental practitioners (GDPs), the DDRB has recommended a 3.4 per cent. increase in the gross earnings base. The DDRB intend this to result in an increase in GDPs' net income of 2.2 per cent.

With regard to independent contractor general medical practitioners (GMPs), DDRB have recognised in their report that there are significant, unwarranted variations in GMP income caused solely by the operation of the minimum practice income guarantee (MPIG) regardless of the workload and patient care provided by individual GMPs and their practices. They note the evidence presented to them that GMP income varied from £54.72 per patient (where there was no MPIG) to £120 per patient (where there was MPIG). In making their recommendations, including the 2.7 per cent. uplift to a GMP's global sum, the DDRB acknowledged, and therefore clearly intended, that the practical implication of their recommendations was that most practices would not receive any increase in their global sum. This is predicated on any increase in global sum being offset against the correction factor in MPIG. The Department estimates that implementing these recommendations means the 6 to 7 per cent. of GMS practices without any MPIG would receive an increase in their global sum payments of 2.7 per cent. in 2008-09. A further 2 per cent. of practices will receive some extra increase in payments as their current correction factor will be less than their increase in global sum.

In addition to any DDRB recommendations, we have guaranteed to the profession that once the costs of implementing the recommendations of the DDRB have been agreed with the British Medical Association, the Government will ensure up to 1.5 per cent. of new investment is available across all practices for providing more services or improving the quality of care and provision to existing patients.

The DDRB's pay recommendations have been accepted in full by the Government, without staging. However, in taking forward the DDRB's recommendations on GMP pay there remain issues that will require further consultation with the BMA before they can be implemented and that will delay payments to GMPs.

The NHSPRB has recommended an increase in the 'Agenda for Change' pay rates of 2.75 per cent. from 1 April 2008. The NHSPRB has also recommended that the high cost area supplements and existing national recruitment and retention premia should be increased by 2.75 per cent.

On 7 April 2008, I announced that the Department has agreed with NHS employers, UNISON and the Royal College of Nursing a proposed three-year pay package for all NHS 'Agenda for Change' staff which incorporates the acceptance of the NHS pay review body recommendations for 2008-09 in full. The proposed three-year package is now subject to consultation by members of all the trade unions covered by 'Agenda for Change'. It includes:

acceptance in full of the 2008-09 NHS Pay Review Body's (NHSPRB) recommendations for a 2.75 per cent. pay rise for staff on 'Agenda for Change' from 1 April 2008;

2.4 per cent headline award in 2009-10; 2.25 per cent. headline award in 2010-11; and

additional changes to the pay structure in years 2 and 3 that would give extra financial support for the lowest paid workers, allow quicker progression up the pay ladder and increase the earning potential for hundreds of thousands of staff.

If trade union members reject the proposed three-year deal, we will need to review the NHSPRB's recommendations and consider whether to accept, stage or abate them in the context of a one year settlement.

I apologise that we were unable to announce these decisions to Parliament in the normal way before making them more widely available. Unfortunately, it was not possible to do this before the Easter recess as pay negotiations had not concluded. I also felt that it would cause an unnecessary delay in the consultation process and thus the payment of the award to staff if we had waited until Parliament returned on 21 April before making these important announcements.

[1] Cm 7337 was laid on 7 April in its pre-publication form as the printed version was not available. This version has now been withdrawn and replaced with the printed version.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (Third Annual Report)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): In accordance with section 14 (3), 14 (4) and 14 (5) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, Lord Carlile of Berriew QC prepared a report on the operation of the Act in 2007, which the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing, laid before the House on 18 February 2008.

I am grateful to Lord Carlile for another considered review. Following consultation within my Department and with other relevant agencies, I am laying my response to Lord Carlile's recommendations before Parliament today.

I am also laying my response to the report on the renewal of the control order legislation by the Joint Committee on Human Rights (published on 20 February 2008) before Parliament today.

JUSTICE

Public Law Family Proceedings (Court Fees)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): I am today announcing the outcome of the recent consultation on "Public Law Family Fees". The consultation published on 19 December 2007 and the consultation closed on 11 March 2008. One hundred and eleven responses were received from local authorities, law professionals, the judiciary and other stakeholder bodies.

After careful consideration of these, my right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has decided to proceed with the increases proposed. The Statutory Instruments were laid before Parliament on 9 April 2008.

During the course of consultation, the Government introduced an adjustment into the local government finance settlement figures to make visible the sums attributable to these proposals. The purpose of this adjustment was to ensure that a valid comparison could be made between 2007-08 and 2008-09 for each authority's grant increase. The authorities generally now recognise that funding has been made available within the revenue support grant. Indeed, the total of £40 million is likely to exceed the total fees payable because it assumes that the maximum fee is paid in each case. In reality, some cases following the new 'Public Law Outline' procedure (implemented this month, introduces revised judicial case management procedures to be introduced in all family courts) will be resolved at earlier stages and pay a lower fee. I therefore believe that we have responded in full to those responses that objected to the proposals on the basis that it was not clear that authorities had been funded, or that they had been insufficiently funded, to pay these fees.

The second main theme of the responses was that authorities would be improperly influenced by financial considerations and would not always act in the best interests of children. Local authorities are under a statutory duty to protect children at risk of significant harm. Both the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services, in their responses to the consultation, confirmed that local authorities are not influenced by cost considerations in their approach to initiating proceedings or in their decisions about appropriate pre-proceedings work. The practical effect of the statutory duty in this instance is to require authorities to ensure that adequate budgetary provision is made to pay the necessary court fees, and to ensure that individual decisions are not affected by budgetary considerations. In practice, most local authorities pay court fees from a legal department or similar central budget, rather than from a children's services budget that is the responsibility of individual social workers making decisions on the ground, with the cost of court fees being a small proportion of the overall cost of child care proceedings. For these reasons, I am satisfied that the proposals do not in fact create a risk that local authorities will neglect their statutory duty causing children to be harmed.

These fee increases are necessary to ensure that the family courts are properly funded and are designed to

fit with wider reforms on child protection proceedings. They are a further step in our strategy to ensure that the system of court fees is fair and sustainable, and they reflect the long-standing policy of Governments of all persuasions that statutory fees should generally be set at a level that recovers the cost of the service provided (but no more).

The current proposals will only affect fees paid by public bodies and not individuals. Fees for applications by parents in care and adoption proceedings will remain unchanged.

The response to the consultation paper will be published in full within the next two months.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Publication of Q4 2007 Monitoring Statistics

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): Today I have deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000—Statistics on Implementation in Central Government: Q4 October-December 2007" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the quarterly monitoring statistics report analysing the performance of central Government in the third full year of freedom of information.

CABINET OFFICE

Compact on Relations between Government and the Voluntary and Community Sector

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Phil Hope): I am today placing in the Library of the House copies of the report of the annual meeting to review the compact held on 13 December 2007.

The annual meeting looked at the successes of the compact and the challenges for the coming year. The joint compact action plan for 2008-09 sets out a programme of work designed to:

- Strengthen relationships and partnerships at national level, to deliver the national compact
- Strengthen relationships and partnerships at local level, supported by local and regional compacts and action plans
- Increase understanding of the role of the compact in promoting equality and community cohesion
- Strengthen the independence, voice and campaigning work of the sector
- Ensure the compact and codes are fully up to date in a changing legislative and policy environment.

Following the annual meeting, we have drawn up a more comprehensive implementation plan, to support the joint action plan, with the commission, compact voice and key delivery partners. This is available on the compact website at www.thecompact.org.uk.

This year the compact will celebrate its tenth anniversary. The Government are committed to ensuring the compact is stronger than ever. It remains integral to better partnership working and better decision making. We need to ensure that the compact becomes embedded in our day to day thinking, and that it becomes a story of change to drive better outcomes for communities and the people they serve.

The independent commission for the compact is working with Compact Voice and the Office of the Third Sector, to oversee the operation of the compact. I have appointed Sir Bert Massie as the new Commissioner for the compact, who will push for greater compliance with the compact. I have also pledged an increased investment to the Commissioner for the compact of £6 million over the next three years and nearly £1 million to Compact Voice, which represents the sector interests. This will ensure we can drive forward better partnership between Government and the third sector.

The next compact annual meeting will hold partners to account on delivery of the actions in the joint compact action plan. The Commission, Government and the sector will report to the next meeting. As part of the compact annual review 2008 report, the Minister for the Third Sector will report on progress in meeting the Government's commitment to three-year funding for the third sector.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 22 April 2008

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Research Strategy 2008-13

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a copy of DFID's "Research Strategy 2008-13".

This strategy sets out DFID's priorities for spending up to £1 billion on research for development. It is DFID's first five-year strategy for research, replacing the Research Funding Framework 2005-07. The strategy is the product of extensive consultation with research providers and users in developing countries, in the UK and internationally, including other funders of development research.

The strategy describes why research for development is needed and DFID's unique role in the global development research effort. It identifies four inter-dependent areas where DFID will ensure its research investment achieves results. In addition it describes six thematic areas that DFID research will cover: growth; sustainable agriculture; climate change; health; governance in challenging environments and future challenges and opportunities (i.e. anticipatory research). It describes in broad terms how funding for each of these areas is likely to evolve.

The document summaries the research management structures and funding mechanisms that DFID will use to implement the strategy, as well as the type of research partnerships DFID will build.

Finally, it sets out thirteen key areas where DFID will monitor and measure the outputs of its research and report on these publicly.

Rising Food Prices (International Impact)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Food prices have risen sharply around the world in recent months, causing serious social unrest and balance of payments problems for some countries and major funding gaps for humanitarian programmes. Most importantly, poor and vulnerable families across the world are struggling to buy enough food to meet the most basic needs.

The UK Government are calling for a co-ordinated international response to this crisis. It must deal with both immediate needs and underlying causes. Such a response has to address a range of issues including trade reform; more and better support for agricultural and rural development in poorer countries; review of the wider economic and environmental impacts of biofuel production; social protection programmes which take people out of long-term dependency on food aid; and reform of international institutions such as the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

The UK is already doing much to tackle this agenda. We will advance the payment of budgetary support to countries badly affected by high food prices, where appropriate, and will consider the need for additional payments. We have made substantial new allocations of humanitarian assistance in recent months, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Afghanistan and Yemen. Today the UK is pledging an additional £30 million to support the World Food Programme's work in some of the countries most affected by food price inflation, including Zimbabwe, Somalia and Kenya in response to recent appeals.

The UK is already spending some £50 million per year on social protection and safety net programmes in Africa alone. DFID is now willing to commit an additional £25 million to Ethiopia as part of our aid framework once the future structure of the programme is agreed. This will fund the national safety net programme which reaches 7.2 million of the most vulnerable people, providing a combination of cash and food transfers that provide food and livelihood security. Additionally, DFID is ring-fencing £4 million for nutritional monitoring across Africa to ensure early identification of problems, allowing prompt and effective response where need arises.

The announcement today of £1 billion of new funding for international research includes £400 million of new funds being made available over the next five years for agricultural research. This will help to make crops more climate-resilient; tackle the pests and diseases that blight tropical agriculture, forestry, fisheries and livestock production; and find ways of reducing the post-harvest losses that can destroy up to 40 per cent. of a poor farmer's produce.

Improving food security and livelihoods for the poorest people in the world is central to the achievement of the first millennium development goal. The UK calls on other donors to back a comprehensive international response to this challenge.

TRANSPORT

Airports (Economic Regulation)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly): I am today announcing a review of the economic regulation of the UK airport system, supported by a panel of experts. This recognises the points made by the Competition Commission in their interim report this morning, together with those of the aviation industry and other key stakeholders, about the potential shortcomings of the current regulatory system. If legislation is required as a result of this work, it would be taken forward in a future legislative session. Therefore we will not make changes to the basis on which the current price caps at Heathrow and Gatwick airports are set. This also applies to the cap which will take effect at Stansted from 1 April 2009.

The UK aviation industry plays a critical role in our economy contributing more than £11 billion to our national wealth and directly supporting around

200,000 jobs. The industry has seen significant change in recent years with our more global economy increasing the need for international movement of people and goods; and greater airspace liberalisation allowing passengers to benefit from more choice of flight destinations at lower prices, which has opened up opportunities that for many simply did not exist before. But this progress does not come without challenges, not least the economic constraints created by a lack of airport capacity in the UK and the global impacts of climate change.

In 2003, the Government set out a sustainable framework for the development of airport capacity over the next 30 years in the "Future of Air Transport" White Paper. This recognised the need for some expansion of airport capacity, which is why my Department recently consulted on "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport".

Economic regulation can play an important role in maximising the effectiveness of scarce capacity at airports in the south-east, for example by providing the right incentives to deliver necessary investment and ensure that the owners of UK airports are able to finance that investment. I welcome the Competition Commission's views, among others, that the current system needs to be reviewed to ensure it is effective for the 21st century.

It has been over 20 years since the Airports Act 1986 put in place the current regime of economic regulation and as such it is one of the oldest economic regulatory systems in the country. Much has changed since then, and there is an urgent need to consider how the framework needs to be updated to reflect today's realities. In particular, this work will look at how best to provide incentives to:

improve the passenger experience;

encourage appropriate and timely investment in additional capacity to help deliver economic growth in line with wider Government policy;

address the wider environmental impacts of aviation on airport development.

In taking this work forward, I am keen that we identify and learn from best practice from the regulatory frameworks in other industries and the Government's better regulation strategy.

We have already said in the Government's response to the House of Lords Select Committee enquiry on Economic Regulation that, if particular issues were identified as part of the Competition Commission's inquiry, we would consult at the appropriate time on the wider economic regulatory role of the CAA including the way in which airport regulation operates.

The work I am announcing today will be taken forward to complement the independent inquiry of the Competition Commission on its market review of BAA and the independent strategic review of the CAA being undertaken by Sir Joseph Pilling. It will allow me to provide well-informed evidence to the Competition Commission for their inquiry, and allow me to respond to any relevant recommendations. My Department will be advised by a panel of independent experts led by Professor Martin Cave.

The Competition Commission's report also raised a number of other issues, to which the Government will respond in due course.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill currently before Parliament provides for a non-departmental public body, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, to administer the statutory scheme of child maintenance in place of the Child Support Agency.

In order to avoid delay in the establishment of the Commission expenditure is required in advance of the Bill receiving Royal Assent. The cost of this work is estimated at £2,400,000, this will be met through repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund pending Parliamentary approval of the Bill and of subsequent Supply Estimates.

This will cover: the recruitment of key members of staff including executive board members; changes to IT systems so that customer communications are correct following the Commission's launch; and further development of the financial and human resources system necessary for the Commission to take on its functions.

Households Below Average Income

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): The "Households Below Average Income 1994-95—2006-07 Series" was due to be published on 2 May 2008. This date of the publication was announced on the National Statistics website, in line with the National Statistics code of practice.

In the course of validating the statistics, DWP statisticians identified a small but important inaccuracy in the 2006-07 data which impacts on some of the headline figures. As a result, the DWP Statistics Head of Profession has decided to delay publication of this series, along with the Family Resources Survey and Pensioner Incomes Series reports, which are traditionally published at the same time. The "Take-up of Income Related Benefits" publication may also be delayed.

The Head of Profession's decision has been agreed by Karen Dunnell, the National Statistician, and with the Institute for Fiscal Studies, who provide an independent quality assurance role for the Department in relation to the statistical series concerned.

Publication is now expected to be in June. As before, the date of publication will be announced on the National Statistics website, in line with the National Statistics code of practice. Further details can be found in a technical note on the DWP website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 23 April 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Mr. Gareth Thomas): My noble Friend Baroness Vadera, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business and Competitiveness, has today made the following statement:

The following statement provides information on the Informal Competitiveness Council in Brdo, Slovenia on 16 April 2008, at which I represented the UK. The meeting was chaired by Andrej Vizjak, Slovenian Economics Minister.

The theme of the morning session was "From SME Policy to High Growth Innovative Enterprise Policy", with a discussion on the key challenges SMEs face in their growth phase. This session provided an opportunity for competitiveness ministers to give their views on the forthcoming EU "Small Business Act" before the Commission's proposal expected in July. The Council agreed that the growth potential and flexibility of small and medium-sized enterprises are key forces driving economic growth, productivity and improving competitiveness. There was also a large degree of consensus on the importance of tackling regulatory burdens on small business. I intervened to outline the UK response to the Commission consultation, and our priority areas:

An ambitious package of better regulation measures to bring about a step change in how the EU develops policy and legislation to better address the needs of SMEs, including through specific measures such as exemptions or simplifications in the 'think small first' policy, and other specific measures.

Increasing access to finance for SMEs through action to address supply and demand side market failures, underpinned by commercial solutions, focusing on removing barriers to cross border investment in venture capital and developing a common EU regime for private placement of investment funds.

Action to make it easier for SMEs to trade in the Single Market and beyond.

The importance of innovation and having a single speedy and low cost EU patent system.

In the afternoon session, there was a discussion of "The Business of Climate Change"—sustainable industrial policy and the commercial opportunities of climate change mitigation. The European Commission intends to publish a Communication on this subject in May 2008, including a number of directives related to environmental performance of products. I intervened to encourage a market-based approach, emphasise the opportunities for industry of a shift to a low carbon economy, and to stress the crucial role of the emissions trading scheme in internalising the price of carbon in the market and the importance of openness to international trade.

Commission Vice-President Verheugen also briefly updated the Council on the work of the Transatlantic Economic Council.

TREASURY

OGCbuying.solutions

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): OGCbuying.solutions has been set four performance targets for 2008-09. These are as follows:

To facilitate at least £725 million value for money improvements for the public sector in 2008-09;

to achieve an overall customer satisfaction level of above 90 per cent.;

to make a return on capital employed of 6.5 per cent. over a five year period; and

to reduce by 5 per cent. the ratio of internal costs over value for money improvements with the outturn for the same ratio in 2006-07 proportionate to cashable savings.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Research Excellence Framework

The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. John Denham): I have decided on the next steps for the implementation and development of the Research Excellence Framework. We will move towards a single unified funding and assessment framework for all subject areas as originally planned, but within this, the balance of metric indicators, including bibliometrics, and light touch expert review will vary according to the subject. In order to allow sufficient time to develop this more flexible approach, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will now build an additional 12 months into the timetable for designing the new framework.

The extra time allowed for testing and piloting will give maximum assurance that the new arrangements are workable, without compromising our overall objective of having them fully operational in time for the beginning of academic year 2014-15.

HEFCE have reported to me the outcome of the recent UK-wide consultation exercise on the assessment and funding of higher education research post-2008. The consultation responses indicated broad support for the proposals but highlighted some concerns about the timetable for developing and piloting the proposals as well as about the demarcation between the sciences and all other subjects.

Government Chemist Review

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Ian Pearson): The eleventh annual review of the Government Chemist has been received. The review will be laid before the Scottish Parliament and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House plus those of the devolved Administrations in Wales, and Northern Ireland.

JUSTICE

Legal Services Board

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): The Legal Services Act received Royal Assent on 30 October 2007. Two of the key elements of the Act are the provision of a Legal Services Board (LSB) and the establishment of an Office For Legal Complaints (OLC). The LSB will be an overarching regulator and the OLC will deal with all complaints about regulated legal service providers.

I am pleased to announce that, in consultation with the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, I have appointed David Edmonds to the position of chair of the LSB. Mr Edmonds will take up post from 1 May 2008. The appointment will run for three years.

Mr Edmonds is currently non-executive chairman of NHS Direct and a Legal Services Commissioner. He has previously been Director General of Telecommunications (Oftel), Managing Director of Group Central Services at the Natwest Group, and Chief Executive of the Housing Corporation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Prison Service

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Paul Goggins): I have placed copies of the Northern Ireland Prison Service's corporate and business plan for 2008-11 in the Libraries of both Houses.

The corporate and business plan contains key performance targets I have set for the service for 2008-09. These are:

1. No escape for category A prisoners.

2. No more than three escapes per categories B, C or D prisoners.

3. The number of staff assaulted by prisoners is less than a ratio of three per 100 prisoners.

4. The number of prisoners assaulted by prisoners is less than a ratio of four per 100 prisoners.

5. An average of at least 20 hours constructive activity per week for each sentenced prisoner.

6. An average of at least 10 hours constructive activity per week for each remand prisoner.

7. To ensure 87 per cent. of prisoners serving six months or more are working to a resettlement plan and that 97 per cent. of lifers work to a life sentence plan, including preparation of the plan, within the first six months of sentence.

8. Each member of staff should receive an average of five training days.

9. Reduce the rate of absenteeism to 12 days per head by 2008-09 with an overall reduction to 11 days by 2009-10.

10. Lay the Annual Report and Audited Accounts before Parliament prior to the summer recess.

11. Ensure the average cost per prisoner place does not exceed £81,500.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 24 April 2008

DEFENCE

Iraq

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I explained to Parliament on 1 April 2008 (Official Report, columns 628 - 630) that, in the light of the operations launched by the Government of Iraq in Basra on 25 March, we would maintain our force levels in southern Iraq at around 4,000 while we worked with the Iraqis and our coalition partners to review the implications for our own plans. I undertook to provide a further update on our plans this month.

The Iraqi security forces' (ISF) operation to enforce the rule of law in Basra—known as 'Operation Charge of the Knights'—is continuing, with support from coalition forces. We welcome the willingness of the Government of Iraq to take responsibility for delivering security in Basra province and the progress of the ISF operations to date. We have been pressing for firm action since responsibility for Basra's security was transferred to the Iraqis in December.

The coalition's strategy in the area has been to encourage Iraqi solutions to Iraqi problems, and through outreach and reconciliation to isolate those people in Basra who refuse to follow a democratic road. This has helped to set the context for the recent successes, and it is evident that the ISF action against criminals and militia elements operating outside the law has the firm backing of the people of Basra. In the initial phases of operations, the ISF have consolidated control over all key routes in and out of the city and over large parts of the city itself. The ISF are continuing to locate and remove significant numbers of illegal weapons, in many cases thanks to information received from local residents. Further phases of operations are planned.

As I said in my statement on 1 April, it remains our clear direction of travel and our plan to reduce our force levels, as and when conditions allow, from the current number of around 4,000 for the next roulement, known as Operation TELIC 12. But while the situation on the ground continues to evolve rapidly, and while military commanders continue to assess the changing environment in Basra, it remains prudent that we take time to fully consider further reductions.

The focus of UK forces is on completing the task of training and mentoring 14th (Iraqi Army) Division in Basra so that it develops into an effective force, able to ensure security without the need for our assistance. 14 Division is still months away from becoming fully operational. We will continue to ensure that our support is tailored as effectively as possible to meeting its needs. Already, we have enhanced our advisory and operational support by embedding teams of UK personnel with headquarters and operational planning staff in Basra. Sustained improvements in security will also provide a sound basis for further economic development and political progress, including through provincial elections scheduled to take place in the autumn.

The TELIC 12 force package will see the lead formation, currently 4 Mechanised Brigade, replaced by 7 Armoured Brigade, which will provide the majority of the units serving in Iraq. 7 Armoured Brigade will take over the command of UK forces in early June. The forces deploying include soldiers from the following units:

7th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron (207)

3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys)

9/12th Lancers (Prince of Wales's)

32nd Engineer Regiment

1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment

The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment Of Scotland

2 Logistic Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps

3 Close Support Medical Regiment

2 Close Support Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

111 Provost Company, 1st Regiment Royal Military Police

Elements of 5th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 16th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 32nd Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 47th Regiment Royal Artillery

Elements of 170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group

Elements of 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)

Elements of 2nd Signal Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 10th Signal Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare),Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 21st Signal Regiment (Air Support), Royal Corps of Signals

Elements of 24 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 9 Supply Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 11 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 17 Port and Maritime Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 27 Transport Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 29 Postal Courier and Movement Regiment The Royal Logistic Corps

Elements of 104 Military Working Dog Support Unit

Elements of 1 Military Intelligence Brigade

Elements of 1 Regiment Army Air Corps

Elements of 28 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of 78 Squadron, Royal Air Force

Elements of Tactical Supply Wing, Royal Air Force

Elements of Joint Helicopter Support Unit, Royal Air Force

Elements of Joint Medical Command

Members of the reserve forces will continue to deploy to Iraq as part of this force package, and we expect to

issue around 290 call-out notices in order to fill some 220 posts during the TELIC 12 roulement period. Prior to their deployment and on completion of their mobilisation procedures, the reservists will undertake a period of training and integration with their respective units. For the majority, their deployment to theatre will commence in May and most will serve on operations for six to seven months, although some may have shorter tours. The reservists will predominantly reinforce regular units and perform a wide range of activities including force protection duties, intelligence and logistic tasks. As part of this commitment, we also expect up to 50 members of the sponsored reserves to be in theatre at any one time.

Force levels will be kept under review, and we will look to make further reductions over the course of the TELIC 12 deployment if conditions allow and on the advice of commanders on the ground. I will, of course, keep Parliament informed of developments.

Northern Ireland Garrison Restructuring

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): In May 2006, my predecessor announced the future garrison structure for Northern Ireland.

As part of our longer-term planning, we have decided to relocate 230 Squadron RAF, currently based at RAF Aldergrove and equipped with Puma helicopters, to RAF Benson. This will establish a coherent Puma force on a single site, enabling the improvement of Puma force capability. It will also entail the relocation of RAF support personnel and a reduction in the civilian personnel required at Aldergrove. We expect the relocation to be completed by the end of 2010.

The relocation of 230 Squadron will free up significant facilities at Aldergrove. It is therefore our intention to relocate 38 Engineer Regiment, who will move into Massereene Barracks, Antrim later this year, to Aldergrove as soon as practicable following the departure of 230 Squadron and to dispose of Masserene Barracks thereafter. A number of civilians will be offered the opportunity to relocate with the unit, but there will be a reduction in civilian personnel associated with site-specific activities.

These changes will not impact on our commitments in support of the civil authorities in Northern Ireland. Aldergrove will remain a military flying station for the Army Air Corps for the foreseeable future. The RAF will continue to utilise Northern Ireland airspace for training and a limited number of RAF personnel will remain in joint or specialist appointments in units within Northern Ireland. The relocation of 38 Engineer Regiment demonstrates our longer-term commitment to retain a base at Aldergrove. The ongoing relocation of 19 Light Brigade to Northern Ireland, announced in January 2006, demonstrates our longer-term commitment to basing in Northern Ireland.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Withdrawal of Enforcement-Related Marriage Policies DP3/96 and DP2/93

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Liam Byrne): As part of our programme of reform in 2008 to tighten Britain's border security I am today revoking two pieces of guidance which could have helped a handful of overstayers—people here illegally in the United Kingdom (UK)—to obtain limited leave to stay in the UK as the spouse or partner of a British citizen rather than go home and apply for a marriage visa.

These policies only applied to people facing enforced removal but gave an unfair advantage to those unlawfully in the UK compared to those who complied with the immigration rules in seeking a marriage visa before arrival. Withdrawing the policies will simplify the handling of marriage cases.

The fact that an individual is married to or is the civil partner of a British citizen or someone settled in the UK will continue to be a relevant factor to be taken into account when considering removal. Each case will be considered on its individual merits in line with the Human Rights Act and the immigration rules.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Topical Debates

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): In a written ministerial statement to the House on 7 February 2008 (Official Report Col. 83WS), I announced that I will be conducting a review into the operation of topical debates. The results of the review will be published before the House rises for the summer recess. Any Member wishing to submit their views is asked to do so by 23 May 2008.

I proposed a new system to publish, on a quarterly basis, a list of all subjects that have been proposed for debate, other than those discussed at weekly business questions, which are already a matter of public record. The attached table gives the second such set of information relating to the period of January to March 2008.

Subjects proposed—other than in business questions—for topical debates (January 2008 to March 2008)

Note that the list includes all requests and whether they have been submitted by letter, e-mail or another method. The list does not include requests made during business questions, or otherwise on the floor of the House, and which are already a matter of public record. Weeks where there were no such requests are not included.

Week commencing 7 January 2008:

Gas and electricity prices (e-mail)

Kenya (asked for in person)

Week commencing 21 January 2008:

Public family law (letter)

Week commencing 28 January 2008:

Northern Rock and banking reform (letter)

Treatment of minorities in Iran (e-mail)

Women's representation (by telephone)

Women in prison (by telephone)

US missile defence (letter)

Week commencing 11 February 2008:

BERR Committee Report on Post Office Closures (letter and email)

Week commencing 18 February 2008:

DNA Information Society (Letter)

Week commencing 3 March 2008:
100th anniversary of the Territorial Army (letter)

Week commencing 17 March 2008:
National DNA database (letter)

Business Questions 13 March 2008 (Correction)

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): In my response to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening), during business questions on 13 March 2008, I said (Official Report Vol. 473 Col. 419):

"..all decisions on adding capacity at Heathrow will be taken independently by BAA"

Further to my letters to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) and the hon. Member for Uxbridge (John Randall) on 14 March 2008, I would like to clarify that all decisions on adding capacity at Heathrow will be taken independently of BAA.

PRIME MINISTER

NATO Summit Meeting

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, and my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary represented the UK at the summit meeting of NATO Heads of State and Government in Bucharest from 2 to 4 April 2008.

The meeting focused on Afghanistan, including a meeting involving President Hamid Karzai, contributors to the NATO-led military mission and our key international partners. The UK welcomed the clear and unambiguous reiteration by the representatives of the international community of their long-term commitment to work together with the Government of Afghanistan to build an enduring, stable, secure, prosperous and democratic state.

President Karzai demonstrated Afghanistan's readiness to assume greater ownership of this process by announcing that Afghan forces would take responsibility for the security of Kabul by August this year and would gradually assume responsibility for other parts of the country.

The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, reaffirmed the shared determination of the international community to help the people and Government of Afghanistan. He committed to closer UN co-ordination with President Karzai and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), through his new special representative to Afghanistan, Kai Eide, whom I met again in London last week. I fully support him in his important work and the UK Government will do all they can to help.

Heads of State and Government of all forty nations contributing to the UN-mandated, NATO-led ISAF, agreed a strategic vision declaration which committed to:

a firm and shared long-term commitment to Afghanistan;

support for enhanced Afghan leadership and responsibility;

a comprehensive approach which combines civilian and military efforts; and

increased co-operation and engagement with Afghanistan's neighbours, especially Pakistan.

The UK Government welcome this declaration, which reinforces the approach that we set out in the revised Afghanistan strategy, which I announced to Parliament on 12 December 2007.

President Sarkozy, as well as signalling France's welcome intent to re-engage fully in NATO's military structure, confirmed his decision to deploy an additional battalion of French troops to the east of Afghanistan. This allowed President Bush to announce the movement of a substantial US force from the East, to Kandahar in the south. A number of other allies—including Canada, Poland, Romania and Slovakia—also announced increased contributions of troops, trainers, and helicopters, which were all warmly welcomed.

The alliance also made important political decisions on enlargement. Albania and Croatia were invited to start their accession, recognising the progress that both countries have made in their internal reforms and the role that they are playing in the region and beyond, including in Afghanistan.

The summit welcomed the commitment shown by Macedonia to NATO's values and its contribution to NATO operations. The UK Government remain convinced that Macedonia's rightful place is as a member of NATO and will continue to work for that to happen. We were disappointed that the alliance was not able to issue a membership invitation, but the summit did agree that an invitation will be issued. NATO leaders urged Greece and Macedonia to reach a mutually acceptable solution to the question of a name soon.

The summit also gave a clear commitment that Ukraine and Georgia will one day become members of NATO and offered support for their request for membership action plans. The Government look forward to a period of intense co-operation between NATO and both countries until they are admitted into NATO's membership action plan.

The alliance had a frank and open exchange with President Putin on NATO-Russia relations. I and other NATO leaders welcome the Russian Federation's assistance to ISAF's efforts in Afghanistan, including through logistical support.

In partnership with President Sarkozy, we promoted the UK/France-led initiative to support helicopter capability upgrades and pilot training, aiming to make more helicopters available both in Afghanistan and for other multinational operations. Ten NATO partners made clear at Bucharest their intention to provide direct support for this initiative, and detailed discussions are now under way on the nature and extent of their involvement.

The Government remain convinced of the continued importance and relevance of NATO in international crisis management, but also that it must continue its process of reform to meet this challenge more effectively. I am therefore pleased that NATO accepted the UK's offer to host an informal meeting of Defence Ministers this autumn specifically focused on reform. This will be an important opportunity to drive forward the modernisation of NATO and its capabilities transformation agenda.

Further important work was set in hand on NATO missile defence, to support the planned deployment of a US missile defence capability in Europe.

Through all these actions at the summit, the alliance demonstrated its continued sense of purpose and contribution to European, transatlantic, and wider international security.

Working ever closer with other international organisations, notably the EU and UN, a strong and effective NATO remains at the heart of UK foreign and security policy, as was emphasised in the national security strategy announced to Parliament on 19 March. I look forward to the 60th anniversary of NATO next year and to a summit to be hosted jointly by France and Germany in Strasbourg and Kehl. The UK Government remain committed to playing a full role in the development of the alliance.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Ms Rosie Winterton): I attended the transport session of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, held in Luxembourg on 7 April. The Slovenian Minister for Transport and Communications, Mr Radovan Zerjav, was in the chair.

There was a progress report and policy debate on the current package of road transport legislative proposals, namely: a recast regulation on common rules for access to the international road haulage market; a regulation on common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with in order to pursue the occupation of road transport operator; and a recast regulation on common rules for access to the market for coach and bus services. The presidency presented a compromise package, including a Commission proposal on cabotage—three domestic deliveries in seven days following an international laden journey—and an amended proposal on interconnected national registers. On cabotage, a significant number of member states regretted that the proposal was not more liberal. I spoke in support of regulated cabotage, which was only an 'add-on' to international journeys, but stressed that it should not be regular or systematic, which the Commission proposal would allow. I stressed the need to address safety concerns and enforcement alongside market opening. I welcomed the agreement in principle to establish interconnected registers, to enable member states to help each other to protect road safety through effective enforcement when operators are working internationally. The presidency concluded that the majority of member states could support the proposed compromises on cabotage and the registers, and that it would now work towards achievement of political agreements on the three proposals in June. We will continue to work with them and other member states towards achieving an acceptable outcome for the UK.

On rail freight, the Council adopted conclusions on the Commission communication "Towards a Rail Network giving Priority to Freight". The conclusions are acceptable to the UK.

The Council reached a general approach on a regulation on implementation of the European satellite radio navigation programmes (EGNOS and Galileo). This follows on from the political guidelines set out in the November Transport Council conclusions on Galileo. This regulation sets the Community budget for the satellite navigation programmes between 1 January 2007 and 31 December 2013. It also aims to improve the governance of the programmes by applying a strict division of responsibilities. The text of the general approach is acceptable to the UK.

The Council reached a political agreement on a directive on airport charges. The directive aims to establish a framework of common principles to be respected by airport operators when they determine the charges to airlines for the use of airport services, as practices currently differ across member states. These measures aim to create a level playing field to avoid cases of discrimination and improve transparency. The agreed text of the directive is acceptable to the UK.

The Council reached a general approach on a regulation on a code of conduct for computerised reservation systems (CRS) to replace the existing regulation 2299/89. This aims to update and simplify the existing code of conduct and to promote competition between CRS providers, whilst maintaining safeguards against potential competitive abuses and ensuring the provision of neutral and comprehensive information to consumers. The text of the general approach is acceptable to the UK.

The Council adopted conclusions relating to a Commission communication entitled "An Agenda for a Sustainable Future in General and Business Aviation". The Conclusions are acceptable to the UK.

There were progress reports and a policy debate on two current legislative proposals in maritime transport. These are a directive on compliance with flag state requirements and a directive on the civil liability and financial guarantees of shipowners. These are the final two proposals of seven in the Commission's latest maritime package, the other five having already been agreed by the Council. I joined Ministers who spoke against proceeding with these two proposals, which are widely regarded as unnecessary. Many noted the importance of global rule-making in these two areas, under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The presidency will now reflect on the views expressed on these two maritime dossiers.

Transport items on the list of items adopted without debate—"A points"—were:

Adoption of a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Israel on a comprehensive air transport agreement

Adoption of conclusions on the Commission communication "First Report on the

Implementation of the European Single Sky Legislation - Achievements and the Way Forward"

Adoption of decisions on the signature and provisional application of the agreements with Nepal and Australia on certain aspects of air services

Adoption of a directive on the inland transport of dangerous goods

These are all acceptable to the UK.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Transfer Values (Regulations)

The Minister for Pensions Reform (Mr. Mike O'Brien): New regulations on the calculation of pensions transfer values were laid on 11 April. The regulations come into effect on 1 October 2008.

The regulations build on the very useful dialogue we have had with the pensions community about the way that pensions transfer values should be calculated.

The regulations are largely as we consulted on. However, the requirement that every assumption used in the calculation should be a "best estimate" has been changed in order to make the calculation more straightforward. The new requirement is that the assumptions, taken as a whole, should lead to a "best estimate" of the amount of the unreduced transfer value.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 25 April 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) was held in Ljubljana on 4 and 5 April.

The main discussion was on the economic and financial situation, with a particular focus on financial stability and supervision. Ministers discussed progress against the financial stability roadmap agreed at ECOFIN in October as well as the supervision of cross border institutions within the EU. This will be the subject of further discussion at ECOFIN in coming months. Ministers signed an updated memorandum of understanding on cross-border crisis management, and also discussed issues pertaining to financial market infrastructures, notably progress on improving clearing and settlement structures in the EU.

The informal Council also discussed optimising the quality of public finances, with a particular focus on social spending. This is a particular Slovenian priority, and a theme common to the German, Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies. Finally, Ministers discussed the forthcoming spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank, including reform of quotas and voice at the IMF.

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury represented the UK.

UK Debt Management Office (Business Plan).

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): The UK Debt Management Office (DMO) has today published its business plan for the year 2008-09. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and from DMO's website, www.dmo.gov.uk.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council (Agenda)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 29 April in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Western Balkans

Ministers will discuss developments in the western Balkans over lunch. Discussion is likely to focus on Serbia ahead of the 11 May elections and on the situation in Kosovo. The Council is expected to agree conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the Commission's 5 March communication on the region, 'Western Balkans - Enhancing the European Perspective'.

The Government support the communication's overall message reaffirming a European perspective for the western Balkans. The Government also support the individual initiatives set out by the Commission to make that perspective more tangible for the people of the region. On Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Government welcome recent reform progress, including adoption of important police reform legislation, which has brought Bosnia and Herzegovina much closer to the signature of its stabilisation and association agreement.

Burma

The Council is expected to renew the EU's strengthened common position imposing restrictive measures against Burma. The Government strongly support the common position and will want conclusions on Burma to highlight deep flaws in the regime's plans for a referendum and new constitution entrenching military rule. The Government believe the Council should also take this opportunity to confirm that work is under way on possible reinforcement of the EU's restrictive measures, so that the Council can respond quickly to developments.

Iraq

Iraq is on the agenda at my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's request. There will not be conclusions, but the Government intend to use the April discussion to prepare for agreement at the May GAERC on a strengthened EU package of engagement, including greater Community activity before the Iraq compact meeting in Stockholm on 29 May.

Zimbabwe

The Government are pushing for robust conclusions, underlining the EU's deep concern at the delay in announcing the results of the presidential election and the escalation in state-sponsored violence and intimidation against opposition members and ordinary Zimbabweans.

Pakistan

The Council is expected to discuss priorities for increased EU engagement with Pakistan in light of the competitive parliamentary elections and establishment of a new democratic civilian Government. The Government believe it is important for the EU to engage with Pakistan in further work on democratisation, economic development, trade, human rights, regional co-operation and education.

Middle East

Council discussion is expected to focus on the political process, the latest developments in Gaza and southern Israel, the EU's practical and political support for the peace process and upcoming international events in support of the peace process. These include the ad hoc Liaison Committee meeting in London on 2 May, which will look at ways in which the international community

can strengthen the Palestinian economy, and the Berlin conference in support of Palestinian civil security and the rule of law on 24 June.

The Government fully support these international events and are committed to supporting the Annapolis process and the ongoing negotiations between the parties with a view to achieving a two-state solution.

European Neighbourhood Policy

The Commission is expected to present the annual ENP country progress reports. These accompanied the Commission's communication of 3 April, 'Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy'. The Commission's presentation may highlight the four ENP partners who have made most progress in implementing reform over 2007—Ukraine, Moldova, Morocco and Israel. The Government welcome the detailed round up of progress contained in the communication and its accompanying documents, and the contribution these have made to raising ENP's profile.

Uzbekistan

The Council is expected to consider whether there has been sufficient progress on human rights issues in Uzbekistan in the last six months to warrant continued suspension of the EU visa ban. The Government recognise the positive progress made by Uzbekistan in the last six months and welcome its commitment to hold a second round of the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue in May or June this year. In the light of this, and in order to encourage further positive progress from Uzbekistan, the Government are likely to join consensus in continuing the suspension.

Georgia

The Council will discuss developments, including the Russian directive signed by President Putin on 16 April, on strengthening Russia's bilateral relations with Georgia's two separatist regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The Government are concerned by the Russian proposals, which appear inconsistent with Russia's stated commitment to respect Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders.

The Government welcome the Council discussion and believe it is important that the EU continues to make clear its commitment to Georgia's territorial integrity, including with Russia.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held in Luxembourg on the 18 April 2008. My right hon. Friend, the Minister for State for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing my right honourable Friend the Attorney General and the Lord Advocate for Scotland attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed at the Council:

The Council opened with the Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Lichtenstein. The presidency presented a progress report and document outlining outstanding issues on the implementation of the second generation of the Schengen Information Systems (SIS) II. The presidency also reported on its discussions with the European Parliament on the returns directive. The UK has not opted in to this directive.

The main Council agenda began with a brief discussion on Western Balkan visa arrangements, where the Commission circulated a letter urging Ministers to reduce bureaucracy for Western Balkan country visa applicants.

A political agreement was reached on the Europol Council decision, during which the UK congratulated all three presidencies that had taken forward the negotiations, noted the previous UK parliamentary concern on budget neutrality and other issues, and lifted the UK reserve.

The action plan on explosives was adopted. The Commission welcomed the efforts made, and said that it would make funding available to implement it. The UK welcomed the presidency's work on the action plan. The UK, however, indicated concern about ongoing discussions in another part of the Council on the level of ammonium nitrate in fertiliser, which we had experience of being an effective explosive precursor. The UK proposed that the article 36 director level Committee should discuss these serious security concerns. Interior Ministers needed to take control of the issue, though we recognised the need to balance this with agricultural interests. A number of member states strongly supported the UK, and France highlighted its presidency plans to take concrete action in the field.

On the directive on long-term residence for beneficiaries of international protection, the Commission and various member states supported a call by the presidency for a compromise in order to reach consensus. The presidency said they would prepare work for further discussion. The UK is not opted into this measure.

The presidency reported on the US visa waiver discussions. The Council agreed a negotiating mandate for the Commission to pursue discussion with the US on visa waiver arrangements.

Greece addressed recent criticisms of their application of Community law on asylum, admitting that there had been delays in implementing EU legislation but stating that by June 2008 they will have met all of their obligations. Greece argued that it was not practically possible for them to examine all the applications they received in the way that some other member states did as there were simply too many. The Commission thanked Greece for its recent efforts but asserted that the Commission would continue to uphold Community law.

The Council reached a general approach on the framework decision on counter-terrorism, pending parliamentary scrutiny opinions and the views of the European Parliament. The Commission welcomed the package the presidency had put forward and the speed at which progress had been made. The UK thanked the Commission for its proposal and the presidency for their hard work and welcomed the compromise package. The UK said that it had a parliamentary scrutiny reservation in place, but was in a position to participate in a general approach. Most member states intervened to thank the presidency for their hard work and welcomed the compromise proposal, which was felt to represent a well-balanced package.

The presidency sought views on the text of the draft framework decision on trials in absentia. There was strong support from almost all delegations and calls not to delay agreement. The UK noted that the text offered higher safeguards than the original proposal. However, three member states still had difficulties and were not in a position to agree the instrument. The presidency concluded that some issues remained outstanding and referred those issues to COREPER ambassadors for resolution, with a view to agreement at the June JHA Council.

The presidency asked the Council to endorse a package of articles in the draft Council decision on Eurojust concerning the composition of Eurojust, access to databases by national members, staff regulations, voting in the Eurojust college, and mediation in relation to conflicts of jurisdiction. The UK maintained its substantive reservation on article 7, concerning mediation in relation to conflicts of jurisdiction, and its parliamentary reservation on the entire text. All other substantive reserves were lifted. The presidency concluded that further issues would be put to the June JHA Council for agreement.

The presidency presented Council conclusions on a future common frame of reference (CFR) for European contract law. They stressed that the adoption of a Council position did not pre-empt future discussions on the CFR. The Commission welcomed the presidency paper and confirmed that it would be consulting academics and stakeholders. It plans to publish an impact assessment, followed by a White Paper, probably in 2009. France announced that they would hold a conference on the CFR under their presidency. The UK (Lord Advocate) supported the Council position as drafted. She stated that there was no appetite for a binding instrument and that the UK would strongly oppose any move towards harmonisation. The presidency said that the CFR conclusions would go to the European Council in June as an information point, and would similarly be sent to the European Parliament.

Under "any other business", the presidency reported on progress on the bilateral instruments implementing the EU-US agreements on mutual legal assistance and extradition and called on those member states who had still not completed their procedures to do so as quickly as possible. The Commission reported on the recent hearing on crimes committed by totalitarian regimes.

Over lunch delegations were asked for their views on the desirability of the draft Directive on the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP). The UK did not see the added value in the draft Directive, and argued for a non-binding, non-legislative alternative. Other member states agreed but some were more interested in the content than form of the proposals. A compromise was suggested of limiting the scope of the Directive.

The Netherlands reported on its recent resettlement mission to Thailand with Belgium and Luxembourg in the wake of the letter the resettlement countries—including the UK—had sent to the JHA Council in January; Italy lobbied the Council for Luca Riccardi to become the EU candidate for Director General of International Organisation for Migration; and Germany proposed the EU take an initiative to resettle refugees from Iraq.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Local Government Elections

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): The Northern Ireland Executive have recently agreed changes to the local government structure in Northern Ireland. I have since received a request from the Minister of the Environment in the Northern Ireland Executive to postpone the next local government elections, currently scheduled for May 2009, to ensure that they may be held under the new local government structure.

I have been informed by the Minister of the Environment in the Northern Ireland Executive that May 2011 is the earliest date that elections to the new councils could take place. I am mindful of my obligations under Article 3 of the first protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights to ensure that free elections are to be held at reasonable intervals. I believe that a postponement to May 2011 would be an exceptional but justified step in the circumstances and would be consistent with the Convention.

I intend to bring before this House an Order in Council under section 84 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to ensure that the next local government elections in Northern Ireland will be held in May 2011.

Petitions

Tuesday 25 March 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Hampshire)

The Humble Petition of Mr Christopher Donnithorne retired and others,

Sheweth

That the Post Office is proposing to close Bury Cross Post Office at Gosport regardless of National Health Service plans to extend the Gosport War Memorial Hospital (immediately opposite said Bury Cross Post Office) to handle a minimum of 50,000 patients a year. That the potential customer base, for shops and services within 150 yards of this Post Office, will rapidly exceed the total population of the Gosport peninsula. That the Post Office closure proposal is based on inaccurate information, there being for example, no direct public transport links to either of the identified alternative venues. With the significant growth potential, good public transport link, and modern disabled facilities, closure of this busy Post Office at a bustling main road junction does not make sense, either in business or public service terms.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House shall urge Post Office Ltd to reconsider this particular closure proposal.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Peter Viggers, Official Report,* 16 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 1047.] [P000089]

Observations by the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognise the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why they are determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and have put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government have been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In their response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of their decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Nevertheless, to ensure sustainability, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

Post Office Limited (POL) is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until August with the whole programme scheduled to take around 15 months to complete. The consultation period for Hampshire ended on 26 November last year. POL has announced its final decision. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL confirmed that it has been decided that the Bury Cross branch will close. Post Office Ltd has published its decision in the Area Plan Booklet for the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight area, which is available on its website at www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government do not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. A recent addition to the review process provides for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3. In this instance, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Palestinian Community of Jayyous

The Humble Petition of Ms Cate Mowat and others of like disposition,

Sheweth

That families within the Palestinian community of Jayyous are being forced off their agricultural land due to a lack of water from wells. Five of the groundwater wells which they previously had access to are now situated beyond the new Israeli wall. The Israeli authorities are refusing permits to drill new wells on Jayyous land.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House shall urge the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to consider the plight of the community within Jayyous and to pressurise the Israeli authorities to allow new wells to be drilled on their land.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Michael Connarty, Official Report,* 27 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1206.] [P000088]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

The Government are concerned at the impact the barrier has on the lives of Palestinians, and deplore the destruction of Palestinian homes and the confiscation of Palestinian land associated with its construction. We are concerned about the effects the building of the barrier has on the Palestinian community of Jayyous and their access to agricultural land and water. The Foreign Affairs Committee had a briefing on Jayyous during their trip to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories from 28-30 March 2007. The EU has raised this issue with the Israeli Government. Our Embassy in Tel Aviv and Consulate-General in Jerusalem continue to monitor the situation in the West Bank and raise our concerns when appropriate.

The Government continue to make clear that Israel should halt the construction of the barrier on Palestinian land. This practice is contrary to international law and threatens the viability of an agreed two-state solution. The Israeli Government should not create facts on the ground, which might prejudice final status negotiations. We fully recognise Israel's right to self-defence and agree that a barrier is a reasonable way to achieve this. However, we call for the barrier to be built either on or behind the Green Line. The route, which the Israeli Cabinet approved on 20 February 2005, takes in a number of Israeli settlements, illegal under international law. It also contributes to the fragmentation of the West Bank, which in turn undermines prospects for a negotiated two-state solution.

Petition

Wednesday 26 March 2008

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Hospices

The Petition of residents of Chorley and others,

Declares that hospices do an excellent job in looking after the terminally ill and their families and therefore should receive more funding from central government.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to make it his policy to increase direct funding to hospices through the National Health Service.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Lindsay Hoyle, Official Report,* 27 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1208 .] [P000131]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Government fully recognises and greatly appreciates the excellent work done by hospices in providing end-of-life care services and in supporting people with life threatening illnesses and their families.

Hospices are centres of excellence and the model of care that was first developed in the voluntary hospice movement is central to the delivery of good quality end-of-life care. We value our partnership role with the hospices.

The Government has delivered on the commitment in the 2000 NHS Cancer Plan to provide an extra £50 million per annum for specialist palliative care services for adults. Over half of this money went to the voluntary sector, mainly hospices. This money has now been made recurrent in the baseline allocations to primary care trusts ensuring it is available for specialist palliative care on a long-term basis.

In addition to this, last year we provided a £40 million capital fund, which adult hospices were able to bid for to improve their physical environments. The funding was made available as part of the Dignity in Care for Older People work, although it will benefit all adult patients using hospice facilities. 146 hospices, with 191 projects, have been allocated funding from the budget.

In recent years, the Government has moved away from running centrally funded programmes in favour of devolving funding to the front line. With funding devolved to local budgets, primary care trusts can make funding decisions and commission services based on the needs of their local population.

We do not centrally collate data on how much financial support voluntary hospices get from the NHS, although we do know this varies across the country. However, the level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for local negotiation between the local primary care trust and the hospice.

Through the Operating Framework 2007-08, we have asked primary care trusts, working with local authorities, to conduct a baseline review of local end of life care services to support the implementation of the Strategy. The baseline review will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning activity.

The development of an End of Life Care Strategy for adults, this country's first, shows that the Government is committed to improving care at the end of life. The Strategy, due to be published in the summer, will address the needs of patients, carers and families and will consider, among other things, the role of, and funding for hospices. Both the End of Life Care Strategy and the NHS Next Stage Review will be key to raising the priority of end-of-life care locally.

Petition

Thursday 27 March 2008

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Funding (North Yorkshire)

The Humble Petition of Mr G Dadd of North Yorkshire County Council and Black Bull Inn, Thormanby, York, North Yorkshire and others of like disposition,

Sheweth

That they fear the proposed Police Funding Formula review will result in cuts of £10m, £16m, and £19m in years 1, 2, and 3 respectively will mean cuts of 300 Officers or a massive change to local Council Tax payers. We wish to see our entitlement to fair and equitable funding for North Yorkshire.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Government to withdraw the proposed Police Funding Formula review.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Miss Anne McIntosh, Official Report,* 19 November 2007; Vol. 467, c. 1070 .] [P000056]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government notes the petition of Mr. G Dadd of North Yorkshire county council and others about police funding in North Yorkshire.

However, the Government consider that the petitioners' concern is misplaced. The provisional police funding settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11, announced on 6 December 2007 by the Home Secretary, provides for the North Yorkshire formula grant to be increased by 2.5 per cent. in each year.

Petition

Monday 31 March 2008

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Prostitution

The Petition of Susan M. Shutter,

Declares that the current laws on Prostitution in the UK are outdated for the twenty-first century. The problems with trafficking in the UK demonstrate how the current laws do not assist in reducing prostitution nor do they help to protect vulnerable women who have been coerced .or in many instances forced into prostitution. Although slavery was abolished in the UK almost 200 years ago, slavery still exists for many women in prostitution in the UK. We believe that serious action is now needed to combat this horrific human rights abuse.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review the current laws on the supply of sex and prostitution. The undersigned request that new laws are introduced following the bold stance taken by the Swedish government in 1999 which made the demand, rather than the supply, illegal. We believe that prostitution is inherently an abuse of women and does not exist to allow women freedom of choice, but is a symptom of the lack of choice for many women. We believe that prostitution will only be reduced in the UK if the demand for prostitutes is tackled in a thorough and comprehensive manner.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Fiona Mactaggart, Official Report,* 8 January 2008; Vol. 470, c. 274 .] [P000104]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government undertook a wholesale review of the law and wider policy issues relating to prostitution in 2004. This included a public consultation exercise which considered the issues including routes into and out of prostitution, associated drug and alcohol abuse, sexual and mental health needs, domestic violence and sexual abuse. It also included consideration on the existing legislative framework and the current criminal offences associated with prostitution.

In response to Paying the Price, and in consideration of the feedback received, the Government published its co-ordinated prostitution strategy in January 2006. This document focuses on disrupting sex markets by preventing individuals, and particularly children and young people, from being drawn into prostitution; by providing appropriate protection and routes out for those already involved; by protecting communities from the nuisance associated with prostitution; and by ensuring that those who control, coerce or abuse those in prostitution are brought to justice.

The strategy sets out our intention to reform the offence of loitering or soliciting to remove the outdated and stigmatising term "common prostitute". In addition it commits to introducing a new penalty for those convicted, to end the revolving door currently created when the courts issue a fine. These proposals have been developed and will be brought forward as soon as Parliamentary time allows. In relation to off-street prostitution, the strategy also sets out a commitment to make proposals to amend the definition of a brothel in order to improve the safety of those involved in selling sex indoors. This last commitment is subject to further consultation.

The Government has recognised that there is considerable support for more to be done to tackle the demand for prostitution, particularly given the links to human trafficking and sexual exploitation. A six-month review of how we can strengthen this element of the strategy was launched in January 2008. This will consider how we can raise awareness about the links between prostitution and sexual exploitation, including trafficking, as well as the options for legislative reform. It will look at the experiences of other jurisdictions where specific offences relating to paying for sexual services have been introduced, including Sweden. The Government will look at the impact this legislation has had on behaviours and attitudes of those who buy sex and the wider public, and will also consider what impact it has had on those involved in selling sex.

Petition

Wednesday 2 April 2008

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Post Office Closures (Ilford North)

The Petition of residents of Ilford, North and others,

Declares that we, the undersigned, being local residents, deplore the consideration being given to the closure of three of our local Post Office branches.

These closures will be a serious blow for the elderly and vulnerable people who will be faced with longer journeys to obtain services they need. It will also mean longer queues at the branches that remain.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons takes a note of their very strong objection to the loss of these vital services and urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep the Spurway Parade Woodford Avenue, the Fencepiece Road and the New North Road branches open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Lee Scott.]*

[P000168]

Petitions

Monday 21 April 2008

OBSERVATIONS

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Deforestation

The Petition of Ellen Pisolkar and others,

Declares that in the next 24 hours deforestation will cause as much carbon to be released as eight million people flying between London and New York. The destruction of the rainforest is recognised as one of the main causes of climate change. Tropical deforestation accounts for one-fifth of all carbon emissions, more than the entire transport sector (including the aviation industry). The burning of trees is releasing as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as the United States and has pushed Indonesia and Brazil into the world's top four polluters. The Stern Review concluded that forests offer the single largest chance for cost-effective and immediate reductions of carbon emissions.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the British Government to encourage nations to halt deforestation in the Tropics and adopt the following policies:

Ensure that carbon credits for reducing emissions from deforestation and the protection of standing forests are included in all national and international carbon markets, especially those created by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Simplify and expand carbon market rules, including the Clean Development mechanism, to encourage reforestation, afforestation and sustainable forest management;

Include topical forest and land use carbon credits in the European Union Trading Scheme, while maintaining strong incentives to reduce industrial emissions;

Encourage early action and new market mechanisms that recognise the value of carbon stocks and forest ecosystem services, and support appropriate voluntary carbon market standards;

Provide assistance for developing nations to build capacity to fully participate in the carbon markets, and to evaluate the ecosystem services their forests provide; and

Incentivise the sustainable use of degraded land and ecosystems, and remove incentives that encourage forest destruction.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Lynne Jones, Official Report,* 18 December 2007; Vol. 469, c. 824 .] [P000100]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

The Government's advice and calculation is that emissions from deforestation every 24 hours are equivalent to approximately 25 million people flying across the Atlantic.

The Government worked with international negotiating partners to achieve a successful decision on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries at the UN climate change conference in Bali, in December 2007. The decision notes the need for stable and predictable resources in order to provide positive incentives for reducing emissions from both deforestation and forest degradation, and encourages early action through demonstration activities, to help build the capacity of developing countries to participate and to trial the approach. The UK is supporting early demonstration activity through the World Bank forest carbon partnership facility, and in Bali announced a contribution of £15 million to the scheme. We have also committed £50 million for deforestation and poverty reduction in the Congo basin.

The decision provides indicative guidance for these activities, consistent with sustainable forest management, and notes their potential recognition under a post-2012 climate agreement.

The Prime Minister has appointed Johan Eliasch as a special representative to review innovative financing mechanisms for avoided deforestation. The review will report on the development of carbon credits for avoided deforestation and sustainable forestry and how they could be introduced.

The Government are pleased about overall progress with the clean development mechanism (CDM). CDM projects that cover land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) are currently restricted to afforestation and reforestation (A/R) project activities—deforestation was not included because of the risk of project activity simply displacing deforestation within a country. To date there is only one A/R project registered by the CDM executive board. The reasons for the lack of take-up have been the subject of much discussion under the climate negotiations and are presented in developing parties' submissions to the UNFCCC ahead of COP/MOP3 in Bali. Lack of demand is thought to be the main cause, but forestry projects are also expensive—relative to the potential emissions saved—and time-consuming to set up. To facilitate the establishment of A/R CDM projects, parties agreed in Bali to raise the threshold for small scale A/R projects—which have reduced administration fees—from 8 $ktCO_2e$ to 16 $ktC0_2e$ per year. Parties also approved the use of non-renewable biomass in the CDM, meaning that projects encouraging the use of more efficient cooking stoves for example, are now possible through the CDM. These types of projects, together with recent guidance provided by the CDM executive board on programmes of activities under the CDM, will mean that project activities which were previously uneconomical to develop under the CDM can now be replicated on a large scale throughout the developing world.

The efficient and effective functioning of the EU emission trading scheme is dependent on a robust system for monitoring, recording and verifying emissions. The UK supported further consideration by the European Commission (the Commission) of including forestry credits in the EU emission trading scheme (ETS) as part of the discussions on the revised EU ETS Directive. The Commission have indicated that they will only consider new credits for inclusion that are capable of meeting the current standards of monitoring, recording and verification, but that forestry and land use projects do not currently meet these standards. Including credits from reforestation and afforestation would require a robust monitoring system, an understanding of the potential impact on the EU ETS allowance price, and assurance that non-permanent credits would not damage the environmental integrity of the scheme, before they could be included in the EU ETS. It is important that

access to the EU emissions trading scheme is considered in relation to wider international agreements, for example on how to incentivise reduced emissions from deforestation in developing countries.

On 19 February the Government announced the final framework for a code of best practice to set standards for how carbon offsets are sold to UK consumers. The code will be voluntary, and offset providers can choose to sign up to it. The code will allow the use of Kyoto compliant offsetting credits. The Government recognise, however, the value the non-regulated market can add, and are inviting the industry to agree and put into practice its own standard which can provide a similar level of assurance as the compliance mechanisms. This standard should address the principles of additionality, avoiding carbon leakage, permanence, verification, transparency and avoiding double counting. Once industry has reached a consensus on a standard and it has been fully operational for six months, the Government will conduct an audit to confirm whether credits approved under the industry standard can be included under the Government code.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Constitution (Referendum)

The Petition of Cllr. Alan Wood and residents of Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath and surrounding areas,

Declares that the Prime Minister has no mandate to ratify the Treaty of Lisbon and cites as firm evidence a professionally conducted ballot in the constituency of Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath asking residents the unambiguous question: 'do you want a referendum on the EU Treaty of Lisbon, Yes or No?' to which the result was 81.6% in favour of a referendum, and that the result was accurate to + or - 7.8% at the 95% confidence level and that this result is remarkable considering that there was no pre-publicity and is yet another illustration of the people's concern about the breach of promises made at election times and the further and historically most significant erosion of the UK's parliamentary powers and democracy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to consult the people on this question of fundamental constitutional importance.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 27 February 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1206 .] [P000127]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

Our membership of the EU has brought real benefits in jobs, peace and security. Through it, we belong to the world's biggest trading bloc. Half the UK's trade is now within the EU, with an estimated 3.5 million British jobs linked to our membership. The Union allows Member States to co-operate effectively in tackling issues like organised crime and climate change, which do not stop at national borders.

But Europe could achieve more if it was not operating under out-dated rules drawn up for a different world and an organisation with less than half the members it has now. The Lisbon Treaty updates the framework for cooperation and aims to help the European Union work more effectively for the people of this country and other EU member states.

The Lisbon Treaty is not a constitution—the Governments of the 27 EU Member States have agreed that "the Constitutional concept... has been abandoned". Instead, the Lisbon Treaty follows the precedents of previous amending EU Treaties such as the Treaties of Maastricht, Nice and Amsterdam. Furthermore, the UK has moved further away from the defunct constitution than anyone else because of the unique set of arrangements, or 'red lines', which have been secured by the UK to protect our sovereignty.

No Government, Labour or Conservative, has ever held a referendum on an amending Treaty. Both the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty were more significant than the Lisbon Treaty, but no referendum was held then. The UK Parliament is the proper place for debate and decision on the Lisbon Treaty. As with all Treaties, Parliament must be satisfied that it is in the national interest, before it can be implemented in national law.

On 5 March, the House of Commons voted on a referendum amendment to the Bill. The amendment was defeated by 311-248 (a majority of 63). The Bill has now passed to the House of Lords for further detailed scrutiny.

The Petition of residents of Castle Point and others supporting the Telegraph EU Petition,

Declares that the EU Reform Treaty will significantly affect the constitutional arrangements between the UK and EU, and affect the way Britain is governed, permanently removing powers from Parliament to Brussels, particularly through a European Head of State, an EU diplomatic corps and Foreign Minister, a common system of criminal justice and a European Public Prosecutor, the abolition of 40 vetoes, bestowing a legal personality, treaty making powers and therefore all the trappings of statehood on the EU, and reducing Britain's strength on the Council of Ministers by 30 per cent, and that all the main parties promised a referendum at the last general election and that those MPs who now renege on their election promise will be held to account when they seek to make further election promises.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to consult the people before ratifying the Treaty.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 5 March 2008; Vol. 472, c. 1884 .] [P000140]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

Our membership of the EU has brought real benefits in jobs, peace and security. Through it, we belong to the world's biggest trading bloc. Half the UK's trade is now within the EU, with an estimated 3.5 million British jobs linked to our membership. The Union allows Member States to co-operate effectively in tackling issues like organised crime and climate change which do not stop at national borders.

But Europe could achieve more if it was not operating under out-dated rules drawn up for a different world and an organisation with less than half the members it has now. The Lisbon Treaty is a good deal for the UK and a positive step for the EU—it will

enable an EU of 27 or more nation states to respond effectively to the challenges of globalisation and to deliver on key issues like jobs, growth, security, the environment and foreign policy.

The Lisbon Treaty is not a constitution—the Governments of the 27 EU Member States have agreed that "the Constitutional concept... has been abandoned". Instead, the Lisbon Treaty follows the precedents of previous amending EU Treaties such as the Treaties of Maastricht, Nice and Amsterdam. Furthermore, the UK has moved further away from the defunct constitution than anyone else because of the unique set of arrangements, or 'red lines', which have been secured by the UK to protect our sovereignty.

The Lisbon Treaty will lead to no transfer of power away from the UK on issues of fundamental importance to our sovereignty. Its impact will be less significant than the 1986 Single European Act (SEA) and the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht.

No Government, Labour or Conservative, has ever held a referendum on an amending Treaty. Both the Single European Act and the Maastricht Treaty were more significant than the Lisbon Treaty, but no referendum was held then. The UK Parliament is the proper place for debate and decision on the Lisbon Treaty. As with all Treaties, Parliament must be satisfied that it is in the national interest, before it can be implemented in national law.

On 5 March, the House of Commons voted on a referendum amendment to the Bill. The amendment was defeated by 311-248 (a majority of 63). The Bill has now passed to the House of Lords for further detailed scrutiny.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Means Tested Benefits

The Petition of FOCUS and the Richmond Fellowship Scotland,

Declares that the level of Permitted Earnings disregard for people on means tested benefits has not increased since 2001.

This £20 a week Permitted Earnings disregard has not increased in line with inflation or other benefits. The minimum wage increases have significantly eroded the value of Permitted Earnings. Similar to the minimum wage it is paid for by the employer, not the Government and not through Government public expenditure.

Permitted earnings enables people to increase their skills and confidence in the knowledge that their benefits will not be affected. In some cases this can be a stepping stone to future employment.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to introduce legislation making an adjustment to the £20 Permitted Earnings disregard to get it back to it's original value and that this revised amount is then increased each year in line with inflation.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Jo Swinson, Official Report,* 26 March 2008; Vol. 474, c. 294 .] [P000130]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

People have signed this petition because they wish to see an increase to the current £20 earnings disregard within the means tested benefits.

The earnings disregards can provide financial incentives by making work pay for those moving into work from a period of incapacity or unemployment. They postpone the point at which benefit will start to be withdrawn and ensure that income can rise immediately upon entering work.

Raising the current disregards, however, would narrow the gains to full time work in that we would reduce the incentive for people to leave benefit for work—the gap between in work income and out of work benefits becoming so narrow as to discourage people taking up full time work. Therefore there is a balance to be struck.

Any increase in the disregard levels within current DWP income-related benefits would cost money and much therefore depends on whether increasing the level of the disregard could succeed in commanding greater priority than other competing claims for expenditure. Alongside disregards there are other ways in which the benefit system recognises the value of allowing people to decide if they want to work either part or full time.

People can currently take part in approved schemes without there being any adverse impact on their Jobseeker's Allowance. For example, we allow longer-term unemployed customers to try out a job for two weeks whilst continuing to receive benefit. Similarly, volunteering is recognised within the benefit system and can play a key part in giving confidence to those who do not have recent experience of the labour market.

Petitions

Tuesday 22 April 2008

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Finger-Printing in Schools

The Humble Petition of Councillor James MacCleary and others of like disposition,

Sheweth

That there is significant local concern that the government has failed to ban the practice of fingerprinting children in schools, that an average of 20 educational establishments in each Local Education Authority are fingerprinting pupils, that less than one-quarter of local education authorities have banned collecting fingerprints in schools and that, although encouraged to seek consent before taking biometric data, schools currently are not obliged to seek parents' permission before taking children's fingerprints.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House shall urge the Department for Education and Skills to legislate in order that parental consent is required in advance of any fingerprinting of children in schools.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Norman Baker, Official Report,* 18 May 2007; Vol. 460, c. 877 .] [P000175]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

Since the date of this petition both the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in conjunction with the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta), and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) have published guidance on the use of biometric technology in schools.

These sets of guidance are available on the respective Becta and ICO websites.

Petitions

Wednesday 23 April 2008

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Complaints Against Churches

The Petition of Patricia Anne Davies,

Declares that the Christian Churches in the United Kingdom show enmity to those who have cause to complain against its' Ministers; asserts that the Methodist Church would not hear her complaint of mental abuse by a Methodist Minister; that upon appealing to the Minister herself for reconciliation, she was threatened by the Minister with legal action if she did not drop the matter, and that her subsequent complaint was ignored and that it was only after much correspondence and time that she was eventually heard through the churches quasi-judicial system.

The Petitioner further declares that the hearing refused to show the complainant evidence put forward by another Minister from her own church denomination (The URC) even though she was entitled to see it and in doing this breached Methodist Church rules, but that the Methodist church, to this very day, refuses to enforce those rules.

Further declares that she has twice called upon written submissions through the rules of the Data Protection Act but has never received a response to her request for personal data; has made two complaints about the church to the Information Commissioner's office and they have advised the church of their breaches of the Act, but that the church still refuses to disclose the required documents.

Further declares that she has evidence to support her claim that the churches hold 'secret files' and that they refuse to disclose these under the Data Protection Act.

Further declares that the law has proved ineffective and an inappropriate tool for resolving this case, and that the law is daunting and expensive and therefore out of reach of most normal people.

Further declares that abuse of any nature is damaging and abusing a mentally ill depression patient is dangerous and can push a sufferer to suicide; this being borne out by the suicide figures showing that seventeen people die of suicide caused by depression every day.

The Petitioner therefore requests that the House of Commons urges the Government to make time for a debate in the House on the subject and further gives consideration to the establishment of an independent body to hear complaints against the churches.

And the Petitioner remains, etc. [P000177]

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Ankylosing Spondylitis

The Petition of Gillian Eames,

Declares that anti-TNF treatments are vital for patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS). Such treatments will add quality to the lives of thousands of AS patients and will allow many to take control of their treatment at home.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to instruct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to approve two anti-TNF treatments for patients with Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS); and calls to ensure that NICE guidance is implemented as quickly as possible so that these new treatments can be added to NHS services and treatments to improve the welfare of AS patients around the country.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mrs. Jacqui Lait, Official Report,* 13 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 7P .] [P000150]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently developing guidance for the National Health Service on adalimumab (Humira), etanercept (Enbrel) and infliximab (Remicade) for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis. NICE issued a Final Appraisal Determination (FAD) for this appraisal in November 2007. NICE received two appeals against the FAD and an appeal hearing was held on 31 March 2008. The outcome of the appeal hearing is awaited. Subject to the outcome of the appeal hearing, NICE expects to publish guidance later in the year. The appeal stage is an integral part of NICE's guidance development process and NICE cannot issue final guidance until any appeals have been heard.

NICE was established as an independent body to issue evidence-based guidance to the NHS on the clinical and cost effectiveness of new and existing treatments. The Department of Health is a stakeholder in the guidance development process and that process must be allowed to run its course free from political interference.

Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld simply because guidance from NICE is unavailable. In December 2006, the Department of Health issued refreshed guidance which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first becomes available.

Clatterbridge Hospital (Wirral)

The Petition of residents of Wirral,

Declares that there is a local and pressing need for a Minor Injuries Unit and an Out of Hours service in South Wirral, and that the Clatterbridge Hospital Site is a prime location for such facilities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Minister for Health to call upon Wirral Primary Care Trust to commission a Minor Injuries Unit and an Out of Hours service on the Clatterbridge Hospital site.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ben Chapman, Official Report,* 19 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 1049 .] [P000144]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the National Health Service and social care organisations in England, it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people. Therefore, any proposals for improvements to services are matters to be decided locally.

Wirral Hospital NHS Trust

The Petition of patients, families and friends of the Department of Dermatology in Wirral Hospital NHS Trust,

Declares that the petitioners have most serious concerns about the proposed changes to the care of people with dermatological disease regarding managing their conditions in the community. The Petitioners believe that such changes to services without due consideration and discussion to the effects will be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the patients involved. The Petitioners further declare that moving the majority of skin care management to the community has the consequence of reducing funding to hospital-based services. This potentially risks the loss of specialist treatments (both in- and out-patient based), diagnostic skills, opportunities for multidisciplinary clinics and valuable training for nurses and doctors.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to reconsider its decision and further urges the Secretary of State for Health to use his powers to reverse the continued scaling back of the aforementioned services at Wirral Hospital NHS Trust and to visit the Wirral Trust at his earliest opportunity in order to assess the views and opinions of the dermatology service users.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ben Chapman, Official Report,* 17 March 2008; Vol. 473, c. 718 .] [P000151]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the National Health Service and social care organisations in England, it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people. Therefore, any proposals for improvements to services are matters to be decided locally and is not appropriate for Ministers to intervene.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 25 March 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many mobile phone masts were erected in 2007; and if she will make a statement; [195297]

(2) how many mobile phone masts were erected in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [195298]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Mobile Operators Association estimates that at the start of 2008, there were around 50,300 base station sites in the UK, with two thirds of these on existing buildings or structures. This information is available at:

http://www.mobilemastinfo.com/information/fact_sheets/mobile_phones_and_base_stations.htm

The Office of Communications (Ofcom) operates Sitefinder, http://www.sitefinder.ofcom.org.uk/, a searchable database which shows the locations and operating characteristics of operational base stations in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In addition, every autumn, the mobile phone operators share their annual roll-out plans with local planning authorities and list all the existing sites in the local authority area as well as proposed sites. Many local planning authorities also maintain mast registers, although this is at local discretion.

Aggregates: Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the regional guidelines for land-won sand and gravel production set out in the National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2001 to 2016 were determined; and how they are monitored. [195811]

Mr. Iain Wright: The regional guidelines for the provision of aggregates, published in 2003 following public consultation, were based on a forecast of national demand for aggregates that was broken down to the regional level informed by regional data on aggregates consumption from the national survey of aggregate minerals. Targets for the use of secondary and recycled materials were taken into account, with the remaining demand to be met from primary aggregates.

The guidelines include arrangements for annual monitoring and reports are published on the Communities and Local Government website. Monitoring shows that at the national level forecast demand for aggregates for the period 2001 to 2016 remains as estimated previously. However, we propose to revise the guidelines to cover the period to 2020, and correct some minor regional differences. We will be consulting on proposed revisions shortly.

Chemicals: Teesside

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what fire risk assessment has been carried out in respect of *(a)* the largest chemical industry installation on Teesside and *(b)* the proximity of chemical industry installations to urban settlements on Teesside. [188969]

Mr. Dhanda: Fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) are required by the fire and rescue service national framework to have in place and maintain an integrated risk management plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover to fire and other incidents to local circumstances—evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resource accordingly. It is not for central Government to comment upon or intervene in the operational proposals in an authority's IRMP including, in this case, any assessment of the risks posed by chemical installations in Teesside.

The draft fire and rescue service national framework 2008-11, which has recently been out to public consultation, requires FRAs' IRMPs to have regard to the risk analyses completed by local and regional resilience forums including those reported in external community risk registers (CRRs). Cleveland FRA will therefore need to have regard to any chemical installation risks identified in the CRR.

Fire Services: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of Fire Service response times from time of call to time of first attendance were of a duration of *(a)* up to five, *(b)* six to 10, *(c)* 11 to 15 and *(d)* over 15 minutes in each year since 2000, broken down by fire authority. [193028]

Mr. Dhanda: *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The information requested has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Fires

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fires were reported to the Fire Service in each year since 1978, broken down by *(a)* type, *(b)* brigade and *(c)* region. [193025]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The information requested is available from 1981 to 2006, and has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Homelessness

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homelessness applications were rejected in the fourth quarter of 2007 in each of the English regions; and what percentage change that represented compared with the same period in the previous year; [194810]

(2) how many approaches for help to local authority homelessness units there are in each of the English regions in the fourth quarter of 2007; and what percentage change that represented compared with the same period in the previous year. [194811]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Under the legislation, authorities must secure suitable accommodation for applicants accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (or take steps to secure that accommodation does not cease to be available if the applicant is likely to become homeless within 28 days). CLG's quarterly homelessness Statistical Release refers to these duties as "the main homelessness duties" and relevant applicants are recorded as "homeless acceptances". Applicants who are accepted as eligible for assistance, homeless, but not in priority need must be provided with advice and assistance in any attempts they make to secure accommodation for themselves; they are not recorded as "homeless acceptances".

Local authorities report all decisions they make under part 7, but information about the total number of applications for housing assistance is not held centrally. The following table shows the total number of decisions made by English local housing authorities under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996. The totals shown differ from those in the Statistical Release, since they include applications by persons not eligible for assistance under the legislation.

Total number of decisions[1] made by English local housing authorities during Quarter 4 2007 under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996

	October to December 2007 (number)	*Change since October to December 2006 (percentage)*
North-east	1,610	-33
North-west	4,480	-24
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,270	-21
East midlands	1,920	-27
West midlands	4,680	12
East of England	2,680	-18
London	7,630	-16
South-east	2,590	-21
South-west	2,260	-23
England	32,110	-18

[1] Applications for housing assistance considered under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act. This figure includes applicants found not eligible for assistance.

The following table below shows the number of decisions made under part 7 on applicant households between October and December 2007, where a main homelessness duty was not accepted. The table also shows the percentage change in this figure compared to the same quarter during 2006. Note that the figures include applications by households not eligible for assistance under the legislation.

Total number of decisions[1] made by English local housing authorities during Quarter 4 2007 under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 where a "main homelessness duty" was not accepted

	October to December 2007 (number)	*Change since October to December 2006 (percentage)*
North-east	740	-39
North-west	2,470	-24
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,610	-25
East midlands	860	-30
West midlands	2,290	1
East of England	1,280	-21
London	4,200	-22
South-east	1,280	-21
South-west	1,140	-35
England	16,870	-23

[1] Applications for housing assistance considered under the homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act. This figure includes applicants found not eligible for assistance.

Housing: Low Incomes

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the take-up was of each category of Homebuy scheme in each county and region in each year the scheme has been available; and what the total value was of homes produced. [189537]

Caroline Flint: The following tables show the number of homes provided through each category of HomeBuy scheme by region and county or unitary authority from April 2006 to 31 January 2008.

Region	Social HomeBuy	Open Market HomeBuy	New Build HomeBuy/Shared ownership
North East	9	8	153
North West	27	184	1,122
Yorkshire and the Humber	18	110	545
East Midlands	5	106	1,269
West Midlands	6	250	1,288
East	1	577	2,128
London	70	1,361	6,022
South East	16	1,531	4,311
South West	1	332	1,586
Total	153	4,459	18,424

County or unitar, authority	Social HomeBuy	Open Market HomeBuy	New Build HomeBuy/Shared ownership
City of Derby (B)	0	5	59
City of Leicester (B)	1	22	121
City of Nottingham (B)	0	7	24
Derbyshire County	0	10	136
Leicestershire County	0	21	168
Lincolnshire County	0	12	221
Northamptonshire County	4	20	464
Nottinghamshire County	0	9	68
Rutland	0	0	8
Bedfordshire County	0	54	114
Cambridgeshire County	0	74	393
City of Peterborough (B)	0	7	64
Essex County	0	144	326
Hertfordshire County	1	110	713
Luton (B)	0	28	0
Norfolk County	0	89	148
Southend-on-Sea (B)	0	15	12
Suffolk County	0	51	321
Thurrock (B)	0	-5	37
Greater London Authority	70	1,361	6,022
Darlington (B)	0	0	25
Durham County	1	2	10
Gateshead District (B)	0	0	40
Hartlepool (B)	0	0	0
Middlesbrough (B)	4	0	27
Newcastle upon Tyne District (B)	0	4	23
North Tyneside District (B)	0	1	10
Northumberland County	0	1	2
Redcar and Cleveland	1	0	0
South Tyneside District (B)	3	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees (B)	0	0	16
Sunderland District (B)	0	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen (B)	0	1	45
Blackpool (B)	0	3	55
Bolton District (B)	0	5	71
Bury District (B)	0	5	0
Cheshire County	0	15	156
Cumbria County	0	15	49
Halton (B)	0	2	43
Lancashire County	5	22	163
Liverpool District (B)	0	41	234
Manchester District (B)	13	44	25
Oldham District (B)	0	0	25
Rochdale District (B)	0	2	0
Salford District (B)	0	5	22
Sefton District (B)	9	0	91
St. Helens District (B)	0	0	33
Stockport District (B)	0	18	8
Tameside (B)	0	1	0
Trafford District (B)	0	2	64

County or unitary authority	Social HomeBuy	Open Market HomeBuy	New Build HomeBuy/Shared ownership
Warrington (B)	0	0	9
Wigan District (B)	0	3	0
Wirral District (B)	0	0	29
Bracknell Forest (B)	0	25	30
Buckinghamshire County	0	74	201
City of Portsmouth (B)	0	0	169
City of Southampton (B)	0	0	196
East Sussex County	2	38	91
Hampshire County	7	477	720
Isle of Wight	0	0	72
Kent County	0	150	619
Medway (B)	0	33	97
Milton Keynes (B)	0	29	351
Oxfordshire County	0	123	272
Reading (B)	0	45	201
Slough (B)	0	25	26
Surrey County	1	285	606
The City of Brighton and Hove (B)	1	51	207
West Berkshire	0	16	96
West Sussex County	5	107	284
Windsor and Maidenhead (B)	0	33	30
Wokingham	0	20	43
Bath and North East Somerset	0	12	46
Bournemouth (B)	0	22	13
City of Bristol (B)	0	28	121
City of Plymouth (B)	1	14	93
Cornwall County	0	26	170
Devon County	0	42	179
Dorset County	0	32	48
Gloucestershire County	0	51	223
North Somerset	0	8	68
Poole (B)	0	9	81
Somerset County	0	27	125
South Gloucestershire	0	19	41
Swindon (B)	0	9	199
Torbay (B)	0	0	38
Wiltshire County	0	33	141
Birmingham District (B)	2	47	473
City of Stoke-on-Trent (B)	0	4	42
City of Wolverhampton District (B)	0	10	33
County of Herefordshire	0	29	18
Coventry District (B)	2	8	34
Dudley District (B)	0	10	55
Sandwell District (B)	0	6	32
Shropshire County	0	1	31
Solihull District (B)	0	7	57
Staffordshire County	0	9	137
Telford and Wrekin	2	3	0
Walsall District (B)	0	4	123
Warwickshire County	0	13	177
Worcestershire County	0	99	76
Barnsley District (B)	0	1	22
Bradford District (B)	5	7	44
Calderdale District (B)	0	1	60
City of Kingston Upon Hull (B)	6	0	14
Doncaster District (B)	0	4	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	7	11
Kirklees District (B)	0	4	37
Leeds District (B)	4	20	138
North East Lincolnshire (B)	0	0	40
North Lincolnshire (B)	0	0	13
North Yorkshire County	0	35	43

County or unitary authority	Social HomeBuy	Open Market HomeBuy	New Build HomeBuy/Shared ownership
Rotherham District (B)	0	3	4
Sheffield District (B)	1	4	40
Wakefield District (B)	1	4	74
York (B)	1	20	5
Total	153	4,459	18,424

Source:
Housing Corporation Investment Management System and includes Local Authority Social HomeBuy completions

The Continuous Recording System data for 2006-07 show (based on returns from registered social landlords and local authorities) the total market value of homes sold under Social HomeBuy, Open Market HomeBuy and new build HomeBuy/Shared Ownership was £1,628 million.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will publish her Department's evaluation of Social HomeBuy. [196628]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 64W.

Lichfield District Council: Local Government Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by Lichfield district council in each of the last four financial years; and what revenue the council received from *(a)* Government grants, *(b)* (i) council tax and (ii) non-domestic rates, *(c)* the sale of assets and *(d)* other sources in each of those years. [193727]

John Healey: The information requested is shown in the following table.

				£000
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Revenue expenditure	11,600	10,753	12,353	12,603
Financed by				
Government grants	3,131	3,113	3,709	2,713
Redistributed non-domestic rates	3,253	2,538	2,711	4,853
Council tax	4,770	5,128	5,413	5,817
Other	446	-26	520	-780
Capital expenditure	5,759	5,833	5,187	4,253
Financed by				
Central Government grants	689	617	709	338
Use of capital receipts	0	4,577	2,299	2,993
Other	5,070	639	2,179	922
Capital receipts in year	3,554	1,255	857	1,110

Source:
Communities and local government revenue and capital outturn returns

Revenue figures are produced on a non-financial reporting standard 17 (FRS17) basis.

Government grants within revenue expenditure are defined here as the sum of revenue support grant and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.

Other within revenue expenditure includes: transfers and adjustments; appropriations to/from revenue reserves; collection fund surpluses/deficits; and community charge amounts transferred to/from collection fund.

Local authority council tax requirement is the council tax available to finance revenue expenditure, not council tax collected.

Revenue figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Comparisons across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities.

Local Authorities: Debt Collection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to local authorities on the use of bailiffs to collect civil debts owed by residents to them. [191660]

Mr. Dhanda: No such guidance has been issued by Communities and Local Government. On 18 March 2008, the Ministry of Justice published its response to the consultation paper "Regulation of Enforcement Agents". The response recommended that bailiffs in England and Wales should be regulated by one body, the Security Industry Authority. The consultation paper and the response are available on the Ministry of Justice's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp0207.htm

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social rented properties the Housing Corporation plans to build in the 2006 to 2008 financial period; how many bids it has received for this period; what steps it is taking to encourage further bids; and in which areas fewer bids have been received than are required. [193724]

Mr. Iain Wright: Over the period 2006-08 we set the Housing Corporation targets to deliver an additional 49,000 social rented homes and 35,000 low cost home

ownership homes. These homes will be provided through new investment during the two years and through commitments already within the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme.

During the 2006-08 bidding round, the Housing Corporation received bids totalling £8 billion for 160,000 units. They made allocations of over £4 billion to schemes to provide 97,000 homes, some of which will not be delivered until after 2008. During the course of the programme some schemes will be subject to delay. Under the terms of their partnership agreements with the Housing Corporation, housing associations and other developers are obliged to offer replacement schemes in these circumstances. In addition, as part of the Corporation's normal in year management of their programme, bids for deliverable schemes can be submitted at any time. This helps to ensure that national targets are met and resources committed.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of the population lives more than 20 miles from an accident and emergency department in each primary care trust area in England. [195014]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available centrally.

Baby Care Units: Inspections

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Healthcare Commission inspects neo-natal units. [195321]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Healthcare Commission (HC) may inspect neonatal units as part of the annual health check assessment of the national health service.

As part of the HC's annual health check, NHS organisations are required to declare the extent of their compliance with core standards, which are specified by the Government in "Standards for Better Health". The declarations are made annually.

Following the submission of declarations, the HC inspects approximately 20 per cent. of trusts to validate the data.

The Department has funded via the HC a project to develop and implement a national neonatal audit programme. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has been commissioned to take this project forward over the next two years, and are expected to provide data on the first year shortly.

Blood Transfusion Services

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to assess a geographical area as having a poor level of blood collection as outlined in the review of the National Blood Service Strategy. [195124]

Dawn Primarolo: The review team, consisting of NHS Blood and Transplant, and supported by McKinsey and Co., used two criteria to assess the level of blood collection performance in a geographical area: donor penetration and donation frequency. Donor penetration is measured by the percentage of blood donors in the eligible population. Donor frequency is measured by the number of times donors give blood in a given period.

Blood: v CJD

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of risk of transmission of vCJD infection posed by blood transfusions. [194324]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department produced two assessments of the risk of variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease (vCJD) transmission via blood transfusion in 2002: "Exclusion of blood component recipients from donation: the impact on potential vCJD transmission risks", and "On vCJD transmission through blood components: reconciling modelled risks with case evidence".

The Department published a preface to these two documents, "Risk Assessments for vCJD and Blood Transfusion: Preface to Papers Produced by Dept of Health Analysts", in June 2006. This addresses the implications of the first three cases of vCJD transmission via blood transfusion. Copies of these three documents have been placed in the Library and can also be found on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Communicablediseases/CJD/CJDgeneralinformation/DH_4136944.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have developed vCJD infection following a blood transfusion in each year since 1990. [194325]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been four cases of variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease (vCJD) infection associated with blood transfusion, three of whom died of clinical vCJD, the fourth died from an unrelated medical condition. These patients received blood transfusions between 1996 and 1999, from donors who subsequently developed clinical vCJD. Since 1999 the Department has put a number of precautionary measures in place to prevent the possible transmission of vCJD by blood transfusion.

Bridlington Hospital

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on Bridlington hospital; and if he will make a statement. [196228]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last six months, the Department has received a number of written representations from members of the public regarding the consultations 'A Future Role for Bridlington Hospital' and 'A Future for Maternity Services' at the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

There have also been a small number of representations from hon. Members, Bridlington Town Council, the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the

North Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire councils as well as the Independent Reconfiguration Panel.

The Department received a 38,168 signature petition opposing changes to services at Bridlington hospital on 25 March 2008.

Childbirth

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the survival rate of children born at 22 to 25 weeks gestation was in the UK in the most recent period for which figures are available; how many were *(a)* born alive and *(b)* still-born; how many subsequently (i) survived and (ii) died; when his Department last undertook an evidence review on the issue that drew on (A) UK and (B) international research; and if he will make a statement. [189017]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following tables. We have commissioned the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU) to take forward a programme of systematic reviews of the research evidence to identify and promote the key interventions that are most likely to contribute to meeting our target for infant mortality. The topics are likely to include the major medical causes of infant mortality (pre-term birth, congenital anomalies and sudden unexplained death in infancy) as well as generic health interventions.

Live births and infant deaths by gestational age at birth: babies born in England and Wales, 2005

	Births (number)	*Deaths (number)*				*Rates per 1,000 live births (percentage)*			
Gestational age (weeks)	*Live births*	*Under 7 days*	*Between 7 and 28 days*	*28 days and over but under 1 year*	*Deaths under 1 year*	*Under 7 days*	*Between 7 and 28 days*	*28 days and over but under one year*	*Deaths under 1 year*
All	645,887	1,695	544	961	3,200	2.6	0.8	1.5	5.0
22	152	140	3	1	144	921.1	19.7	6.6	947.4
23	283	198	34	7	239	699.6	120.1	24.7	844.5
24	474	168	65	43	276	354.4	137.1	90.7	582.3
25	499	95	43	38	176	190.4	86.2	76.2	352.7

Stillbirths by gestational age at birth: England and Wales, 2005

Gestational age (weeks)	*Number*
24	291
25	230

Notes:
1. The tables show figures for gestational ages 22 to 25 weeks for live births, deaths under seven days of age, deaths between seven and 28 days old, deaths at 28 days and over but under one year and deaths under one year old for babies born in 2005 in England and Wales (the latest year for which figures are available). Data are not available by gestational age at birth on survival beyond one year.
2. The tables includes figures for stillbirths at gestational ages 24 and 25 weeks as a stillbirth is defined as a baby born dead after 24 completed weeks gestation.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193531]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not record the costs of overnight accommodation separately for Ministers, civil servants and special advisers, as this is not a requirement of our statutory reporting. Neither do we record this information by country of destination. To collect the information requested would incur disproportionate costs.

Details of the cost of overseas travel for Cabinet Ministers, including the cost of travel and accommodation are contained in the Overseas Travel by Cabinet Ministers list. The latest list for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 was published on 25 July 2007 and is available at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministerial_gifts_0607.pdf

Details for the 2007-08 financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

All ministerial travel is made in accordance with the Ministerial Code. Travel for staff and special advisers is made in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Orders and Regulation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regulations have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* removed by his Department since 1997. [192825]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of Statutory Instruments (SIs) made since 1997 is shown as follows:

	Number
1997	118
1998	180
1999	177
2000	214
2001	402
2002	389
2003	189
2004	162
2005	139
2006	135
2007	100

The number of SIs revoked in 1997 was 25, plus part of one other. The number of SIs revoked in previous years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 666W, on departmental public expenditure, how many doses of each of the vaccines listed were distributed in 2006-07; and what the shelf life of each such vaccine is. [191418]

Dawn Primarolo: The quantities of vaccines distributed in the UK in 2006-07 were:

Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccine—1,359,400 doses were distributed for the targeted BCG vaccination programme;

measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine—1,732,356 doses of MMR vaccine licensed for use in the United Kingdom were distributed. No doses of the MMR vaccine in non-UK presentation were distributed;

combined diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP) vaccine—none (as this vaccine was no longer used in the childhood vaccination programme);

diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, haemophilus influenzae type B, (DTwP/Hib) vaccine—none (as this vaccine was no longer used in the childhood vaccination programme);

tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine—24,155 doses. Although the Td vaccine was also no longer part of the programme, there remained a demand from private customers, for example as a travel vaccine;

pneumococcal conjugate vaccine—2,362,500 doses;

diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, inactivated polio and haemophilus influenzae type B, (DTaP/IPV+Hib) vaccine—2,311,496 doses; and

meningococcal C vaccine—1,932,928 doses.

The shelf life varies for different vaccine types, brands and batches of vaccines. Generally the shelf life of BCG vaccine is 12 months. The other vaccines have a shelf life of between 18 months to three years.

Dietary Supplements

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 804W, on dietary supplements, how many nutritional support products were dispensed in the community in each year since 1997, broken down by primary care trust area; and what estimate he has made of the number of individual patients who required nutritional support items in the community in the last year for which figures are available. [195132]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of nutritional support products dispensed in the community by primary care trust from 2003 to 2006 has been placed in the Library. Data for earlier years are not available. The Department has made no estimate of the number of individual patients requiring such items.

Doctors: Torbay

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many junior doctors were registered in Torbay constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [192257]

Ann Keen: This information is not held in the format requested. Information is held for national health service organisations.

There are no doctors in training and equivalents within Torbay Care Trust. However, the following table shows doctors in training and equivalents by grade within South Devon Health Care NHS Trust. The latest available data are for September 2006.

Hospital and community health services: medical and dental doctors in training and equivalents within South Devon Health Care NHS Trust (as at 30 September 2006)

	Number
Doctors in training and equivalents	173
Registrar Group	52
Senior House Officer	68
Foundation Year 2	27
House Officer and Foundation Year 1	26

Notes:
1. Junior doctors are now referred to as doctors in training and equivalents.
2. Doctors in training and equivalents is the term used to refer to people in the registrar group, senior house officers and other staff in equivalent grades who are not in an educationally approved post.
3. All doctors are registered doctors. The doctors within foundation year 2, senior house officer and the reegistrar group have full registration status. Some house officer and foundation 1 year staff will have a full registration, although the majority of these staff will have provisional registration status.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money has been spent on cannabis cessation services in each primary care trust in each of the last five years; how much has been allocated for 2008-09; and whether he has plans to integrate such services with smoking cessation services. [195098]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 2001, the Department and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget. This funding is allocated to the 149 drug action teams across the country to use, along with local mainstream funding, to provide for treatment and services according to the specific needs of each locality. We do not hold information on how much of this funding was spent on treatment and services for cannabis.

There are no plans to integrate cannabis cessation services within national health service stop smoking services.

Fertility: Health Services

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* encourage the implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on the assessment and treatment of people with fertility problems; and if he will make a statement. [195007]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has recently carried out a survey of in vitro fertilisation provision and will publish the results in due course.

We are working with the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help primary care trusts (PCTs) share best practice in the provision of fertility services and move to the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations. To build on the progress being made we are establishing an expert group to advise
the project and consider how to help PCT commissioners.

The Department will be monitoring IVF provision across the national health service on an on-going basis to see where further assistance may be needed.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* NHS dentists there were per head of population in (i) England and (ii) Torbay constituency in each year since 1997. [192576]

Ann Keen: Information about general practitioners is not available at constituency level but is shown for Torbay primary care trust (PCT) which was formed in 2001. Prior to this the national health service was structured in health authorities which covered much larger areas than current PCTs.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 population by selected area in England, 2001 to 2006

Numbers (headcount)

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England						
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	28,802	29,202	30,358	31,523	32,738	33,091
GPs per 100,000 population	58.2	58.8	60.9	62.9	64.9	65.3
Torbay PCT						
GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	90	89	90	96	98	101
GPs per 100,000 population	69.2	68.1	68.3	72.5	73.8	76.1

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others.

Note:
Data as at 30 September 2001 to 2006.

Sources:
ONS Resident Estimates 2001 based
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

The information requested about NHS dentists is not available at constituency level.

Numbers of persons per NHS dentist in England as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by PCT and by strategic health authority (SHA).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report (published 23 August 2006) is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Numbers of NHS dentists per 100,000 population in England as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. Information is provided by PCT and SHA.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report (published 23 August 2007) is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607.

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure prostate assessment clinics are provided by urology departments of district general hospitals. [192641]

Ann Keen: In 2002, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published "Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers".

This guidance sets out recommendations on how services for patients with urological cancers, including prostate cancer, should be organised in order to ensure the best outcomes. In particular, the guidance recommends that prostate assessment clinics should be provided by urology departments of district general hospitals.

Strategic health authorities have submitted action plans to demonstrate how they will implement this guidance. The Department and the Healthcare Commission monitor progress against these plans.

Genito-Urinary Medicine: Waiting Lists

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean waiting times for patients (i) waiting for a first outpatient attendance and (ii) waiting to see a consultant urologist for a first outpatient attendance were based on (A) Korner and (B) hospital episodes statistics data in each year since 1997-98. [192235]

Ann Keen: The figures are shown in the following tables.

Out-patient mean and medians in weeks from 1998.

Waiting time from general practitioner referral to first out-patient appointment where the patient was seen during the quarter.

All specialties

Year ending	Korner aggregate returns		Hospital Episode Statistics	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
March 1998	6.4	9.2	n/a	n/a
March 1999	6.9	10.0	n/a	n/a
March 2000	7.4	11.1	n/a	n/a
March 2001	7.4	10.8	n/a	n/a
March 2002	7.3	10.4	n/a	n/a
March 2003	7.2	8.7	n/a	n/a
March 2004	7.0	7.9	n/a	n/a
March 2005	7.0	7.5	6.9	7.8
March 2006	6.5	7.0	7.0	8.3
March 2007	5.6	6.0	n/a	n/a
September 2007	5.0	5.2	n/a	n/a

Urology specialty

Year ending	Korner aggregate returns		Hospital Episode Statistics	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
March 1998	7.2	9.3	n/a	n/a
March 1999	7.6	10.0	n/a	n/a
March 2000	8.3	11.5	n/a	n/a
March 2001	8.0	11.0	n/a	n/a
March 2002	7.7	10.8	n/a	n/a
March 2003	7.4	8.9	n/a	n/a
March 2004	7.0	7.9	n/a	n/a
March 2005	7.0	7.5	6.6	7.3
March 2006	6.5	6.9	6.7	7.7
March 2007	5.5	5.9	n/a	n/a
September 2007	4.9	5.2	n/a	n/a

n/a denotes not available.

Sources:

1. Hospital Episode Statistics: Outpatients, The Information Centre for Health and social care provider based).
2. Korner returns: QM08R quarterly return from primary care trusts (commissioner based).

Heart Diseases: Medical Treatments

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many percutaneous coronary interventions took place in the NHS using a bare metal stent in *(a)* England and *(b)* each NHS strategic health authority in each of the last five years; [189849]

(2) how many percutaneous coronary interventions took place in the NHS using a drug eluting stent in *(a)* England and *(b)* each NHS strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [189850]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the format because of variations in the operational procedure codes that Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) use to collect their data.. Any data shown for other parts of the United Kingdom represent patients resident in those areas but treated in England.

Such information as is available has been placed in the Library.

Hospices: Finance

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he provided to hospices for the provision of medicines for people in receipt of end-of-life care in 2006-07. [194653]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally. Funding for hospices to provide medicines for people in receipt of end-of-life care is included in primary care trusts' unified allocations. Hospices should be reimbursed the full agreed pharmacy costs including costs incurred for medicines to be supplied, dressings, appliances and chemical reagents listed in part IX of the Drug Tariff and associated professional costs for treating patients for whom the hospices have clinical responsibility through contractual arrangements.

Hospitals: Fire Hazards

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the combustibility of plastic foam composite panels used in the building of hospitals. [196301]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department publishes guidance on fire safety for the national health service in England in the 'Firecode' suite of documents. This requires that all NHS organisations in England comply with legislation relating to fire safety. 'Firecode' is cited as best practice in the Building Regulations 2000 (Approved document B Volume 2 Buildings other than dwelling houses 2006).

The particular volume of 'Firecode' guidance dealing with composite panels, Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 05-02 'Guidance in support of functional provisions for healthcare premises' suggests that in order to identify an appropriate selection of composite panels, a risk assessment approach should be adopted. It also states that

> "panel in-fill material...should not compromise the safety of the occupants remaining in the building...wherever possible cladding with a non-combustible core should be used."

A copy of HTM 05-02 has been placed in the Library.

HTM 05-02 gives examples of areas where mineral fibre in-fill (inherently non-combustible) panels may be appropriate and states that the use of composite panels in other circumstances should be the subject of a risk assessment where other appropriate fire precautions have been put in place.

Hospitals are designed on the principles of progressive horizontal evacuation in the event of a fire. The guidance about the use of composite panels in hospital construction reflects the more rigorous fire safety requirements that are needed in premises where occupants are not always able immediately to vacate a building.

Infectious Diseases: Disease Control

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the spread of health care associated infections in the community. [187113]

Ann Keen: Health care associated infections (HCAIs) are infections acquired in hospitals or as a result of health care interventions. "Clean, Safe Care" is a comprehensive strategy to tackle HCAIs and improve cleanliness, published on 9 January 2008. The strategy draws together recent HCAI initiatives and details new areas that national health service organisations need to consider when developing local plans to tackle infections and improve cleanliness. It emphasises the importance of a whole health economy approach as infection control strategies are only going to be successful if all parts of the NHS work closely together with the shared aim of reducing infection. The Department's improvement team is supporting primary care trusts (PCTs), as well as acute trusts, in developing a whole systems approach to the reduction in HCAIs. Our approach to setting the latest public service agreement target for *Clostridium difficile* supports this whole health economy approach, as local targets will be set at PCTs level as a rate per 10,000 population.

The Department has produced a focused programme to support the NHS and the independent sector in tackling HCAIs in non-acute settings, including care homes and hospices. "Essential steps to safe, clean care" was launched in June 2006 and revised and re-launched in June 2007. It includes a strategy for local health economies and tools and guidance on areas such as movement of patients between organisations, managing methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in the non-acute setting, preventing the spread of infection, urinary catheter care and enteral feeding. We have disseminated this guidance widely and will continue to revise and update the guidance in line with emerging best practice.

Other initiatives include:

the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) piloting the extension of the clean your hands campaign into primary and community care;

the NPSA published "The National Specifications for Cleanliness in the NHS" for hospitals in 2007 and is currently in the process of producing national specifications for a variety of other health care settings such as general practitioner surgeries, health centres and clinics, and ambulances. The document is due to be launched in summer 2008;

benchmarks for the care environment concerns the environment within which the care of patients takes place. It is intended for all staff groups caring for patients across all organisations and settings, including patients' homes. It includes benchmarks for best practice for a clean environment, and for in infection control;

as part of the £270 million comprehensive spending review investment into tackling HCAIs and improving cleanliness, £45 million was identified for investment in additional staff. It is for local organisations to decide the best investment to meet their needs, but this level of funding could, for example, deliver additional infection control nurses in every community in addition to specialist staff in acute trusts; and

proposals in the Health and Social Care Bill mean that the "Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections" is expected to apply to care homes and non-NHS providers in the future.

Medical Equipment: Cleaning Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has provided to professionals who decontaminate medical equipment in the NHS. [191812]

Ann Keen: The Department's guidance on the decontamination of medical equipment in the national health service is set out in "Health Technical Memorandum 01-01: Decontamination of reusable medical devices Part A: Management and environment" published in 2007 and "A guide to the decontamination of reusable surgical instruments" published in 2003. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has a regulatory responsibility for the Medical Devices Regulations 2002 which control the reprocessing and re-use of medical devices CE marked for that status.

The condition of surgical instruments for re-use is defined in BS EN ISO 13485:2003 which is described in executive letter EL(98) 05. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

The Department has an advisory committee in this area in the form of the Engineering and Science Advisory Committee (ESAC-PR) into the decontamination of surgical instruments, including prion removal. It has also worked with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on decontamination. Both of these bodies have taken a special interest in the deactivation of prion infectivity on surgical instruments. The NICE guidance (November 2006) is available on NICE'S website at: www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11332 and the ESAC-Pr 2006 annual report is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_072443.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Institute of Decontamination Sciences on the practical application of decontamination sciences in health and social care services; and if he will make a statement. [192468]

Ann Keen: Departmental officials have regular contact with the Institute for Decontamination Sciences (IDSc). For example, the IDSc is represented on our advisory committee, the Engineering and Science Advisory Committee into the decontamination of surgical instruments including prion removal.

NHS

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a breakdown of the *(a)* costs to date and *(b)* estimated final costs of the NHS next stage review. [198926]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cities of London and Westminster (Mr. Field) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2379W.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by what mechanism he claws back excess payments to pharmacy contractors in respect of category M dispensing of medicines; and how much was clawed back in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* each quarter of 2007-08; [192654]

(2) when he expects to answer Question 192654, tabled on 4 March for answer on 6 March. [196392]

Dawn Primarolo: Since the introduction of the community pharmacy contractual framework in April 2005, the Department has undertaken a number of surveys of a stratified sample of invoices and statements of a sample of independent contractors. As a result of these surveys, the reimbursement prices of medicines paid to contractors are adjusted against the price levels that prevailed in March 2005 immediately prior to the implementation of the new framework.

In addition, adjustments are also made to reimbursement prices to take account of the reduction in market prices that usually occurs in the months after the introduction of a generic medicine following patent expiry of an in-patent medicine.

In the period 1 April 2005 to 30 September 2007 the target reduction in category M medicines expenditure was £1.05 billion by reference to March 2005 prices. The reduction calculated on that basis was £1.089 billion with the difference being balanced against an adjustment to practice fees payable by primary care trusts.

To include medicines joining category M since April 2005, the planned, further reduction of £100 million per quarter from 1 October 2007 was implemented by reference to July 2007 prices. A reduction of £96.9 million was achieved on this basis for the period 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2007, the last quarter for which data are available.

A survey for the period April 2007 to 2008 is currently in hand.

These reductions are summarised in the following table:

£ million

Period	Actual cost	Cost at March 2005 prices	Cost at July 2007 prices	Reduction
April 2005 to March 2006	1,087.7	1,412.1	0	324.4
April 2006 to March 2007	1,326.8	1,797.8	0	471.0
April to June 2007	378.1	494.7	0	116.6
July to September 2007	327.0	504.1	0	177.1
October to December 2007	261.9	0	358.8	96.9

NHS: Finance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding has been allocated to *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [195230]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) and not to constituencies. PCT revenue allocations were first made in 2003-04, prior to this, funding was allocated to health authorities.

The revenue allocations made to South Tyneside PCT, to the PCTs in the North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area and the England figures for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09 are provided in the following table:

	Allocation					
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
	£000					
South Tyneside PCT	158,322	173,831	189,955	222,991	243,791	257,106
North East SHA	2,516,147	2,756,923	3,009,557	3,588,123	3,920,663	4,134,810
England	45,027,181	49,328,244	53,924,975	64,309,595	70,354,697	74,197,470

The revenue allocations made to Gateshead and South Tyneside health authority and the total England figures for the years 1996-97 to 2002-03 are provided in the following table.

	Allocation						
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	£000						
Gateshead and South Tyneside HA	170,856	178,359	187,624	255,537	278,161	300,845	332,463
England	20,886,002	21,816,441	22,895,307	31,192,915	34,234,888	37,157,382	41,468,469

Notes:
Comparisons between allocation rounds cannot be made for the following reasons:
Revenue allocations were made to health authorities for the period 1996-97 to 2002-03.
Changes are made to the weighted capitation formula for each allocations round, therefore, comparisons would not be on a like-for-like basis.
2003-06 revenue allocations were made direct to PCTs for the first time, and were on a three yearly basis, and
2006-08 is the first year that primary medical services were incorporated into revenue allocations.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on the timetable of the NHS IT programme of the buy out of iSoft by IBA Healthcare. [195347]

Mr. Bradshaw: The purchase of iSoft by IBA has not adversely impacted on the delivery time scales for the Lorenzo solution to the national health service. Computer Sciences Corporation, the local service provider are responsible for the management of their sub-contractors, and the delivering of the NHS Care Record Service solution in accordance with their contractual obligations. There have been no timetable changes attributable to the transfer of ownership from iSoft to IBA.

NHS: Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the purpose of the NHS Choices website is; how many pages of content are currently available on the NHS Choices website; and how many unique visitors to the NHS Choices website there were in each month between June 2007 and February 2008. [195806]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Choices is the national health service's online service for the public - the digital wing of the NHS. It is a response to the 21st century challenges of achieving better health and delivering high quality personalised services for all, amid ever-increasing demands on a resource-constrained NHS.

As the online service for all communication with citizens on health, it has been designed specifically with the consumer in mind. The information on NHS Choices is all NHS accredited and written in plain English. It is accompanied by videos, user comments and a growing range of interactive tools which allow users to test and monitor their health and well-being. The information held on NHS Choices is designed so that general practitioners and others can print it off for people who don't have internet access.

There are in the region of 100,000 pages of content available on NHS Choices.

The total unique visitors to the NHS Choices website by month are as follows:

	Number
June 2007	[1]
July 2007	778,124
August 2007	811,947
September 2007	728,415
October 2007	885,071
November 2007	898,502
December 2007	653,236
January 2008	1,037,423
February 2008	1,090,331

[1] Not complete - service went live mid-June 2007

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure on non-NHS staff was (*a*) in total and (*b*) broken down by each NHS organisation in each year since 1997-98; and what proportion of the NHS pay bill this represented in each case. [192429]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library. Data by organisation are shown for 2000-01 onwards.

NHS: Medical Treatments

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to issue guidance to the NHS on the provision of information to patients on treatments not available on the NHS. [190519]

Ann Keen: The Department is considering the implementation of an information accreditation scheme. The scheme would be open to all producers of health and social care information including information on conditions and treatments, some of which might not be available on the national health service. Membership of the scheme would be based on compliance with a nationally developed standard for information production. This would help information producers improve the quality of information available to people and an associated quality mark would help information users to identify reliable sources of information.

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of fully-qualified school nurses to the number of schools was in England in each year since 1997-98 for which figures are available. [188310]

Ann Keen: The Public Health White Paper, "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier", published in November 2004, includes the commitment to provide new funding so that by 2010 every primary care trust, working with children's trusts and local authorities, will be resourced to have at least one full-time, year-round, qualified school nurse working with each cluster or group of primary schools and the related secondary school, taking account of health needs and school populations.

The annual national health service work force census collected accurate information on the number of school nurses employed by the NHS in England for the first time in 2004. The ratios are shown in the following table.

	Headcount			*Full-time equivalent*		
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number of secondary schools in England	3,409	3,385	3,367	3,409	3,385	3,367
School Nursing Service Nurses	2,409	2,887	2,968	1,619	1,913	2,053
Of which						
Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	856	943	1,129	607	665	815
Ratio (School Nursing Service Nurses)	0.71	0.85	0.88	0.47	0.57	0.61
Ratio (Nurses with post registration school nursing qualification	0.25	0.28	0.34	0.18	0.20	0.24

Sources
Number of schools from the Department for Children, Schools and Families
The Information Centre for health and social care, Non-Medical Workforce Census, General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Palliative Care: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will give guidance to primary care trusts on the proportion of their budgets to be spent on palliative care. [190630]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including end of life care. The NHS operating framework 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake baseline reviews of their end of life care services. The reviews will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning in preparation for implementing the end of life care strategy to be published in summer 2008.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many deployments of the web-based referrer for choose and book have been made, broken down by (*a*) local service provider and (*b*) practice; [195264]

(2) how many deployments of the general practitioner system for choose and book have been made, broken down by (*a*) local service provider and (*b*) practice; [195265]

(3) how many deployments of patient administration systems for choose and book have been made, broken down by (*a*) local service provider and (*b*) trust. [195266]

Mr. Bradshaw: The percentage of general practitioner (GP) practices that are technically live with choose and book is 98 per cent., that is the percentage of practices that have the technical ability to make electronic bookings. GP practices accessing choose and book through an integrated GP system amount to 84 per cent. with many using the web-based referrer as an alternative. The web-based referrer is not deployed to local service providers or practices, but is available to all referring organisations with web access. Out of 169 trusts with patient administration systems (PASs), 144 are technically live with a compliant PAS which represents 85 per cent. of all acute trusts. Figures are not available by local service provider.

Pharmacies: ITC

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many suppliers of IT pharmacy systems there are; and how many have achieved authority to roll out their system. [195779]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are 11 suppliers of pharmacy systems. These suppliers provide 13 systems to dispensing contractors. Of these, 11 systems have achieved nationwide roll-out approval for Release 1 of the electronic prescription service.

Of the two remaining systems, one is in the last stages of NHS Connecting for Health compliance and the other is to be withdrawn from the market.

Pharmacy

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 100 hour pharmacies there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. [195378]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not collect data on the number of 100 hour pharmacies in each primary care trust.

The only data held are for the number of applications relating to pharmaceutical services regulations (2005) under the four new exception categories, one of which is pharmacies intending to open more than 100 hours a week. It is not known how many granted applications resulted in the actual opening of a new 100 hour per week pharmacy.

Data are available only for 2005-06 and 2006-07 and relate to applications between 1 April and 31 March each financial year. The number of applications outstanding are those outstanding at 31 March each year.

Decisions on applications relating to pharmaceutical services regulations, number and percentage of exempt applications decided by application type: England only, 2005-06 to 2006-07

	2005-06		2006-07	
Number of applications	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
100 Hour Pharmacies[1]	199	100	319	100
Granted	156	78	259	81
Refused	28	14	39	12
Withdrawn	15	8	21	7
Outstanding	52		48	

[1] Figures have been revised from last year's publication. Figures listed in the 2005-06 publication were total number of applications received not the number actually decided upon by primary care trusts. Revised figures exclude those applications which were outstanding at 31 March 2006. It is assumed that these applications were outstanding as no decision had been reached on their final outcome.

Source:
General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 2006-07. This document is available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/pharmserv0607

Polyclinics: Greater London

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the population of London he estimates will live within (*a*) one mile, (*b*) three miles and (*c*) five miles of a polyclinic. [195020]

Mr. Bradshaw: No estimate has been made of the percentage of the population of London who will live within one, three and five miles of a polyclinic.

Proposals for the provision of services are a matter for primary care trusts (PCTs), working in conjunction with their strategic health authority and other stakeholders. The hon. Member may wish to raise this with her local PCT.

Prescriptions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in England who are unable to take prescribed medicines because of the cost of prescriptions; and if he will make a statement; [195575]

(2) on what date he expects to publish the public consultation on prescription charges in England; and if he will make a statement. [196374]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no such estimate. We agree it is vitally important that people get the medicines they need. That is why we will shortly be consulting on cost neutral changes to prescription charges and exemptions so that the public can contribute their views on any proposals prior to a final decision.

Prescriptions: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deployments of the pharmacy system for the electronic prescriptions service have been made, broken down by (*a*) local service provider and (*b*) practice. [195262]

Mr. Bradshaw: The local service providers are not contracted to provide pharmacy systems to support the electronic prescription service (EPS). Existing pharmacy systems suppliers have developed systems that support Release 1 of the EPS. The service has been deployed to 8,159 (79 per cent.) pharmacies in England.

Prostate Cancer: Research

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has committed to the (*a*) NHS Prostate Cancer and (*b*) Prostate Cancer Risk Management programme in each financial year since each programme was initiated; and if he will make a statement. [192236]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) working in partnership with their strategic health authorities (SHAs), local cancer services and local stakeholders to provide appropriate services for their local populations, including prostate cancer services. The majority of funding to improve prostate cancer services over recent years has therefore been in PCT allocation baselines.

Funding on specific national activity is shown in the following table:

	Funding (£000)					
Programme	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
National Health Service Prostate Cancer Programme		1,174.5	594.4	128.4	190	180
Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme	170	168	131	120	117	200

Note:
The majority of funding for the NHS Prostate Cancer Programme in 2003-04 and 2005-06 came from the Modernisation Agency's (MA) Action On Urology project. When the MA closed in 2005, this funding was devolved to SHAs to fund local service improvements. In addition, the Cancer Services Collaborative Improvement Partnership has been funded by an annual budget of £2.9 million since 2001 to support service improvements, but this budget cannot be broken down by cancer type.

Radiotherapy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to increase the number of patients who are able to receive proton therapy treatment *(a)* at Clatterbridge and *(b)* in England; and if he will make a statement. [192666]

Ann Keen: The Clatterbridge facility is used to treat a specific class of eye cancers. The number of patients needing therapy for this class of cancers is not increasing. The need for another proton therapy facility in the United Kingdom to treat other types of cancer is under consideration.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle drug resistant gonorrhoea. [194509]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds the Health Protection Agency to manage the Gonococcal Resistance to Antimicrobials Surveillance Programme (GRASP) which monitors gonococcal resistance and provides the evidence-base for treatment guidelines in the management of gonorrhoea. In 2002, this led to prescribing policy being updated to recommend that gonorrhoea should be treated with third generation cephalosporins, ceftriaxone or cefixime. A copy of the GRASP annual report 2006 has been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Public Places

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of smoking tobacco in a prohibited place since the introduction of the relevant legislation; and what range of sentences has been imposed. [196377]

Dawn Primarolo: Details on smokefree legislation enforcement activity are collected from local authorities and routinely published by the Department on the Smokefree England website at www.smokefreeengland.co.uk. The latest smokefree legislation compliance report covers the first six months of the new law being in effect, and has been placed in the Library.

Penalties for smokefree offences are set out in the Smoke-free (Penalties and Discounted Amounts) Regulations 2007.

Sunbeds

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of coin-operated sunbed companies on their operation; [195374]

(2) which organisations he has consulted on tanning salon regulation in the last 12 months. [195375]

Dawn Primarolo: The former Minister of State (Caroline Flint) met representatives from Consol Suncenters plc, the leading tanning salon company, on 29 March 2007.

For organisations consulted on tanning salon regulation I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Swansea, East (Mrs. James), on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 817-18W.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

English Language

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people obtained English for Speakers of Other Languages qualifications at level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 in London in each of the last 10 years. [172492]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* 16 to 19 year olds and *(b)* 20 to 25 year olds in Stroud constituency were registered unemployed in January in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [193221]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question, how many (a) 16-19 year olds (b) 20-25 year olds in Stroud constituency were registered as unemployed in the last five years for which figures are available. (193221)

ONS compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 1, attached, shows the number of people, aged 16-19 and 20-24 resident in the Stroud constituency, claiming JSA in January from 2004 to 2008. We have supplied figures based on the 20-24 age group due to these being the standard group used for JSA figures.

The latest JSA figures, along with other current and historical labour market indicators for the Stroud Parliamentary Constituency are available on the Nomis Website at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/pca/2030043388/report.aspx

Table 1:16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year-olds claiming jobseeker's allowance, resident in Stroud parliamentary constituency for the last five years

January	*16 to 19 year-olds level*[1]	*20 to 24 year-olds level*[1]
2004	75	145
2005	90	130
2006	110	145
2007	95	100
2008	100	120

[1] Data rounded to nearest 5.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Opium

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department is taking to reduce poppy production in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [196276]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development's (DFID) livelihoods programme supports the Government of Afghanistan's National Drugs Control Strategy (NDCS). The NDCS aims to reduce poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, acknowledging that sustainable drug elimination takes time. It highlights key priorities where activity is likely to make the greatest impact in the short-term. One of these priorities is strengthening and diversifying legal livelihoods so that farmers and other rural workers are no longer dependent on poppy cultivation. This means tackling key constraints such as access to markets and credit, labour opportunities and training.

DFID has provided over £100 million over the last three years to support this aim. The majority of this funding has been channelled through the Government of Afghanistan's own national programmes, including programmes to:

rehabilitate rural roads, generating employment and improving access to markets (£18 million over three years, supporting rehabilitation of over 9,700 km of roads)

enable communities to implement their development priorities (almost £50 million over six years, supporting over 34,000 projects)

provide small loans to support licit businesses (£40 million over three years to support loans to over 400,000 Afghans)

DFID also supports research into a range of alternative crops including mint and saffron. Further information on DFID's livelihoods programme and other activities in Afghanistan is available on the DFID website at the following address:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/asia/afghanistan.asp

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the volume of poppy production in Afghanistan in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [196279]

Mr. Malik: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducts annual surveys of opium cultivation in Afghanistan. The following data are drawn from the UNODC surveys.

	Potential total volume of opium production (Metric tonnes)	*Estimated opium cultivation (Hectares)*	*Opium poppy as a percentage of agricultural land*
2007	8,200	193,000	4
2006	6,100	165,000	4
2005	4,100	104,000	2
2004	4,200	131,000	3
2003	3,600	80,000	2
2002	3,400	74,000	1
2001	185	8,000	[1]—
2000	3,276	82,172	[1]—
1999	4,565	91,983	[1]—
1998	2,693	64,674	[1]—

[1] Data not available.

Burma: Food Supply

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the adequacy of the harvest in Chin state, Burma; what discussions he has held with the World Food Programme and other humanitarian agencies on the adequacy of food supply in Chin state; what assessment he has made of the risk of famine there; and if he will make a statement. [196399]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP) and non-governmental organisations have reported on the risk of food shortages in western Burma resulting from rodent infestations. The WFP has sent a mission to Chin state to assess the extent of the problem. The Department for International Development's (DFID) office in Burma is in contact with the UNDP and WFP about what humanitarian response may be required.

HIV Infection

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what representations he has made to his G8 counterparts to ensure that progress towards the G8 target of achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services by 2010 will be discussed at *(a)* the meeting of G8 development Ministers in April and *(b)* the G8 summit in Tokyo in July; and if he will make a statement; [195028]

(2) what assessment he has made of progress towards the G8 target of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services by 2010; what estimate he has made of the likely cost of reaching this target; what proportion of that cost he expects G8 countries to meet; and if he will make a statement; [195029]

(3) what assessment he has made of whether the G8 will reach its commitment of *(a)* $1.5 billion for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission services and *(b)* $1.8 billion for paediatric treatment by 2010; what proportion of these commitments will be met by funding from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [195030]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South (Nigel Griffiths) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-84W.

United Nations: Equality

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make representations for inclusion of a discussion on gender equality and women's empowerment at the UN High Level Meeting on 25 September 2008. [194516]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for International Development has agreed to promote gender equality at the UN High Level Meeting on 25 September 2008 through supporting the Danish Government who are leading on co-ordinating international support for Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women) within the MDG Call to Action Campaign. The UK's contribution to the Danish initiative is to co-sponsor an event in Copenhagen in April which will discuss how to put gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of the MDG Call to Action. The UK will also support Danish efforts to organise a side meeting on the importance of gender equality to the MDGs at the UN High Level Meeting.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Liechtenstein

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent from the public purse to obtain information on British clients of Liechtenstein banks. [196258]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 115W-16W.

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of GDP that will be spent in the UK in the 2008-09 financial year on measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. [195240]

Angela Eagle: The Government use a package of policy instruments to reduce emissions. Spending measures are important, but form only one element alongside, for example, regulation, fiscal measures and trading schemes. These stimulate behaviour change and investment both here and outside the UK. The Government do not make an annual estimate of the amount spent in the UK on reducing carbon dioxide emissions, though they do publish annual emissions data.

However, modelling has been conducted for the Energy White Paper to assess the potential costs to the UK economy from meeting its long-term targets. Analysis for the 2020 target suggests that (under a hypothetical scenario and subject to appropriate caveats) acting unilaterally, UK GDP will be lower by 1.7 per cent. in 2020 compared with no action; that acting multilaterally reduces this impact to 1.3 per cent. of UK GDP in 2020; and that achieving a 30 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions would cost 0.6 per cent. of GDP in 2020 if the UK purchased abatement abroad.

The Stern review concluded that the costs of reducing emissions to levels that avoid the worst risks of climate change are significant but manageable, whereas delay will be costly and dangerous.

Child Benefit

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much child benefit was paid in respect of children living outside the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [195846]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 116W.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what success fee was paid to Cole Layer Trumble for its work on the automated valuation model to assist council tax revaluation in England. [193846]

Jane Kennedy: Cole Layer Trumble (CLT) supported the development of an automated valuation model (AVM) for the now postponed council tax revaluation in England—the largest application of such technology in the world. The fee of £115,000 is equivalent to approximately 3.5 per cent. of accumulated payments under this contract; the making of such payments is in line with procurement best practice.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on council tax: valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the OGC Action Plan mentioned in the minutes of the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation 2007 programme board of 22 November 2005. [193919]

Jane Kennedy: This Action Plan, which is now closed, related to the outcomes of an OGC Gateway Review. The disclosure of such reviews is currently the subject of proceedings in the High Court in an unrelated case.

Data Protection

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many security specialists and security assurance and data protection and validation officers were employed by *(a)* HM Treasury, *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(c)* other agencies in each region and county in each year since 2004. [189567]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* Security, data protection and validation responsibilities are spread over a number of different posts and no central record is maintained.

HM Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, and other agencies follow security advice provided by the Cabinet Office. Departmental Security Officers have responsibility for the protective security measures, an area supported by other specialist staff as appropriate. External security consultants are employed when this provides best value for money.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1642W, on data protection, when each of the 37 data guardians was appointed; and how long each appointment is for. [195911]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC's data guardians were appointed in late 2007. The appointments are not time limited.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1642W, on data protection, what the civil service grade of each data guardian is. [195913]

Jane Kennedy: The role of each data guardian varies according to the size of the relevant business unit and the amount and type of data that it processes.

Of HMRC's 37 data guardians, 21 are SCS 1, 8 are Grade 6, and 8 are Grade 7.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1642W, on data protection, where each of the data guardians not in Tyne and Wear or London are based. [195914]

Jane Kennedy: Of the 11 HMRC data guardians not based in either Tyne and Wear or London, four are based in Manchester, four based in Nottingham and one each in Worthing, Telford and Preston.

Departmental Labour Turnover

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1636W, on departmental labour turnover, how many civil servants voluntarily ceased employment, excluding redundancies, within his Department *(a)* since 1 July 2007, *(b)* between 1 November 2006 and 31 June 2007 and *(c)* in each month between October 2006 and the most recent month for which figures are available. [195903]

Angela Eagle: The number of HM Treasury employees who left employment due to resignation is as follows:

(a) for the period 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008: 83.

(b) between 1 November 2006 and 30 June 2007: 53.

(c) in each month between 1 October 2006 and 29 February 2008:

	Number
2006	
October	6
November	4
December	5
2007	
January	5
February	3
March	9
April	9
May	9
June	9
July	10
August	18
September	17
October	9
November	7
December	7
2008	
January	7
February	8

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1638W, on departmental pay, how many civil servants in his Department were in receipt of the *(a)* normal maximum and *(b)* high performance maximum in each pay range in each year since 1997. [195904]

Angela Eagle: To provide the information from 1997 to 2006 would be at a disproportionate cost.

The numbers as at 1 November 2007 are in the following table:

Range	*Staff in receipt of normal maximum*	*Staff in receipt of high performance maximum*
B	18	12
C	23	11
D	37	4
E	23	14
B(Nat)	0	1
C(Nat)	1	1
D(Nat)	2	0
E(Nat)	0	1

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195862]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury published the sustainable development report and action plan in August 2007. This is updated regularly as appropriate and is available on the HM Treasury website.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely change in the number of individuals consuming alcohol, and the quantity of alcohol consumed, as a result of the alcohol duties announced in the 2008 Budget; and what effect this had on his revenue assumptions for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [194872]

Angela Eagle: No estimate has been made of the change in the number of individuals consuming alcohol as a result of the alcohol duty changes announced in the 2008 Budget. The difference against the underlying trend in total pure alcohol consumption in each year is estimated to be *(a)* 1.6 per cent., *(b)* 2.6 per cent. and *(c)* 3.5 per cent. The revenue effects, including behavioural effects, are set out in table 1.2 of the FSBR.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the differential between tax rates for petrol and liquefied petroleum gas; and what the duty charged on each fuel was in each of the last five years. [195712]

Angela Eagle: At pre-Budget report 2003 it was announced that the environmental benefits of LPG no longer justified the level of duty differential that it received, and that the Government would gradually increase the duty rate, setting differentials on a path towards a level commensurate with the fuel's environmental benefits.

Historical LPG duty rates appear in the UK Trade Information hydrocarbon oils bulletin, available at:

www.uktradeinfo.com

The duty rate for LPG was 9p per kilogram from 2001 until December 2006, when it rose to 12.21p per kilogram, as main road fuel duties were increased in line with inflation. It was then increased to 16.49p per kilogram on 1 October 2007, when main road fuel duties rose by 2p per litre.

Consistent with the Government's commitment to give three-year certainty on duty differentials for alternative fuels, Budget 2008 announced that differential tax rate for LPG until 2010. The differential will decrease by 1p per litre when main fuel duty rates change on each of 1 October 2008, 1 April 2009 and 1 April 2010.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect of the postponement of an inflation-linked fuel duty increase on the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus and *(c)* train in 2008-09; [195921]

(2) if he could estimate what the effect on the real cost of motoring would have been if fuel duty had been increased in line with inflation since 1997. [195922]

Angela Eagle: The Government's policy is that fuel duty rates should rise each year at least in line with inflation as the UK seeks to reduce polluting emissions and fund public services. It is estimated that, by April 2008, fuel duty will be about the same in real terms as it was in May 1997. Therefore, fuel duty has not made a substantive impact on the real cost of motoring since 1997.

Budget 2008 confirmed that main road fuel duty rates will rise by 1.84p per litre on 1 April 2009 and announced that they will also rise by 0.5p per litre above indexation on 1 April 2010. However, consistent with Government's stance of maintaining flexibility in responding to short-term economic conditions, Budget 2008 also announced that the planned 2p per litre increase in fuel duty due to take place on 1 April 2008 would be deferred for six months, until October 2008.

The impact of this deferral on the cost of travelling by private car will vary depending on the fuel efficiency of the car chosen, and the number of miles driven. The Government have not estimated the impact of a postponement of an inflation-linked fuel duty increase on the cost of travelling by bus or train in 2008.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on carbon dioxide emissions of the postponement of the inflation linked fuel duty increase that had been planned for 1 April; [195931]

(2) what estimate he has made of the revenue forgone arising from the decision to postpone the planned fuel duty increase that had been planned for 1 April. [195932]

Angela Eagle: The Government's policy is that fuel duty rates should rise each year at least in line with inflation as the UK seeks to reduce polluting emissions and fund public services. Budget 2008 therefore confirmed that main road fuel duty rates will rise by 1.84p per litre on 1 April 2009 and announced that they will also rise by 0.5p per litre above indexation on 1 April 2010.

However, consistent with Government's stance of maintaining flexibility in responding to short-term economic conditions, Budget 2008 also announced that the planned 2p per litre increase in fuel duty due to take place on 1 April 2008 would be deferred for six months, until October 2008.

The estimated revenue forgone as a result of this deferral is shown in Table A1 of the Budget document, available on the HM Treasury website.

It is estimated that the three fuel duty increases announced at Budget 2008—for October 2008, April 2009 and April 2010—will lead to a reduction of 0.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year by 2010-11. The deferral of the 2008 increase from April to October is expected to lead to an additional 0.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide being emitted in 2008-09, than would have been, had the increase gone ahead in April. However, there is no impact in subsequent years, as the rate returns to the pre-announced levels.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider reducing the excise duty on 4x4 vehicles which use biofuels. [196439]

Angela Eagle: The renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) takes effect from April this year. The RTFO will require fuel suppliers to ensure that 2.5 per cent. of all fuel they supply is biofuel. This will increase to 3.75 per cent. in 2009-10 and 5 per cent. in 2010-11. This will ensure that biofuels will account for an increased percentage of fuel used across road transport, including 4x4 vehicles. Therefore, there is not a case for a reduced rate of vehicle excise duty for 4x4 vehicles using biofuels.

Fossil Fuel Levy

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was transferred to the Consolidated Fund from the England and Wales fossil fuel levy in

(a) 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08; and whether such funds were ring-fenced for the purpose of promoting the use of energy from renewable sources. [196214]

Angela Eagle: No amounts have been transferred to the Consolidated Fund from the England and Wales fossil fuel levy since 2004-05.

Income Tax

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value is of all the tax reliefs and allowances accruing to those with incomes over *(a)* £50,000, *(b)* £100,000, *(c)* £250,000 and *(d)* £500,000 in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average value of tax reliefs and allowances accruing to persons in those income bands was. [196630]

Jane Kennedy: Information on deductions and reliefs and their mean values for various bands of total income can be found in Table T3.8 'Deductions and Reliefs' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

The table is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes of which 2005-06 is the latest year available.

Northern Rock

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1431W, on Northern Rock, when he expects the annual report and accounts for 2007 to be published. [191334]

Angela Eagle: Northern Rock operates on an arm's length basis from Government as a commercial entity. It publishes its audited reports and accounts on a regular basis in accordance with statutory reporting requirements.

The publication of audited reports and accounts for 2007 will take place in due course; exactly when is a matter for the Board of Northern Rock.

Northern Rock: Compensation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set out the basis on which compensation may be paid to those people who were shareholders of Northern Rock before the company was nationalised. [196274]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor made clear from 21 January onwards that, if temporary public ownership were pursued, any compensation payable would be assessed by an independent valuer on the basis that:

the Government should not be required to compensate shareholders or others affected for value which is dependent on taxpayers' support; and the fact that

public sector ownership would be an alternative to administration for Northern Rock.

Accordingly, the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008 requires that the assumptions to be made in assessing the amount of any compensation payable in relation to a bank whose shares have been taken into public ownership are that all public financial assistance has been withdrawn and none is available in future (apart from the Bank of England's ordinary market assistance, on its usual terms). The Northern Rock plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008 sets out two further valuation assumptions to be made:

that Northern Rock is unable to continue as a going concern; and that

it is in administration.

Prices: Food

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on domestic inequality of above-inflation rises in prices of necessary goods such as food. [195555]

Angela Eagle: Real household disposable incomes have risen strongly across the income distribution since 1997, and the previously sharp upward trend in inequality has been arrested.

Income growth for low-income households will be boosted in 2008-09 by increases in recent Budgets including increases in the child element of child tax credit and the tax credit income threshold. Low-income pensioner households will benefit from increases in the aged personal allowance and pension credit as well as a one-off payment of £50 to over-60s and £100 to over-80s.

As a result of these measures, households in the poorest fifth of the population will be £160 better off on average in 2008-09, compared with 2007-08, and those with children in the poorest fifth of the population will be £400 better off on average.

Real household disposable incomes are expected to grow by 1.5 per cent. to 2 per cent. in 2008, rising to 2 per cent. to 2.5 per cent. in 2009. The forecast takes full account of inflation overall, including those particular goods and services where price rises are currently stronger than the average. Changes in purchasing power for individual households will depend on individual spending patterns.

Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1017W, on tax credits, what the highest possible income is that a family may receive while being eligible for the child care element of the working tax credit; and what child care costs this would involve. [196593]

Jane Kennedy: The income at which a family with maximum child care costs could benefit from the child care element depends on the number of children and whether the family claims the disability element for any children or adults in the family.

Taxation: Investment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on tax revenue of abolishing the distinction between trading and investment activities of open-ended investment companies. [196275]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have been considering the issue of the trading and investment boundary as it applies to open-ended investment companies through a joint Investment Management Association, Treasury and HMRC working group to consider the findings of the Investment Management Association/KPMG report on Taxation and the Competitiveness of UK Funds. Discussions are still ongoing. To help clarify the existing boundary, particularly as it applies to derivatives, a statement was issued by HM Revenue and Customs at PBR 2007.

Taxation: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions have taken place between *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs and the Scottish Executive on HM Revenue and Customs' role in the collection of local taxes in Scotland. [196163]

Yvette Cooper: There have been no discussions between the Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs and the Scottish Executive on an HM Revenue and Customs role in the collection of local taxes in Scotland.

Unemployment: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* unemployed and *(b)* economically inactive (i) women and (ii) men there were in each London borough in each year since 2000. [195848]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many (a) unemployed and (b) economically inactive (i) women and (ii) men there were in each London borough in each year since 2000. (195848)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles estimates of unemployment and inactivity for local areas for women and men from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Tables 1 and 2 attached, show the numbers of people (split by gender) aged 16 and over who were unemployed and resident in each London Borough for the 12 month periods ending February 2001 to February 2004 from the annual LFS, and ending in March for 2005, 2006, and 2007 as well as June 2007 from the APS. The July to June 2007 APS dataset is the most recent for which figures are available, whereas a consistent time series is best provided using March and February data.

Tables 3 and 4 attached, show the numbers of inactive people (split by gender) of working age, resident in each London Borough, for the 12 month periods ending February 2001 to February 2004 from the annual LFS, and ending in March for 2005, 2006, and 2007 as well as June 2007 from the APS. The July to June 2007 APS dataset is the most recent for which figures are available, whereas a consistent time series is best provided using March and February data.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.

Table 1: Number of males aged 16 and over resident in each London borough who were unemployed in each year since 2000

Thousand

	For 12 months ending							
	February					*March*		*June*
London borough	*2001*[1]	*2002*[1]	*2003*[1]	*2004*[1]	*2005*[2]	*2006*[2]	*2007*[2]	*2007*[2]
Barking and Dagenham	[3]	[3]	4	3	4	4	3	3
Barnet	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	6	7	6	6
Bexley	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	2	3	4	3
Brent	7	8	7	5	8	7	9	9
Bromley	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	4	3	4	4
Camden	[3]	[3]	5	6	3	4	5	4
City of London	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Croydon	[3]	6	[3]	7	5	7	8	9
Ealing	6	7	6	5	5	10	7	8
Enfield	[3]	6	[3]	5	3	9	4	3
Greenwich	6	6	5	6	5	6	7	7
Hackney	9	7	6	7	7	7	6	8
Hammersmith and Fulham	[3]	[3]	5	5	6	5	5	6
Haringey	8	6	6	5	7	4	4	4
Harrow	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	5	5	4	4
Havering	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	2	4	2	2
Hillingdon	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	3	9	5	5
Hounslow	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	6	5	5	5
Islington	[3]	4	[3]	4	4	4	5	6
Kensington and Chelsea	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	3	3	3	3
Kingston-upon-Thames	[3]	[3]	[3]	1	3	2	2	1
Lambeth	7	6	10	6	7	6	6	7
Lewisham	[3]	8	10	7	6	6	6	6
Merton	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	4	4	5	5
Newham	7	6	8	5	5	5	7	5
Redbridge	6	[3]	5	4	3	4	5	4
Richmond-upon-Thames	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	2	1	2	3
Southwark	8	9	8	9	6	7	7	6

Table 1: Number of males aged 16 and over resident in each London borough who were unemployed in each year since 2000

Thousand

	For 12 months ending							
	February					March		June
London borough	2001[1]	2002[1]	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[2]	2006[2]	2007[2]	2007[2]
Sutton	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	2	1	2	2
Tower Hamlets	6	7	7	8	7	7	7	8
Waltham Forest	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	6	6	3	4
Wandsworth	[3]	6	6	6	3	6	6	4
Westminster, City of	5	4	4	5	4	7	3	4

[1] Figures provided by the Annual Labour Force Survey
[2] Figures provided by the Annual Population Survey
[3] These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable or disclosive
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Number of females aged 16 and over resident in each London borough who were unemployed in each year since 2000

Thousand

	For 12 months ending							
	February					March		June
London borough	2001[1]	2002[1]	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[2]	2006[2]	2007[2]	2007[2]
Barking and Dagenham	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	3	2	4	4
Barnet	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	4	5	4	5
Bexley	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	2	2	3	3
Brent	[3]	[3]	6	4	2	4	5	5
Bromley	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	3	3	3	3
Camden	[3]	[3]	4	4	3	4	3	3
City of London	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Croydon	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	6	6	5	5
Ealing	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	4	6	5	5
Enfield	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	3	5	[3]	3
Greenwich	[3]	[3]	4	3	4	3	3	3
Hackney	5	[3]	[3]	2	3	3	5	5
Hammersmith and Fulham	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	3	3	4	4
Haringey	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	4	5	4	3
Harrow	[3]	[3]	[3]	6	3	3	5	5
Havering	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	1	4	1	2
Hillingdon	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	2	4	3	2
Hounslow	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	3	5	5	5
Islington	[3]	4	[3]	3	3	2	3	3
Kensington and Chelsea	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	1	3	3	3
Kingston-upon-Thames	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	1	4	2	2
Lambeth	7	[3]	[3]	6	7	5	6	7
Lewisham	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	5	4	7	6
Merton	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	3	5	2	2
Newham	6	[3]	4	3	4	4	8	8
Redbridge	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	3	2	3	3
Richmond-upon-Thames	[3]	[3]	[3]	1	3	2	2	1
Southwark	6	[3]	[3]	8	8	2	4	5
Sutton	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	3	2	4	4
Tower Hamlets	[3]	[3]	4	3	4	4	5	5
Waltham Forest	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	3	3	3	4
Wandsworth	[3]	4	5	3	4	4	6	4
Westminster, City of	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	4	4	3	4

[1] Figures provided by the Annual Labour Force Survey
[2] Figures provided by the Annual Population Survey
[3] These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable or disclosive
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Table 3: Number of males of working age resident in each London borough who were economically inactive in each year since 2000

Thousand

	For 12 months ending							
	February					March		June
London borough	2001[1]	2002[1]	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[2]	2006[2]	2007[2]	2007[2]
Barking and Dagenham	13	9	9	10	12	12	10	10
Barnet	13	11	11	18	19	21	20	20
Bexley	11	10	9	11	10	10	10	11
Brent	20	16	20	21	19	15	15	14

Table 3: Number of males of working age resident in each London borough who were economically inactive in each year since 2000

Thousand

	For 12 months ending							
	February				March			June
London borough	*2001*[1]	*2002*[1]	*2003*[1]	*2004*[1]	*2005*[2]	*2006*[2]	*2007*[2]	*2007*[2]
Bromley	11	12	13	14	12	13	9	10
Camden	13	13	15	12	19	18	17	17
City of London	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Croydon	13	15	12	14	15	16	20	18
Ealing	24	17	23	19	16	21	16	18
Enfield	15	14	15	15	21	15	16	18
Greenwich	8	11	14	13	14	13	13	13
Hackney	18	18	17	17	20	23	19	18
Hammersmith and Fulham	10	9	10	8	10	14	12	11
Haringey	15	19	19	25	19	16	16	17
Harrow	7	12	11	13	9	13	12	10
Havering	9	10	7	8	11	10	11	10
Hillingdon	11	9	12	12	12	11	16	15
Hounslow	10	12	15	13	13	9	10	12
Islington	15	12	15	14	14	18	13	13
Kensington and Chelsea	8	10	12	11	15	10	15	14
Kingston-upon-Thames	6	6	7	7	10	11	8	8
Lambeth	17	19	18	17	17	21	16	15
Lewisham	13	17	14	18	12	16	18	18
Merton	10	8	8	6	8	11	9	8
Newham	23	23	24	28	21	21	17	20
Redbridge	16	14	13	13	14	16	15	16
Richmond-upon-Thames	[3]	6	6	10	12	11	9	8
Southwark	14	18	22	19	20	18	17	17
Sutton	[3]	5	6	8	9	7	7	7
Tower Hamlets	18	18	18	17	19	17	18	18
Waltham Forest	15	15	14	15	14	14	18	16
Wandsworth	12	8	10	11	14	17	16	15
Westminster, City of	13	14	14	15	15	16	21	20

[1] Figures provided by the Annual Labour Force Survey
[2] Figures provided by the Annual Population Survey
[3] These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable or disclosive
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Table 4: Number of females of working age resident in each London borough who were economically inactive in each year since 2000

Thousand

	For 12 months ending							
	February				March			June
London borough	*2001*[1]	*2002*[1]	*2003*[1]	*2004*[1]	*2005*[2]	*2006*[2]	*2007*[2]	*2007*[2]
Barking and Dagenham	19	19	18	19	18	19	18	18
Barnet	30	31	31	35	35	28	34	32
Bexley	17	18	18	15	14	14	17	19
Brent	31	29	33	30	31	29	31	29
Bromley	19	22	28	23	18	18	23	22
Camden	24	26	24	22	25	28	25	24
City of London	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Croydon	29	26	29	29	25	28	29	25
Ealing	36	36	30	29	33	34	33	36
Enfield	29	31	31	28	30	28	28	32
Greenwich	21	22	25	25	24	22	20	22
Hackney	27	28	28	31	32	33	28	27
Hammersmith and Fulham	19	18	19	18	20	17	19	19
Haringey	34	31	26	32	27	25	23	24
Harrow	16	19	20	19	21	19	19	20
Havering	16	16	15	14	17	15	17	16
Hillingdon	22	21	18	24	20	21	24	26
Hounslow	19	18	20	20	21	18	20	19
Islington	25	23	24	21	21	24	21	20
Kensington and Chelsea	19	23	23	21	25	23	27	25
Kingston-upon-Thames	14	12	11	12	12	10	13	13
Lambeth	23	26	26	32	28	33	35	31
Lewisham	24	26	24	22	25	27	22	23

Table 4: Number of females of working age resident in each London borough who were economically inactive in each year since 2000

Thousand

	For 12 months ending							
	February				*March*			*June*
London borough	*2001*[1]	*2002*[1]	*2003*[1]	*2004*[1]	*2005*[2]	*2006*[2]	*2007*[2]	*2007*[2]
Merton	16	16	13	14	19	18	15	16
Newham	39	38	39	38	41	34	36	35
Redbridge	23	21	23	25	23	28	26	28
Richmond-upon-Thames	11	13	11	17	17	15	14	16
Southwark	33	27	25	23	24	33	31	30
Sutton	10	10	12	15	11	13	14	12
Tower Hamlets	32	30	34	31	32	34	33	34
Waltham Forest	19	22	24	26	27	22	20	21
Wandsworth	19	21	26	25	25	26	25	26
Westminster, City of	23	24	27	28	26	26	27	28

[1] Figures provided by the Annual Labour Force Survey
[2] Figures provided by the Annual Population Survey
[3] These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable or disclosive

Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies, are providing advice or support to the Valuation Office Agency. [192323]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 507W.

Valuation Office: Documents

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether data for which the Valuation Office Agency is responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas. [192325]

Jane Kennedy: The VOA does not process or store information for which it is responsible overseas.

Valuation Office: Pay

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to equalise the pay and conditions of equivalent grades of staff in the Valuation Office Agency and the Rent Service once the organisations have merged. [193384]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency and the Rent Service are managing the Transfer of Functions as a joint programme. As part of this, the Valuation Office Agency is undertaking a detailed review of the differences in Terms and Conditions (including pay) between the two organisations to establish a future strategy for aligning these.

Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1490W, on voluntary work, what funding his Department has provided for the Volunteers Group in 2007-08. [195916]

Angela Eagle: During 2007-08, HM Treasury made provision of resources to support the HM Treasury Volunteers Group in a number of ways, including a flexible budget to support the administration of the group and relevant staff events; a significant proportion of one full-time member of staff; and the provision of extensive special leave allowances to allow all members of HM Treasury staff to take paid special leave to volunteer in the community for the public good.

The results of this investment have been clear, for example in 2007, HM Treasury won an award for its exceptional support of the School Governor's One Stop Shop (a small, successful charity that recruits volunteers to become governors in schools across England).

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of fraudulent claims for tax credits made in each year since 2003, broken down by the region in which claimants gave addresses. [194491]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not held in the format requested. However, I refer the hon. Member to the Child and Working Tax Credit Error and Fraud Statistics available on HMRC's website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/error-fraud.htm

and to the Comptroller and Auditor General's Standard Report in the 2006-07 HMRC accounts, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrgaccounts2007.htm

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was obtained from tax credit fraud by *(a)* individuals and *(b)* criminal gangs who were prosecuted in each year since 2003. [194499]

Jane Kennedy: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost per minute of calls made to tax credit hotlines from (*a*) mobile telephones and (*b*) landlines is; and if he will make a statement. [194472]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested cannot be provided as the cost of calls made to the Tax Credits Helpline, and indeed other HMRC Helplines which use 0845 non geographic numbers, is dependent on several factors. Calls are charged to the customer based on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use for the call and the location from which they call.

JUSTICE

Children: Abuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were charged with crimes involving violence against children in each of the last five years; and of those how many (*a*) pleaded reasonable chastisement as a defence, (*b*) were prosecuted successfully and (*c*) were found not guilty. [194164]

Maria Eagle: My Department does not hold information on "crimes involving violence against children" as we do not hold information on victims, unless specified within either the statute or offence description. There is also no specific offence that relates to "crimes involving violence against children."

My Department does not hold data where the defendant has "pleaded reasonable chastisement as a defence" as this level of detail is not held by the court proceedings database.

Information on charging is not held by my Department.

Domestic Violence: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (*a*) prosecutions and (*b*) convictions there were for offences involving domestic violence in (i) Tamworth constituency and (ii) Staffordshire in each year since 2000. [195454]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice cannot separately identify domestic violence offences from other offences of assault and violence against the person. As a result no data relating to prosecutions and convictions can be supplied.

Driving Offences: Prosecutions

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers of vehicles carrying scrap metal were prosecuted for (*a*) dangerous driving, (*b*) careless driving and (*c*) causing death by dangerous driving in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [195725]

Maria Eagle: Breaches of road traffic legislations can be dealt with by written warnings (including formal cautions), fixed penalty notices and court proceedings.

Information collected centrally and held by my Department on motoring offences does not distinguish between the characteristics of the vehicles involved.

Drugs: Sentencing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were (*a*) prosecuted, (*b*) convicted, (*c*) fined and (*d*) imprisoned for dealing crystal meth in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [195447]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty, fined and imprisoned for supplying or offering to supply and having possession with intent to supply amphetamines or class B drugs in England and Wales from 2002 to 2006 are in the following table.

Prior to 18 January 2007 the possession with intent to supply and the supply of crystal meth "Methylamphetamine" were included with other class B drug offences. From that date Methylamphetamine was reclassified from a class B drug to a class A drug.

Data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty, fined and imprisoned for selected offences[1] relating to crystal meth: England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[2]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Fined	Immediate custody
2002	594	366	28	174
2003	553	402	19	201
2004	511	421	19	202
2005	461	378	16	180
2006	433	384	5	170

[1] The following offences and statutes have been used: Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in): Amphetamine - Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 4(3) [Class 'B' Drug]; Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in): Other Class 'B' - Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 4(3) [Class 'B' Drug]; Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Amphetamine - Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(3) [Class 'B' Drug]; Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply: Other Class 'B' - Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(3) [Class 'B' Drug].

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Fatal Accident Injury System

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1433W, on the fatal accident injury system, what progress has been made on discussions between his Department and the Scottish Executive on the operation of the Fatal Accident Inquiry system in Scotland as it applies to armed forces personnel based in Scotland, who are killed in action overseas. [196164]

Bridget Prentice: Contacts between the UK Government and the Scottish Executive continue on this sensitive and complex issue. The UK Government are committed to ensuring that the death of every serviceman or woman overseas is subject to an independent inquiry. They are also committed to ensuring that the needs of bereaved service families are attended to sensitively and that where possible families do not have to travel excessive distances to attend inquests, including families based in Scotland.

My right hon. Friend will have noted the Scottish Executive's announcement on 7 March of a review by Lord Cullen of the overall working of the Fatal Accident Inquiry system which will have a bearing on this issue. In the meantime the UK Government will continue to work with coroners and families to ensure that inquests in England are held in the most appropriate place for those concerned.

Magistrates Courts: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 12-14WS, on Leeds Magistrates' court, how many outstanding cases remain of the 555 defendants whose warrants have been withdrawn by officials at Leeds Magistrates' court; what the status of those cases is; and when he expects all of these cases to be resolved. [195780]

Maria Eagle: The warrants of the 555 defendants that were withdrawn still remain outstanding. The withdrawn cases are being reviewed by a multi-agency Criminal Justice System team in Leeds, in accordance with the guidance previously issued by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) for the management of warrants and a view will be taken on which cases need to be brought back before the court, as soon as practicable. A practice direction is also being considered by the senior presiding judge to make the position clear that warrants will only be withdrawn by a properly constituted court in the future.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 12-14WS, on Leeds Magistrates' court, what the 62 offences were the results of which have been found and verified; and how many serious offences have yet to be found and verified. [195781]

Maria Eagle: The following table identifies the 62 offences where the results have been found and verified by the Inspectorate. In all of these cases the result could be found from other court records (e.g. those from the Crown court). Checks continue in relation to all outstanding offences where an adjudication is missing, including 1568 recordable offences.

Offence	*Number*
Attempted robbery	1
Conspiracy to rob	3
Robbery	13
Conspired to commit armed robbery	1
Attempted murder	1
Murder	1
Assault - racially aggravated	1
Racially aggravated threatening behaviour	3
Racially aggravated threatening and abusive behaviour	1
Buggery	1
Gross Indecency	3
Indecent assault	2
Rape	1
Fail to comply with Sex Offenders Act	2
Concerned in supplying of cocaine	1
Concerned in supplying a class A drug MDMA	1
Conspired to Supply Class A drug	5
Importation of cocaine	1
Possession of cannabis resin with intent to supply	1
Possess cocaine with intent to supply	2
Possession of a class A drug MDMA with intent to supply	1
Possession of a class B drug amphetamine with intent to supply	1
Possession of crack cocaine with intent to supply	1
Possession of heroin with intent to supply	1
Supply crack cocaine	1
Supplying heroin	4
Detained person against their will	1
False imprisonment	1
Unlawful imprisonment	2
Unlawfully took person against their will	1
Arson	1
Attempting to pervert the course of justice	2
Total	62

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Vacancies

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vacant posts in the Probation Service he expects will not be filled in 2008-09, broken down by grade. [195664]

Mr. Hanson: Information is not available to answer this question as staffing requirements are currently being reviewed throughout the Probation Service.

To date, long-term workforce planning has been conducted in a limited manner within the Probation Service and has largely been undertaken in concert with the annual intake on to the Diploma in Probation Studies (DiPS), which is led by NOMS probation area co-ordination unit. Responsibility for all other recruitment and workforce planning rests with each of the individual probation areas. With the impending decision on the future of the DiPS and the development and

implementation of its replacement, the process by which workforce planning will be conducted nationally and locally, is currently being reviewed in order to align it to future arrangements.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vacant posts in the Probation Service were not filled in 2007-08, broken down by grade. [195705]

Mr. Hanson: Not all probation areas in the National Probation Service operate a set establishment against which vacant posts can be measured. As a more representative alternative, probation areas are required to report regularly on the number of active vacancies they have. An active vacancy is one which a probation area is actively trying to fill through a recruitment process.

Information on the number of active vacancies in the NPS is currently only available up to the end of quarter 1 2007-08 (June 2007).

The following table shows the number of active vacancies there were in each job group at the end of quarters 2 to 4 2006-07 and quarter 1 2007-08. As recruitment is the responsibility of each local area, information is not held nationally on how many of these vacancies were not filled.

	2006-07			2007-08
National Probation Service	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
Deputy Chief Officer	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00
Assistant Chief Officer	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Area/District Manager	2.50	0.00	2.00	2.00
Middle Manager	32.60	28.80	25.10	20.95
Senior Practitioner	23.33	2.40	10.90	6.70
Probation Officer	92.56	43.97	71.58	87.29
Professional Development Adviser	3.50	0.50	2.00	1.30
Trainee Probation Officer	205.00	80.00	0.00	0.00
Treatment Manager	1.00	2.00	2.00	3.50
Probation Services Officer	203.15	121.00	163.29	166.93
Psychologist	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
Other Operational Staff	41.80	15.22	14.55	11.66
Support Staff—Administration	265.22	73.51	130.59	128.73
Support Staff—Other	18.29	16.34	16.77	17.84
Other staff	8.80	3.00	1.20	4.60
Total	899.75	389.74	444.98	453.50

Information on vacancies in the trainee Probation Officer job group was no longer collected from quarter 4 2006-07 onwards as recruitment to the group was to a fixed number.

Prison Accommodation: Dorchester Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many spaces were available in the first night centre at HMP Dorchester on the first Friday of each month for the last 12 months for which figures are available, and how many first night prisoners were received on each of those days. [196401]

Mr. Hanson: There are a maximum of 24 spaces on Dorchester's first night centre (C wing). The following table sets out the number of new receptions to the prison and the number of vulnerable prisoners also held on C wing on the first Friday of each month since August 2007 (no records are available prior to that time). It is not possible to state how many spaces remained available though, as this would have been dependent upon the assessed cell-sharing suitability of those prisoners located there, information that is not available.

	Number of new receptions	Number prisoners of vulnerable held on C Wing
3 August 2007	5	3
7 September 2007	9	8
5 October 2007	12	1
2 November 2007	10	11
7 December 2007	7	6
4 January 2008	9	4
1 February 2008	10	10
7 March 2008	12	16

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vulnerable (*a*) remand and (*b*) convicted prisoners were accommodated at HMP Dorchester on the first Friday of each month for the last 12 months for which figures are available, and how many spaces designated for vulnerable prisoners there were at the prison on each of these dates. [196402]

Mr. Hanson: The following table sets out the total number of vulnerable prisoners held at HMP Dorchester on the first Friday of each month since August 2007 (no records are available prior to that time). It is not possible from the available records to differentiate between remand and convicted prisoners. The vulnerable prisoner unit at HMP Dorchester holds a maximum of 24 prisoners, with any overspill being located on the first night centre.

	Number of vulnerable prisoners
3 August 2007	27
7 September 2007	32
5 October 2007	25
2 November 2007	35
7 December 2007	30
4 January 2008	28
1 February 2008	34
7 March 2008	40

Prisons: Design

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 491W, on prisons, if he will publish the design, security and technical specifications and standards produced by the National Offender Management Service relating to the designs of (*a*) existing and (*b*) new prison places. [196153]

Mr. Hanson: The design, security and technical specifications/standards for existing and new prisons are not intended for general publication and it would be impracticable to do so. There are currently over 1,000 standard and design documents of which the vast majority are detailed technical drawings. Furthermore, security could be unnecessarily compromised by general publication. If credible interested parties, including the hon. Member for Harborough, wish to gain access to this documentation, suitable secure and controlled arrangements are already in place to facilitate such requests.

Road Traffic Offences

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people aged under 18 were prosecuted for offences related to (*a*) fatal and (*b*) serious road traffic accidents in each of the last five years; [195412]

(2) how many (*a*) unlicensed and (*b*) unqualified drivers were prosecuted for offences associated with (i) fatal and (ii) serious road traffic accidents in each of the last five years; [195413]

(3) how many people unqualified to drive were prosecuted for taking and driving away motor vehicles in each of the last five years. [195415]

Maria Eagle: Available information held by my Department on the numbers of prosecutions for motoring offences that cause the death of, or cause bodily harm to, a person is provided in the following tables.

Serious and fatal road traffic collisions may be the result of, or associated with, some other offences, for example careless driving. However the information held centrally does not identify the circumstances of individual cases and in particular whether a fatality or serious injury occurred.

While the Department for Transport monitors details of road traffic accidents, this information is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecutions.

Table A Proceedings at magistrates courts by type of offence, and for offenders aged under 18: England and Wales, 2001-05

Offence type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
					Number of offences
Causing death by dangerous driving[1]	9	27	21	20	13
Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs[2]	0	1	2	0	0
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking[3]	6	10	6	7	7
Causing bodily harm by furious driving[4]	9	4	8	9	4

[1] Offences under the RTA 1988 s. 1 as amended by RTA 1991 s. 1 and CJA 1993 s. 67.
[2] Offences under the RTA 1988 s. 3A as added by the RTA 1991 s. 3 and amended by CJA 1993 s. 67.
[3] Offences under the Theft Act 1968 s. 12A as added by Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992 s. 1.
[4] Offences against the Person Act 1861 s. 35.

Note

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B Proceedings at magistrates courts by type of offence, all ages, England and Wales, 2001-05

Offence type	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
					Number of offences
Causing death by dangerous driving[1]	361	320	363	360	360
Causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs[2]	66	78	85	68	77
Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking[3]	35	33	24	17	32
Causing bodily harm by furious driving[4]	83	65	56	46	33

[1] Offences under the RTA 1988 s. 1 as amended by RTA 1991 s. 1 and CJA 1993 s. 67.
[2] Offences under the RTA 1988 s. 3A as added by the RTA 1991 s. 3 and amended by CJA 1993 s. 67.
[3] Offences under the Theft Act 1968 s. 12A as added by Aggravated Vehicle Taking Act 1992 s. 1.
[4] Offences against the Person Act 1861 s. 35.

Note

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Vandalism: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for vandalism in (i) Tamworth constituency and (ii) Staffordshire in each year since 2000. [195443]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of criminal damage, which includes cases involving vandalism, are given in the following table.

Information is given in the table for Staffordshire police force area. Data are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of criminal damage[1] in Staffordshire police force area[2], 2000 to 2006

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2000	1,505	891
2001	1,379	839
2002	1,435	876
2003	1,548	954
2004	1,487	916
2005	1,514	966
2006	1,248	926

[1] Includes indictable offences for criminal damage and summary offences of criminal damage, 5,000 or less, and in addition offences under section 19 the Allotments Act 1922.

[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.

[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Waste Management: Prosecutions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice against how many people prosecutions have been brought for having unregistered scrap and salvage yards in each of the last three years. [193838]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences in relation to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, in England and Wales were five in 2004, seven in 2005, and five in 2006. From information held by my Department it is not possible to separately identify prosecutions for separate offences detailed within the Act.

These data are on the principal offence basis.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Cadets

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many young people are members of cadet contingents attached to Her Majesty's armed forces in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Ashford. [195141]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is provided in the following table:

	Kent	*Ashford*
Sea Cadets	593	34
Combined Cadet Force	[1]2,596	Nil
Army Cadets	956	76
Air Cadets	1,105	40

[1] From 17 schools

Armed Forces: Drugs

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in each of the armed forces have been *(a)* randomly tested for controlled substances, *(b)* tested positive as a result of the test and *(c)* discharged as a result of a positive random drug test in each of the last three years, broken down by rank. [196336]

Derek Twigg: A complete breakdown by every rank of armed forces personnel randomly tested for controlled substances, those tested positive and those discharged could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The relevant information available is provided in the following tables. Due to the administrative processes involved those who tested positive towards the end of a calendar year might not be discharged until the following year.

Royal Navy

	2007	*2006*	*2005*
Individuals tested	9,845	11,687	11,617
Number of individuals positive:	39	57	47
Officers/cadets	0	0	1
WO/Senior rates	1	1	0
Junior rates	38	56	46
Total discharged	43	47	39

Army

	2007	*2006*	*2005*
Individuals tested	54,172	69,195	66,197
Number of individuals positive:	677	770	795
Officers/cadets	3	2	1
WO/SNCOs	1	1	1
JNCO/Privates	673	767	793
Total discharged	610	608	573

Royal Air Force

	2007	*2006*	*2005*
Individuals tested	10,505	11,393	11,375
Number of individuals positive:	15	18	21
Officers/cadets	0	0	0
WO/SNCOs	0	0	3
JNCO/Airmen	15	18	18
Total discharged	12	14	20

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of non-UK nationals who enter the UK to apply to join the armed forces were accepted in each of the last five years. [194692]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of non-UK nationals who applied to join the UK Regular Forces[1] and the number of non-UK nationals who enlisted[2] in each of the last five years.

	Financial Year				
Force	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-083*
Navy[4]					
Non-UK nationals total applications	260	260	530	480	490
Non-UK nationals enlisted	100	80	100	190	180
Army[5]					
Non-UK nationals total applications	3,310	5,690	5,010	2,850	1,330
Non-UK nationals enlisted	1,550	980	650	800	1,080
RAF[6]					
Non-UK nationals total applications	180	140	100	110	160
Non-UK nationals enlisted	40	30	10	20	20

[1] UK Regular Forces includes nursing services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
[2] The personnel who enlisted in a given FY did not necessarily apply in that financial year. Applications typically take a number of months to process.
[3] Data for the FY 2007-08 are for the period up to 14 March 2008.
[4] Navy defines a Ranks applicant as someone from whom they have received a completed application form and who has undertaken a RT test. They define an Officer applicant as someone from whom AIB have accepted an application form.
[5] Prior to July 2007 a soldier applicant was an individual who had completed initial eligibility checks and had completed an AFCO form 4. From July 2007 onwards it is someone who has also passed the British Army Recruit Battery (BARB) Test, Interview 1 and 2 and the initial British Army Health Questionnaire (RG8) screening, bringing it in to line with the definition used for Officer applicants
[6] RAF defines an applicant as someone from whom they have received a completed application form.
Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
Sources:
Policy Secretariat Fleet HQ, ARTD and RAF Personnel Secretariat.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of personnel in each pinch point trade in the armed forces exceeded harmony guidelines in the latest period for which figures are available. [193887]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Royal Navy

Operational pinch point trades	*Percentage of current population breaching harmony*
Harrier GR7 Instructors	None
Harrier GR7 Pilots	None
Merlin Pilots	None
Merlin Observers	None
Merlin Aircrew	None
Able Seaman Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	None
Able Seaman Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	None
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ra	None

Royal Navy

Operational pinch point trades	*Percentage of current population breaching harmony*
Leading Hand Warfare	None
Able Seaman Diver	None
Royal Marines Other Ranks	None
Sea King and Lynx Avionics Supervisor	None
Lead Hand Aircraft Controllers	None
Petty Officer Mine Warfare	None
Nuclear Watchkeepers	None

Note:
The figure for separated service reflects the percentage of personnel within that trade that has completed more than 140 days separated service in the last 12 month rolling period. The RN delivers Individual Harmony through a number of micro-managed processes to ensure that the Individual Harmony Guidelines are met.

Army

Operational pinch point trades	*Percentage of current population breaching harmony*
Infantryman Pte-LCpl	10.7
Vehicle Mechanic Pte-Cpl	33.5
Armourer Pte-Cpl	26.9

Army

Operational pinch point trades	*Percentage of current population breaching harmony*
Recovery Mechanic LCpl-Cpl	31.2
Operational Military Intelligence Cpl-Sgt	8.6
Clerk of Works SSqt-WO1	17.1
Military Engineer Fitter Spr-LCpl	14
Royal Artillery Gunner LBdr-Bdr	[1]

[1] Currently not available.

Note:
The figure for separated service reflects the percentage of personnel within that trade that has completed more than 415 days separated service in the last 30 month rolling period. There are a number of recruitment and retention incentives that specifically targeted at pinch point groups. Individuals are micro-managed by the Arms and Services Directors in order to maintain operational capability and Individual Harmony. Each Service has a Pinch Point Working Group and there is a quarterly Pinch Point Working Group that aims to deliver best practice across the Services.

RAF

Operational pinch point	*Percentage of current population breaching harmony*
Medical	3.1
Operations Support (Intelligence)	20.2
Operations Support (RRAF Regt)	18.5
Operations Support (Provost/Security)	11.7
Operations Support (Flight Ops)	12.1
Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service	8.1
Weapons Systems Operator (Air Load Master)	4.7
Weapon Systems Operator (Linguist)	4.3
Air Traffic Controller/ Flight Operations Manager and Flight Operations Assistant	2.7/6.2
Firefighter	21.2
Gunner	25.3
Movements Operator	11.1
MT Tech	14.5
RAF Police	14.2
Staff Nurse (RGN) A&E A & E	9.3

Note:
The figure for separated service reflects the percentage of personnel within that trade that has completed more than 140 days separated service in the last 12 month rolling period. As with the RN and the Army, pinch point trades are micro-managed with the emphasis on retention and then recruiting. Specific measures are targeted at each group.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of the total *(a)* strength and *(b)* requirement of (i) regular army officers and (ii) regular army other ranks was made up by the recruitment of British nationals in each year since 1997; [194429]

(2) what percentage of the total *(a)* strength and *(b)* requirement of regular army (i) officers and (ii) other ranks was made up by the recruitment of citizens of Commonwealth countries in each year since 1997; [194430]

(3) how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks of British nationality were recruited to the Regular Army in each year since 1997; [194432]

(4) how many *(a)* officers and *(b)* other ranks were recruited from Commonwealth countries to the Regular Army in each year since 1997. [194433]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables show the strength of officers and soldiers with UK and Commonwealth nationalities as a proportion of the total strength and requirement for each financial year since 1997. Also provided is the intake of UK and Commonwealth officers and soldiers against the total intake for each financial year since 1997.

Regular Army UK and Commonwealth officer strength rates against average officer strength and requirements from 1 April 1997 to 28 February 2007

Percentage

Against average strength	*UK*	*Commonwealth*
1997-98	97.8	1.3
1998-99	97.8	1.3
1999-2000	97.8	1.3
2000-01	97.7	1.4
2001-02	97.6	1.5
2002-03	97.6	1.5
2003-04	97.5	1.6
2004-05	97.4	1.8
2005-06	97.3	1.9
2006-07[1]	97.2	2.0

Percentage

Against Requirements	*UK*	*Commonwealth*
1997-98	98.3	1.3
1998-99	97.0	1.3
1999-2000	97.4	1.3
2000-01	94.9	1.4
2001-02	92.8	1.4
2002-03	94.3	1.5
2003-04	95.9	1.6
2004-05	97.8	1.8
2005-06	97.3	1.9
2006-07[1]	101.2	2.0

Regular Army UK and Commonwealth Officer intake against total regular Army officer intake from 1 April 1997 to 28 February 2007

	Total Intake	*UK*	*Commonwealth (excluding UK)*
1997-98	990	960	20
1998-99	800	760	20
1999-2000	1,130	1,080	40
2000-01	930	890	30
2001-02	890	850	30
2002-03	980	920	50
2003-04	940	900	40
2004-05	790	750	30
2005-06	820	780	20
2006-07[1]	820	790	10

Regular Army UK and Commonwealth soldier strength rates against average soldier strengths and requirements from 1 April 1997 to 28 February 2007

Percentage

Against average strengths	*UK*	*Commonwealth*
1997-98	99.2	0.4
1998-99	99.1	0.5
1999-2000	99.1	0.5
2000-01	98.8	0.8
2001-02	98.2	1.3
2002-03	97.3	2.3
2003-04	95.7	3.9
2004-05	94.0	5.6
2005-06	92.9	6.6
2006-07[1]	92.2	6.7

Against requirements	UK	Percentage Commonwealth
1997-98	93.1	0.4
1998-99	92.6	0.4
1999-2000	92.5	0.5
2000-01	91.8	0.7
2001-02	90.3	1.2
2002-03	90.1	2.1
2003-04	90.7	3.7
2004-05	90.1	5.3
2005-06	89.7	6.4
2006-07[1]	88.6	6.4

Regular Army UK and Commonwealth soldier intake against total regular Army soldier intake from 1 April 1997 to 28 February 2007

	Total intake	UK	Commonwealth (excluding UK)
1997-98	14,510	14,370	60
1998-99	16,300	16,070	160
1999-2000	15,480	14,940	470
2000-01	13,910	13,130	730
2001-02	14,040	12,870	1,140
2002-03	15,720	13,710	1,960
2003-04	14,320	12,670	1,580
2004-05	10,940	9,840	1,000
2004-05	790	750	30
2005-06	820	780	20
2006-07[1]	820	790	10

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2005-06	11,920	11,130	710
2006-07[1]	11,900	11,090	720

[1] 11 months data, due to the ongoing validation of the new joint personnel administration system Army flows data are not available from 1 April 2007.

Notes:

1. UK and Commonwealth strengths data are taken as a yearly average.
2. Strength percentages against requirements may be greater or less than 100 per cent. due to over-and/or under-manning (i.e. strength exceeding requirement).
3. The intake figures include re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.
4. Total intake also includes UK dependencies, Eire and other nationalities.
5. All data have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what new contracts have been awarded by his Department to the Priory Group since November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [195392]

Derek Twigg: The Priory Group currently holds the contract for the provision of in-patient mental health care to armed forces personnel.

No new contracts have been awarded to the Priory Group since November 2007.

Army: Labour Turnover

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals and *(b)* non-UK nationals recruited into the British Army (i) did not complete basic training, (ii) left within a year of enlistment, (iii) left within two years of enlistment and (iv) did not complete their engagement in each of the last 10 years. [194552]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the use of improvised explosive device jammers. [162532]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces use electronic counter measures to counter improvised explosive devices. I am withholding details of the policy governing their use as its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192227]

Derek Twigg: The combined departmental costs on armed forces recruitment advertising initiatives and veterans awareness advertising initiatives since financial year 2003-04 are as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2003-04	16.648
2004-05	26.195
2005-06	29.256
2006-07	32.483

Accurate information on other advertising procured by the Ministry of Defence, Defence Agencies, Top Level Budget areas, Trading Funds, Joint Headquarters, single Service Commands and military units is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Details of expenditure on advertising prior to March 2003 cannot be provided in the format requested as the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194978]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Reserve Forces

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the members of *(a)* the Territorial Army and *(b)* the Royal Naval Reserve have served in theatre in the last 12 months. [196269]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Records of individual Territorial Army (TA) personnel deployed on operations are not held centrally and information on the proportion of members of the TA who have served in theatre in the last 12 months could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As at 1 April 2007, the strength of the Naval Service Volunteer Reserves, including Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) and Royal Marine Reserve (RMR), was 2,970. Of these, 230 personnel (140 RNR and 80 RMR[1]), or 8 per cent. of total strength, have served in theatre between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008.

[1] Due to rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

Royal Military Academy: Foreigners

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many places at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst were allocated to foreign nationals in each year since 1997, broken down by nationality. [196171]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2016-20W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methodology her Department uses to assess levels of *(a)* underage drinking and *(b)* drug use by young people. [195422]

Mr. Coaker: The survey 'Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England' is used to assess levels of *(a)* underage drinking and *(b)* drug use by young people. This is an annual survey which is conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NRER) on behalf of the Information Centre for health and social care (IC). The survey is widely regarded as the best source of national data on drinking among schoolchildren in England. Information for the 2006 survey was obtained from 8,200 pupils in 288 schools throughout England in the autumn term of 2006. The data were collected by researchers using self-completion questionnaires administered to children in their classroom under 'exam conditions'.

Animal Experiments

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on EC Directive 86/609/EEC, with particular reference to the use of apes for experimental and other scientific purposes. [193669]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The objectives of the Government during the review of European Directive 86/609 on animal experimentation will be to ensure efficient and effective regulation that properly balances the protection of animals against the legitimate needs of science and industry. We do not believe that wholesale changes to the Directive are necessary to achieve the main benefits sought of harmonisation and animal welfare. We believe that the Directive has stood the test of time well and still provides a sound framework for regulation.

We feel that the current revision of the Directive should aim to improve the regulation of animal use by focusing on key areas where regulation and harmonisation would improve animal welfare, improve scientific outputs, provide a more level playing field within the EU and improve the EU's competitiveness with other economic regions without compromising science and welfare.

The vast majority of primates used in scientific procedures regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in the UK are marmosets and macaques. Then Home Secretary Jack Straw said in 1997:

> "Great Apes (chimpanzees, gorillas, pygmy gorillas and orang-utans) have never been used under the 1986 Act as laboratory animals. But this has not previously been banned. The Government will not allow their use in the future. This is a matter of morality. The cognitive and behavioural characteristics and qualities of these animals mean it is unethical to treat them as expendable for research."

There are no plans to change this policy.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* Barnsley, East and Mexborough constituency, *(b)* Barnsley metropolitan borough and (c) Doncaster metropolitan borough since their inception; [195755]

(2) how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued in *(a)* Barnsley, East and Mexborough constituency, *(b)* Barnsley metropolitan borough and (c) Doncaster metropolitan borough since their inception. [195756]

Mr. Coaker: Antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) became available from 1 April 1999. The number of ASBOs issued to the end of 2005 (latest available) where the prohibitions specify locations within the Barnsley metropolitan borough council and Doncaster metropolitan borough council areas are 74 and 61 respectively. Data collected centrally on ASBOs issued are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys carried out by the Home Office of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 25,000 ABCs have been made in England and Wales since October 2003.

BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has responded formally to the US Department of Justice request for mutual legal assistance with regard to BAE Systems. [193923]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided on this matter. I can confirm that the Home Office received a request for assistance from the USA in respect of corruption allegations concerning BAE Systems. The request is being dealt with in accordance with the bi-lateral treaty on mutual legal assistance between the UK and the USA. It would be inappropriate to comment further.

Burglary: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce burglaries in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency. [194723]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has encouraged the development, dissemination and implementation of a range of good practice in reducing burglary, including work under the Reducing Burglary Initiative.

In the Northern Division of Lancashire Constabulary, which covers Morecambe and Lunesdale, there is a dual approach to burglary, with prevention and education work combined with detection. Examples of prevention and education work include the Tower project, which is a project that aims to support criminals with substance misuse problems into moving away from criminal activity; and partnership approaches such as Police and Communities Together meetings and Neighbourhood Watch. The detection approach includes pro-active burglary teams, dedicated investigators, robust tasking and accountability process. Crime scene investigators visit all domestic burglary scenes, and there is a scheme in place to tackle repeat burglaries.

Lancashire police have also adopted Neighbourhood Policing, this means named officers patrol the area as part of a regular patch, based on ward boundaries. This is underpinned by an intelligence led and problem-solving approach to burglary.

Crime: Motor Vehicles

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce car crime since 1997. [194784]

Mr. Coaker: Vehicle crime has dropped by 52 per cent. since 1997 according to the British Crime Survey.

Since 1997 the Government have worked closely with a range of partners including the motor industry and police to reduce car crime, for example by improving vehicle security. They established the Vehicle Crime Reduction Action team, published the Car Theft Index and, from 1999 to 2004, set a vehicle crime reduction target of 30 per cent., a target which was achieved. Government communications have aimed to change driver behaviour, such as not leaving items on view in cars. We have worked to increase the security of parking available for cars, and continue to work with the industry to find design solutions to crime problems. As a result of these activities large reductions have been achieved.

Where local areas experience problems with vehicle crime, we encourage local partners to adopt a rigorous problem-solving approach, using evidence and analysis and to make full use of good practice, toolkits and communications materials which is available to all via the Home Office website.

Criminal Records Bureau: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of people whose details are recorded on the Criminal Records Bureau database have not been charged or convicted or otherwise received a penalty or sanction in relation to a criminal offence; and how many of such people are aged 16 years or under. [193851]

Meg Hillier: In processing disclosure applications the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) collates information which is held, owned and maintained by the police service, the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department of Health respectively. Therefore, the CRB database does not hold the information requested.

Drugs: Schools

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to prevent drug dealing at or near school gates in the last three years. [194808]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have taken a tough stance to drug dealing on or in the vicinity of school premises. The Drugs Act 2005 introduced a provision which commenced on 1 January 2006 which made it an aggravating factor which courts must take into account when deciding the seriousness of a drug supply offence committed by a person aged 18 or over to deal drugs on or in the vicinity of school premises.

We supported the Association of Chief Police Officers in the development and production of their guidance published in 2006 to police forces on working with schools and colleges which includes advice to police forces about having locally agreed protocols in place to manage drug-related incidents in schools and colleges.

Genetics: Databases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of irregularities on the national DNA database. [181246]

Meg Hillier: A number of procedures carried out by police forces, forensic suppliers and the National DNA Database (NDNAD) Custodian's staff are in place to ensure that information is recorded as accurately as possible on the NDNAD. These procedures are designed to ensure as far as possible that errors are not included on the database in the first place, rather than removing them once they are on.

If any irregular record comes to the notice of the NDNAD Custodian and his staff, the record is suspended on the database pending an investigation the outcome of which is that the record may be re-instated unchanged, amended, or deleted.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from each police authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber had a sample of their DNA stored on the national DNA database at the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [193740]

Meg Hillier: The number of subject profiles retained on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) for each police force in the Yorkshire and Humberside area are shown in the following table. There are two figures for each force: the number of profiles and the estimated number of individuals. The number of profiles held on the database is not the same as the number of individuals. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded.

It should also be noted that the table shows the number of individuals sampled by each police force, and not the area where the people sampled are resident. For example, the figure for North Yorkshire includes people living outside North Yorkshire who have been sampled by that police force and excludes residents of North Yorkshire who have been sampled by other police forces.

At present, the replication rate is 13.3 per cent. that is, the number of people whose details are loaded is 13.3 per cent. fewer than the number of profiles.

Police force	*Subject profiles*	*Estimated number of individuals*
North Yorkshire	55,879	48,447
South Yorkshire	117,023	101,459
West Yorkshire	214,362	185,852
Humberside	81,986	71,082

Human Trafficking: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked children were taken into police custody following raids on illegal cannabis factories in each of the last three years. [191381]

Mr. Coaker: No central records are kept on juvenile offenders who may have been victims of trafficking. However concerns have been raised by a number of children's charities about the arrest of children found in cannabis factories in the UK.

A recent study by the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) examined 39 cases of Vietnamese juveniles arrested during 2007 in such circumstances.

Out of the 39 children, one child was identified as a trafficked victim and referred to Children's Services.

In December 2007 the Crown Prosecution Service issued guidance which advises prosecutors that where children are known to have been trafficked and coerced to commit criminal acts, cases should be discontinued on evidential grounds. Where the information concerning coercion is less certain, further details should be sought from the police and youth offender teams, so that the public interest in continuing a prosecution can be considered carefully.

Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Jim Cunninghan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plan to take to stop employers employing illegal immigrants. [194133]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The Border and Immigration Agency is increasing enforcement activity against illegal working in general. Steps have been taken to strengthen the law preventing employers from using illegal migrant workers. The law in this area applies to employers or agencies in all sectors of the economy.

The Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 introduced a system of civil penalties for careless employers and a criminal offence of knowingly employing illegal workers. This came into force on 29 February 2008.

The maximum level of civil penalty is £10,000 and the criminal offence of knowingly employing an illegal migrant will attract a prison term of up to two years as well as an unlimited fine on conviction on indictment.

Immigration Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to ensure that immigration officers are able to take the breaks to which they are entitled during working hours. [193128]

Mr. Byrne: Immigration Officers are scheduled to take breaks during their shifts; on operational duties the timing of breaks may need to be flexible but there are opportunities to take rest and refreshment breaks

Immigration: Applications

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 247W, on immigration applications, and her letter of 21 December 2007, reference G1002712, when she will provide a substantive written response to the issues raised. [193480]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 March 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 11 March 2008.

MI5

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what arrangements are in place for *(a)* giving notice to her and *(b)* seeking leave from her by the Director General of the Security Service (DGSS) in relation to the making of speeches on matters within his responsibilities, with particular reference to the DGSS's speech to the Society of Editors on 5 November 2007; [162124]

(2) when she was first informed of the *(a)* delivery date and (b) content of the speech delivered by the Director General of the Security Services on 5 November 2007 to the Society of Editors. [162271]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has regular meetings and discussions with the Director General of the Security Service on a wide range of subjects.

National Identity Register

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances local authorities will have access to the National Identity Register. [194030]

Meg Hillier: There will be no general access to the National Identity Register. However, identity services will provide accredited organisations, which could include local authorities, with the means to verify identity, with an individual's consent, against the National Identity Register. There are no plans to provide local authorities with information from the National Identity Register without obtaining consent from the individual which would require the specific approval by Parliament of regulations under section 20 of the Identity Cards Act 2006.

Organised Crime: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the European database of dangerous offenders to prevent homicide associated with organised crime is expected to be operational; and what funding her Department has allocated to the database. [194281]

Meg Hillier: The project to develop a European database of dangerous offenders is in the very early stages and no timetable for its becoming operational has yet been set out.

No funding has been allocated by the Home Office.

Refuges: Females

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the *(a)* demand for and *(b)* provision of places in refuges for women who are drug users. [195402]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

We do not hold this information centrally. Decisions on the provision of refuge spaces are a local matter. It is the responsibility of the individual local authority to identify any gaps in service provision and put in place appropriate solutions to address this. We would expect local authorities to build services based on the needs of their communities, taking account of locally available information.

The Department funds UKRefugesonline (UKROL), a UK-wide database of domestic violence services delivered in partnership by Women's Aid and Refuge which supports the national 24-hour free phone domestic violence helpline. It enables those working with victims of domestic violence to identify appropriate services and potential refuge vacancies around the country. UKROL produce the UK Gold Book, a guide to refuge and domestic abuse services, every two years. This indicates that there are 20 service providers supporting drug users.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191481]

David Cairns: The comprehensive spending review settlement for the Scotland Office and the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland was agreed with HM Treasury as a three year settlement, fully taking account of efficiency savings. Further information on the provision will be contained in the Office's Annual Report, due to be published later this year.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Females

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Financial Statement of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 285-298, how the £12.5 million capital fund for female entrepreneurs will be allocated; and if he will make a statement. [194829]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government have made a commitment to provide £12.5 million of capital to set up a fund to invest primarily in women-led businesses, as part of its Enterprise Strategy published alongside Budget 2008. Capital for Enterprise Limited, which will deliver the Department's venture capital and loan activity from 1 April 2008, have been tasked with designing the fund and will invite proposals in the summer. Fund managers will be selected on merit through open competition.

Commercial Secrets: Theft

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance he issues to companies offered suspected stolen information about the financial affairs of their associates and competitors. [192865]

Mr. Thomas: A company offered information on the financial affairs of its associates and competitors which it suspects is stolen is advised to report the matter to the police.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [193442]

Mr. Thomas: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Foreign Investment in UK: Japan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Japanese investors invested in British industries in 2007; what assessment he has made of the contribution of such investment to the UK economy; and what steps the Government is taking to increase such investment. [192206]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) records information on foreign direct investment (FDI) where UKTI has been directly involved, or where its Regional Partners have become aware of investment. Japan is a key FDI investor for the UK, and in 2006-07 UKTI recorded 80 decisions to invest in the UK by Japanese investors, creating over 2,786 new jobs. Two private sector independent sources of business information, Bureau van Dijk and Toyo Keizai, have, respectively, recorded the total stock of Japanese companies in the UK in 2007 at 1,795, and the jobs created in the UK by Japanese companies at 92,882.

UKTI has the lead role within Government for delivering trade development and inward investment services for business. In 2006, UKTI launched its five year strategy "Prosperity in a Changing World", which is aimed at maximising the UK's ability to attract FDI, by winning market share in new high growth markets, helping businesses internationalise, and by supporting R and D intensive companies.

Government Offices for the Regions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which of his Department's programme budgets were administered by the Government Offices of the Regions in each of the last five years. [195174]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The Government Offices have directly administered the following programme budgets on behalf of BERR.

	Programme
2002-03	Regional Development Agency sponsorship University Innovation Centres Renewable Energy
2003-04	Regional Development Agency sponsorship University Innovation Centres Renewable Energy
2004-05	University Innovation Centres Regional Energy Strategy Development and Delivery
2005-06	University Innovation Centres Regional Energy Strategy Development and Delivery
2006-07	University Innovation Centres Regional Energy Strategy Development and Delivery

Inward Investment: Dover District Council

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what support his Department has made available to attract inward investment to *(a)* Thanet and *(b)* Dover district council areas in the last three years. [183754]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) promotes the UK as the top inward investment location in Europe, and works in close partnership with all of the UK's Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) to attract value added inward investment. The South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) is the RDA covering Kent, and responsible for inward investment work in the south east of England.

In 2006-07, the Government provided £163 million to SEEDA through the Single Programme Budget fund. This included a proportion of the £17.23 million (in 2006-07) provided by UKTI to the nine English RDAs for inward investment work. Funding, once allocated, is available for SEEDA to spend as they see fit to achieve regional priorities set out in their regional economic strategies and corporate plans.

Post Offices: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what commitments Post Office Limited gave to Postwatch in relation to the future of *(a)* Soho Street, *(b)* Mill Street and *(c)* St John's post offices in Liverpool; and if he will make a statement; [196380]

(2) when he last discussed the future of *(a)* Soho Street, *(b)* Mill Street and *(c)* St John's post offices in Liverpool with (i) Post Office Limited and (ii) Postwatch; and if he will make a statement: [196379]

(3) when the consultation on the future of St John's Post Office in Liverpool will end; and what the process is for considering the results of that consultation. [196378]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he last discussed the future of the Copperas Hill mail sorting office in Liverpool with Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [196381]

Mr. McFadden: There have been no such discussions. This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was given to Arts Council England in the last 12 months; what percentage was given to the east of England; and how much was allocated to organisations in grants. [188286]

Margaret Hodge: My Department expects to provide £422.2 million grant in aid to Arts Council England in 2007-08, following parliamentary approval of the Spring Supplementary Estimate. Final outturn figures will be available in June 2008. Projected lottery income to Arts Council England (including investment income) in 2007-08 is £146 million. Final lottery figures will be available in mid April.

Arts Council England, East will receive £12 million from the grant in aid income and £4.5 million from the lottery income in 2007-08, of which £13 million is to be allocated to organisations in grants and £0.5 million is to be allocated as grants for the arts for individuals. Of the remaining budget, £2 million is allocated to administration spend and £1 million to managed funds. Managed funds are used by the Arts Council flexibly to deliver throughout the year often short-term, one-off arts projects, often in partnership with other organisations.

Arts: Birmingham

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking on increasing access to the arts in *(a)* Birmingham and *(b)* Staffordshire. [195444]

Margaret Hodge: Government investment and support for the arts is primarily channelled through Arts Council England (ACE). Overall arts funding has increased in real terms by 73 per cent. since 1998 and in 2007-08 ACE received £412 million.

ACE West Midlands have placed a priority on ensuring that their investment over the next three years reaches a wide range of communities, artists and audiences in Birmingham and Staffordshire. Between 2008-09 and 2010-11 ACE will provide over £74 million to regularly funded organisations in Birmingham, and £3.4 million to regularly funded organisations in Staffordshire.

Arts: Public Expenditure

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure on publicly-funded arts and culture was in 2007, broken down by constituency. [194232]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* Arts Council England's grant in aid revenue funding for 2007-08, broken down by constituency, is set out in the table. The arts and culture sectors, which among others include museums, heritage and film organisations, also receive funding from the DCMS, money distributed by the national lottery and funding from local authorities. Figures for these are not centrally collated.

Constituency	*Total (£)*
Amber Valley	88,610
Ashford	61,006
Banbury	45,164
Barking	40,000
Barnsley Central	22,850
Barnsley West and Penistone	20,000
Barrow and Furness	394,700
Basingstoke	290,804
Bath	472,961
Battersea	1,395,163
Berwick-upon-Tweed	391,235
Bethnal Green and Bow	5,395,079
Beverley and Holderness	20,000
Bexhill and Battle	523,880
Birmingham Erdington	80,715
Birmingham Ladywood	7,843,472
Birmingham Perry Barr	148,862
Birmingham Selly Oak	1,141,111
Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath	156,488
Bishop Auckland	35,222
Blackburn	107,000
Blyth Valley	22,363
Bolsover	198,380
Bolton North East	571,300
Bournemouth West	167,517

Constituency	Total (£)
Bracknell	216,006
Bradford North	143,850
Bradford West	351,590
Brent East	859,841
Brent North	31,050
Brent South	122,825
Brentford and Isleworth	2,732,184
Brentwood and Ongar	56,039
Brigg and Goole	20,000
Brighton Kemptown	116,518
Brighton Pavilion	2,063,178
Bristol East	311,881
Bristol South	68,624
Bristol West	3,192,118
Burnley	226,200
Bury North	73,200
Bury St. Edmonds	288,844
Calder Valley	20,000
Calder Valley	33,780
Camberwell and Peckham	379,888
Cambridge	1,389,682
Cambridgeshire North East	100,297
Canterbury	201,614
Charnwood	49,361
Cheltenham	547,762
Chester	348,300
Chesterfield	24,445
Chichester	1,578,356
Chingford and Wood Green	40,000
Cities of London and Westminster	10,207,345
City of Durham	71,727
City of York	966,390
Cleethorpes	21,120
Colchester	1,280,090
Colne Valley	125,050
Copeland	41,100
Corby	30,000
Coventry South	1,722,974
Croydon Central	215,111
Darlington	408,370
Derby North	621,400
Derby South	767,756
Derbyshire South	52,900
Dewsbury	25,020
Doncaster Central	73,910
Dorset North	52,788
Dorset West	63,345
Dudley South	26,394
Dulwich and West Norwood	47,430
Durham North	40,000
Durham North West	20,953
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	1,124,643
Easington	25,483
East Yorkshire	40,000
Eastbourne	175,000
Eastleigh	52,533
Eddisbury	87,400
Edinburgh East	28,505
Edmonton	30,000
Ellesmere Port and Neston	142,600
Erith and Thamesmead	100,000
Exeter	1,014,363
Falmouth and Cambourne	203,444
Finchley and Golders Green	354,899
Folkestone and Hythe	74,581
Forest of Dean	47,509
Gainsborough	47,330
Gloucester	139,571
Grantham and Stamford	60,980
Great Grimsby	46,240
Greenwich and Woolwich	493,935
Guildford	436,026
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	120,270
Hackney South and Shoreditch	4,693,355
Halifax	512,300
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,153,913
Hampstead and Highgate	1,997,238
Harrogate and Knaresborough	428,890
Harrow East	118,271
Harrow West	51,796
Hartlepool	39,019
Hastings and Rye	27,450
Hayes and Harlington	42,621
Hemel Hempstead	24,969
Hendon	65,946
Hereford	252,477
Hexham	449,500
Heywood and Middleton	50,500
High Peak	238,170
Holborn and St. Pancras	5,880,930
Hornchurch	343,121
Hornsey and Wood Green	217,480
Hove	105,576
Huddersfield	601,920
Ipswich	1,322,171
Isle of Wight	79,616
Islington North	1,930,883
Islington South and Finsbury	13,465,970
Keighley	80,850
Kensington and Chelsea	3,054,498
Kingston upon Hull and West Hessle	542,800
Kingston upon Hull North	67,670
Kingswood	105,576
Lancaster and Wyre	1,111,000
Leeds Central	3,256,250
Leeds North East	353,210
Leeds North West	2,723,470
Leeds West	248,200
Leicester East	115,825
Leicester South	2,401,425
Leominster	43,286
Lewes	1,480,120
Lewisham Deptford	937,477
Lewisham West	26,394
Lichfield	33,276
Lincoln	282,994
Liverpool Riverside	7,292,500
Loughborough	169,532
Louth and Horncastle	44,370
Ludlow	246,884
Luton South	464,248
Maidenhead	133,104

Constituency	Total (£)
Maidstone and The Weald	99,136
Manchester Central	8,338,976
Manchester Gorton	128100
Manchester Withington	102,000
Medway	24,957
Middlesbrough	234636
Middlesbrough South and Cleveland East	21,013
Milton Keynes North East	84,557
Montgomeryshire	208,120
Morecambe and Lunesdale	53,600
New Forest West	275,664
Newark	33,090
Newbury	310,621
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central	2,927,177
Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	218,432
Newcastle-under-Lyme	946,915
North Devon	52,788
North Dorset	54,108
North Durham	10,609
North East Hertfordshire	27,080
North East Milton Keynes	371,690
North Shropshire	43,286
North Southwark and Bermondsey	6,596,076
North Thanet	64,834
North West Cambridgeshire	24,958
North West Durham	21,218
North West Leicestershire	52,900
North West Norfolk	21,115
Northampton South	738,905
Norwich South	854,894
Nottingham East	108,715
Nottingham North	319,605
Nottingham South	2,669,186
Oldham East and Saddleworth	472,700
Oldham West and Royton	75,100
Oxford East	1,394,053
Oxford West and Abingdon	389,133
Penrith and the Border	162,900
Peterborough	25,089
Plymouth Devonport	65,457
Plymouth Sutton	4,222,882
Poole	339,080
Poplar and Canning Town	340,475
Portsmouth South	259,840
Preston	101,900
Pudsey	105,020
Putney	174,200
Redcar	29,742
Regent's Park and Kensington North	1,057,645
Richmond	94,550
Richmond Park	361,828
Rochdale	188,600
Rochford and Southend East	75,974
Rossendale and Darwen	155,900
Rushcliffe	79,492
Ryedale	282,545
Salford	1,161,700
Salisbury	1,266,246
Scarborough and Whitby	708, 690

Constituency	Total (£)
Scunthorpe	21,120
Sheffield Central	21,120
Sheffield Brightside	20,000
Sheffield Central	2,400,020
Sheffield Heeley	20,000
Shipley	20,000
Shrewsbury and Atcham	229,211
Skipton and Ripon	20,590
Sleaford and North Hykeham	281,920
Slough	123,345
Somerton and Frome	39,063
South Cambridgeshire	99,015
South Holland and The Deepings	52,280
South Norfolk	160,678
South Shields	123,450
South West Surrey	67,568
Southampton Itchen	297,760
Southampton Test	924,294
Southport	23,900
St. Albans	262,183
St. Helen's South	78,900
St. Ives	208,000
Stockton North	575,000
Stockton South	65,400
Stoke on Trent North	68,624
Stoke on Trent South	27,729
Stratford on Avon	32,465
Streatham	169,716
Stroud	226,988
Suffolk Coastal	1,231,598
Sunderland North	333,073
Surrey South West	77,060
Swindon South	367,271
Taunton	190,036
Teignbridge	84,255
Telford	32,465
Tewkesbury	52,788
Thanet North	400,000
Tiverton and Honiton	27,054
Tooting	639,129
Torridge and West Devon	187,171
Totnes	633,454
Tottenham	39,767
Truro and St. Austell	521,409
Tunbridge Wells	77,644
Twickenham	22,849
Tyne Bridge	7,387,741
Vale of York	50,570
Vauxhall	7,785,376
Wakefield	1,327,400
Walsall South	848,531
Walthamstow	104,099
Wansbeck	46,647
Warwick and Leamington	337,050
Watford	717,651
Weaver Vale	27,200
Wellingborough	41,200
Wells	26,394
Welwyn Hatfield	170,494
West Bromwich East	198,482
West Bromwich West	73,106
West Chelmsford	93,874

Constituency	Total (£)
West Derbyshire	317,521
West Dorset	112,966
West Ham	1,110,753
West Worcestershire	55,460
Westbury	52,788
Westmorland and Lonsdale	561,710
Wiltshire North	42,380
Wimbledon	565,000
Winchester	364,981
Wolverhampton South West	161,583
Witney	66,394
Woking	44,368
Wolverhampton South East	85,410
Wolverhampton South West	94,202
Worcester	172,488
Workington	436,700
Wycombe	22,184
Wyre Forest	62,064
Wythenshawe and Sale East	20,600
Yeovil	228,019
Not attributed to a specific constituency (see notes)	132,524,701
Grand total	324,721,712

Notes:
A number of the Arts Council's regular funding investments are not allocated to a constituency.
1. Investment sums that were not allocated to a specific organisation. These are funds that had been allocated to a specific art form or geographic location (such as Somerset or Cornwall), but where the exact organisation or combination of organisations that will deliver the work are still to be decided.
2. Organisations where the Arts Council's annual investment is above £5 million. The audiences for these organisations come from multiple constituencies, and the economic and artistic impact of these organisations likewise reaches far beyond a single constituency. Many are publicly regarded as "national" organisations.
3. Local authorities. Arts Council's investment in local authorities has an impact across a number of constituencies within each local authority area.

Betting: Enforcement

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the betting industry on plans to re-apportion the costs of policing sports betting; and if he will make a statement. [196335]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had no meetings with the betting industry specifically on this issue.

The Gambling Commission is responsible for regulating betting in Great Britain and in May 2007 they published a consultation on Integrity in Sports Betting. In October 2007 the Commission published responses to this consultation, which broadly concluded that there was not enough evidence of the link between sports betting and integrity issues.

On 18 March 2008, the Association of British Bookmakers (ABB) held a seminar to raise awareness of the betting industry's work in this area and the procedures they have in place to identify and report suspicious betting activity.

The Government favour voluntary arrangements between the sports and betting industries in addressing this issue. However, the Commission continues to gather intelligence on all gambling integrity issues and is keeping the situation under review.

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to change licensing conditions for land-based casinos. [195401]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 March 2008]*: The Secretary of State may attach mandatory and default licence conditions to casino premises licences and may also attach licence conditions to operating licences. Any changes to the current licence conditions would normally be made only after three months consultation and would require approval by Parliament. No such consultation on changes is under way.

In pursuing the three licensing objectives set out in the Gambling Act 2005, the Gambling Commission may also attach licence conditions to operating licences through its Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP). The Gambling Commission is already conducting a review of LCCP and will begin a public consultation on proposed changes in April 2008. The revised version of LCCP will take effect early in 2009.

Cultural Heritage: Heraldry

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to prevent the export of the Dering Roll from the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [195728]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: The application for an export licence for the Dering Roll was recently considered by the Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest. The Committee judged the Dering Roll to be of outstanding historical importance to the UK. They therefore recommended that the export licence be deferred. The Government accepted this recommendation and agreed to defer the licence.

A decision on the granting of the export licence will be deferred until 19 April, with the possibility of an extension to 19 July, during which time it is open to a UK individual or organisation to raise funds to match the recommended price of the Roll (£192,500) and therefore ensure that this item remains in the UK.

Culture

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of local authority (*a*) museums, (*b*) galleries, (*c*) heritage sites, (*d*) archives and (*e*) libraries that (i) have closed since 1997 and (ii) are earmarked for closure in 2008-09. [195393]

Margaret Hodge: Information on local authority museums, galleries, heritage sites, archives and libraries is not held centrally. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on 24 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2174W, in respect of Public Library Statistics.

Any proposed closures in 2008-09 are a matter for the local authority concerned.

Dance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the report of his Department's dance review led by Tony Hall. [195394]

Margaret Hodge: Tony Hall's Dance Review was published on 17 March 2008. In response to the review, Government announced that an investment of £5.5 million would be made to Youth Dance England to improve dance opportunities both in and beyond schools.

Government also committed to establishing six new centres of advanced training for exceptionally talented young people and to piloting dance co-ordinators within the school sport infrastructure to ensure high quality access for all children and young people. Leadership will come in the form of a new Government Dance Review Programme Board which will be tasked with taking forward the recommendations from the review.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192228]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has a zero spend on advertising campaigns to the public between 1997 and 2002. Expenditure in subsequent years is as follows:

	Campaign	*Spend (£)*
2003-04	BBC Charter (press advertising)	20,987
2004-05	BBC Charter (radio advertising)	37,085
2005-06	Licensing (press advertising)	51,028
2006-07	Tourism consultation (press advertising)	4,903
2007-08	Breakout website (web advertising)	7,830

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195872]

Margaret Hodge: The Department will publish its sustainable operations policy statement as part of the Sustainable Development Action Plan due to be produced by early summer.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195825]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The recording of hours worked is a function delegated to line managers and not held centrally by human resources. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which areas of the country have no access to freeview digital television. [196697]

Andy Burnham: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Gambling

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to allow more permitted areas for gambling in the UK. [195405]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* There are no plans to allow more permitted areas.

Gambling: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 149-50W, on television advertising, who is responsible for monitoring the gambling industry's voluntary code; when the code will come into force; whether all gambling industry sectors have agreed to this code; and whether gambling is currently advertised on television before the 9pm watershed. [195008]

Andy Burnham: The gambling industry's voluntary code for socially responsible advertising came into effect on 1 September 2007. The voluntary code is in addition to the Committee of Advertising Practice (CAP) code and the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) code which are regulated by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

There is wide industry support for the voluntary code and most sectors of the gambling industry, including the principal trade bodies for the casino, bingo, betting, gaming machine and remote gambling sectors, have agreed to it. An Industry Review Group, chaired by Business in Sport and Leisure (BiSL), is responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the code and keeping it under review.

The industry's voluntary code includes a 9 pm watershed on all broadcast gambling advertising, with exceptions for bingo and lottery advertisements which before 1 September 2007 were already permitted broadcast

advertising at any time and the advertising of sports betting around televised sporting events.

There has been a high level of compliance with the CAP and BCAP codes and the industry's voluntary code since 1 September 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 3 January, on the security of personal data of British nationals. [191222]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 March 2008]:* We have no record of receipt of such a letter.

Rugby

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many rugby union coaches his Department has recorded as having *(a)* been recruited and *(b)* increased their qualifications in each of the last five years. [196332]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold data on the numbers of coaches recruited/qualified with individual sports governing bodies.

However, the following table details information held by Sport England on the numbers of qualified/active Rugby Football Union coaches between 2005-06 and 2007-08.

Financial year	*Qualified active RFU coaches*
2005-06	22,469
2006-07	28,070
2007-08	[1]29,314

[1] As at June 2007.

DCMS has invested over £60 million into coaching in the five years up to 2008. Part of this funding has enabled us to establish over 3,000 community sports coaches.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have started playing rugby under the Go Play! scheme which his Department funds in each of the last three years. [196333]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Go Play Rugby programme is an initiative of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to recruit adult players.

Since its launch in July 2007, the scheme has successfully recruited over 9,000 new players of which approximately 840 are female.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the Go Play! programme administered by the Rugby Football Union through *(a)* the Exchequer, *(b)* the National Lottery and *(c)* the National Sports Foundation funding. [196334]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Sports Foundation, which is Exchequer funded, has invested £500,000 into the Rugby Football Union's Go Play Rugby programme.

In addition, Sport England provided a lottery grant of £97,400 to support Go Play Rugby in the east midlands.

Sports: Taxation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has had discussions with HM Treasury on a corporation tax exemption for sports national governing bodies in the last two years. [196331]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has regular discussions with HM Treasury about tax proposals for its sectors. In 2008 these have included specific discussions about corporation tax and national governing bodies.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence and Security Committee: Public Appointments

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Prime Minister whether the changes to the Intelligence and Security Committee indicated in the National Security Strategy will include a transfer of power to Parliament to appoint the Committee's membership. [196433]

The Prime Minister: Detailed proposals for the reform of the Intelligence and Security Committee have been published today in the Governance of Britain White Paper (cm7342). These include proposals to enable Parliament to play a fuller role in the appointment of members to the Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Food: Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate he has made of the *(a)* quantity and *(b)* percentage of (i) fruit, (ii) vegetables, (iii) bottled water, (iv) food products, (v) alcoholic drinks and (vi) other food products sourced by the Refreshment Department and its successor from suppliers outside the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [194556]

Nick Harvey: Many fruit and vegetables are purchased by individual piece or bunch, not by weight or any other consistent measure, and so it is not possible to give an overall estimate of the quantity of fruit and vegetables purchased. The following figures are best estimates of product origins in 2007. All suppliers are UK-based.

(i) fruit

108 different fresh fruit products were purchased—total value £95,000.

42 (39 per cent.) were UK products when available and in season (27 (25 per cent.) products came predominantly from local Kent and Sussex farms). The remaining 66 (61 per cent.) items were purchased outside the UK because they were either exotic, tropical or seasonal.

(ii) vegetables

187 different fresh vegetable products were purchased—total value £273,000.

152 (81 per cent.) were UK products when available and in season. The remaining 35 (19 per cent.) items were purchased outside the UK because they were either exotic, unavailable in the UK or seasonal.

(iii) bottled water

All bottled water is purchased within the UK where water is bottled at source—total value £44,500.

(iv) food products and (vi) other food products: fish, meat, poultry

59 different fish products (wet, shelled and cured) were purchased—total value £218,000.

Most fish (39 regular purchases—66 per cent.) originate from the colder local waters of the North sea, Irish sea, English channel and around the Scottish coast. The remainder came from the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans and the Mediterranean sea. Fish is purchased from areas of sustainable stocks.

98 per cent. of meat and poultry purchases—total value £495,000, were certified UK origin.

The provenances of other food products are not available—total spend circa £960,000.

(v) alcoholic drinks

119 alcoholic drinks were purchased—total value £474,000.

Beer and cider: seven beer and ale kegs, six (86 per cent.) from the UK under licence and Guinness from RoI; five bottled beers and ciders—2 (40 per cent.) are produced in the UK.

17 spirits: nine (53 per cent.) are imported;

nine liqueurs: eight (89 per cent.) are imported;

four aperitifs: four (100 per cent.) are imported;

five fortified wines: five (100 per cent.) are imported.

The full wine portfolio (including champagne, sparkling and dessert) is 72 wines, three (4 per cent.) are produced in the UK.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the Corporate Officer of the House of Commons plans to appeal against the decision of the Information Tribunal on 26 February 2008. [194691]

Nick Harvey: The Members Estimate Committee is concerned that the Information Tribunal (in its decision of 26 February in cases 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2005/06) misdirected itself in law in deciding that home addresses of Members of Parliament should always be published subject only to limited exceptions. The House will therefore appeal. A second ground will be that the Information Tribunal paid insufficient attention to the reasonable expectations of Members about disclosure of personal information in the statutory publication scheme. The MEC remains committed to reviewing the allowance system and ensuring that there is probity and transparency.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what payments the House of Commons Commission made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194319]

Nick Harvey: There have been no payments to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months. The most recent payment to MORI was in connection with the feasibility study into the parliamentary visitor centre. This occurred in January 2006 before the 24-month period requested.

Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate he has made of *(a)* the carbon footprint associated with the use of bottled water within the House and *(b)* the likely footprint were only tap water available. [194553]

Nick Harvey: Data are not available on the carbon footprint associated with bottled water supplied to the House. However estimates of the embedded energy of the products, shows *(a)* bottled water having 5,000 Megajoules and *(b)* tap water, 10 Megajoules, per 1,000 litres consumed. For bottled water, most of its embedded energy is in the form of fossil fuel use embodied in the glass and plastic materials and their manufacture and for tap water, most of its embedded energy is in the form of electrical energy which is used to pump the water.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many bottles of water for consumption *(a)* in restaurants and cafeterias and *(b)* elsewhere on the parliamentary estate were purchased by the House in each of the last five years; and what the cost was in each year. [194555]

Nick Harvey: It is not possible to answer this question in the precise terms asked by the hon. Member as water was purchased by the former House of Commons Refreshment Department for sale in all its outlets, not just for consumption in its restaurants and cafeterias. In total, the Refreshment Department purchased bottled water in each of the last five years as follows:

Table (a): Bottled Water Purchases

	Number of bottles				
(a) Refreshment Department outlets	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
330ml bottles	19,176	0	0	0	0
500ml bottles	151,996	159,936	158,712	171,648	164,760

Table (a): Bottled Water Purchases

(a) Refreshment Department outlets	*Number of bottles*				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
750ml bottles	180	16,716	336	0	0
1 Litre bottles	70,941	53,854	47,435	55,608	71,664
Total (Litres)	153,402	146,359	127,043	141,432	154,044
Total cost (£)	[1]58,832	[1]55,895	47,820	53,188	53,100

[1] Including committee rooms.

The figures for 2002-03 and 2003-04 in table (a) include water issued by the Refreshment Department to the former Serjeant at Arms' Department for use in the committee rooms, as no record of the quantities transferred is available for these two years. Figures for the last three years exclude water supplied to the Serjeant at Arms' Department for use in the committee rooms, as this consumption is listed separately in table (b) as follows.

It should also be noted that the figures in table (a) include water sold to meetings and conferences held on the first floor of Portcullis House, which was supplied by the Refreshment Department. No separate figure is available for this consumption.

In addition to water supplied to the committee rooms by the Serjeant at Arms' Department, a number of House of Commons departments purchased bottled water for dispensers located in staff offices and communal areas. The number of bottles purchased for offices has been estimated on the basis of the annual expenditure cost, taking an average unit price to calculate the approximate number of bottles.

Table (b): Bottled Water Purchases

(b) Other areas	*Number of bottles*				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Committee Rooms: 1 Litre bottles	[1]—	[1]—	32,432	23,557	33,502
Cost (£)	—	—	12,000	8,716	12,395
Offices: 18.5 Litre bottles (estimated)	n/a	430	620	507	581
Cost (£)	—	5,165	7,449	6,095	6,988
Total cost (£)	n/a	[2]5,165	15,806	14,811	19,383

[1] Included in table (a).
[2] Plus committee rooms.

The figures quoted in the table exclude any purchases of bottled water made by the House of Lords for consumption on the parliamentary estate.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many bottles of water were purchased by Departments of the House for consumption other than in restaurants and cafeterias in the last 12 months; what the cost was; and if the Commission will make it their policy to replace bottled water with tap water in *(a)* Westminster Hall, *(b)* committee rooms and *(c)* other meeting rooms. [194559]

Nick Harvey: In the last complete financial year, 2006-07, approximately 44,250 litres of water (33,502 x one litre bottles and 581 x 18.5 litre bottles) were purchased by the House for consumption other than in restaurants and cafeterias, at a cost of £19,383. The Administration Committee last considered the issue of the provision of drinking water in Committee and meeting rooms on 13 March 2007 and agreed to recommend that the current practice of supplying bottled mineral water to Committee rooms should continue. I understand that the Department of Facilities is re-examining the issue with the intention of offering further advice to the Committee.

TRANSPORT

A358: M5

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department and its agencies have had with representatives from Somerset county council to discuss the proposed loop road to link the A358 and the M5 at Blackbrook; [193977]

(2) when her Department or its agencies first discussed the proposed loop road between the A358 and the M5 at Blackbrook with Somerset county council; [193978]

(3) when she expects work to commence on the loop road joining the A358 and M5 at Blackbrook. [193979]

Mr. Tom Harris: Highways Agency records show that between December 2005 and March 2007 agency officials met with representatives of Somerset county council on at least nine occasions at regular intervals to discuss progress with the general design and layout of the A303/A358 South Petherton to Taunton M5 scheme.

The loop road at Blackbrook was first identified as an option for the M5 northbound off-slip by the Highways Agency in February 2006 and discussed with Somerset county officials early in the summer of 2006.

Work on the scheme is currently on hold while my Department and the South West region discuss the implications of the recent Stonehenge announcement for the wider strategy for improving the A303/A358 corridor to the M5 at Taunton. It is too early to say what the outcome of these discussions will be.

A47

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any proposals for sound attenuation in respect of traffic and carriageway noise on the A47 in the Peterborough area exist; and if she will make a statement. [196340]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are currently no specific plans for sound attenuation in respect of traffic and carriageway noise on the A47 in the Peterborough area. However, resurfacing of sections of the A47 in the Peterborough area are planned for 2008-09, and low noise surfacing material will be used.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Highways Agency intends to utilise whisper quiet sound attenuation technology as part of resurfacing in respect of *(a)* its planned maintenance programme and *(b)* any discrete projects, on the A47 in the Peterborough area; and if she will make a statement. [196341]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since 1999, it has been the Highways Agency's policy to use low-noise surfacing materials for all new roads and when resurfacing existing roads.

Planned re-surfacing works for 2008-09 include sections of the A47 between J16-J15 west-bound and sections of the A47 from J15 west-bound towards Castor.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent measurements of sound levels from traffic noise and carriageway have been undertaken on the A47 by the Highways Agency between Milton Park and Eye in the Peterborough area; and if she will make a statement. [196342]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has not recently undertaken any measurements of noise levels between Milton Park and Eye in the Peterborough area.

After local complaints a study was undertaken by Peterborough city council in 2005 near the A47 Trunk Road. This was deemed to be unsuitable by the Agency as it omitted certain essential information for determining its status as a Hazard site.

In October/November 2005, the Highways Agency's Managing Agent took noise readings at Eye on the A47. This section of the A47 in Peterborough was identified due to a number of complaints of excessive traffic noise received from the local residents associations. A roadside decibel level of 79.12 was recorded. This location therefore did not meet the required roadside decibel threshold of 80, and no further study work was undertaken.

Aviation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at how many international airports in the UK Boeing 747 aeroplanes may not land due to the length of the runway. [196170]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority, as the UK's independent aviation regulator. I have asked the chairman to write to the hon. Member.

Bus Services: Contracts

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans she has to alter the tendering process for bus-operated rail replacement services; [193983]

(2) whether she has received complaints from bus operators on the tendering process for rail replacement bus contracts. [193984]

(3) how much Network Rail has spent on rail replacement bus services in each of the last five years; [193985]

(4) how many train operating companies *(a)* own and *(b)* are owned by a bus operating company; [193986]

(5) how many train operating companies share a parent company with a bus operating company; [193987]

(6) what recent meetings she has had to discuss the tendering process for rail replacement bus contracts. [193988]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department of Transport does not have any role in specifying the tendering process for bus-operated rail replacement rail services. Train operators are responsible for securing alternatives for rail services, should it not be possible to operate the specified rail service in full.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many journeys were taken on Eurostar by staff of her Department in each of the last three years. [194970]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 43-4W, on departmental telephone services, which of the telephone numbers used by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency are premium rate; and how much has been raised in respect of calls to these lines in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [196729]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) offers Premium Rate Driving Licence check and vehicle check telephone service to verify driver and vehicle details and an additional Date of

Liability line which provides information on the expiry of the current tax disc. Calls to these services are charged at 49p per minute.

The vehicle check service is now offered via the web free of charge and call volumes have dropped by 90 per cent. over the last 18 months. DVLA is looking to pilot a web service for the driving licence check later this year.

Income for the first 11 months of 2007-08 is £611,702.53.

Great Western Trains

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 26 February 2008, on First Great Western, (1) on what dates First Great Western are required *(a)* to present their Remedial Plan to her Department and *(b)* to publish their Remedial Plan; [191712]

(2) how long her Department has been working on the Remedial Plan with First Great Western. [191713]

Mr. Tom Harris: Prior to 26 February, the Department had been discussing the contents of a possible Remedial Plan to be issued by First Great Western in response to the Remedial Plan Notice.

The Department for Transport has been discussing the Remedial Plan itself with First Great Western since 28 February 2008, which is the date on which First Great Western was required to submit the Remedial Plan to the Department for Transport. First Great Western is not required to publish the Remedial Plan.

The Remedial Plan is contractualised as a Remedial Agreement, which will be incorporated into the First Great Western franchise agreement. The amended franchise agreement will be available through the Department for Transport's Public Register.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 73-4WS, on First Great Western franchise, (1) if she will put a copy of First Great Western's Remedial Plan in the Library, once it is agreed; [191742]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* all First Great Western's monthly reports to her Department and *(b)* her Department's assessment of their progress against their Joint Improvement Plan and 40-point Recovery Plan. [191748]

Mr. Tom Harris: These documents are commercially confidential. However, the Remedial Plan is contractualised as a Remedial Agreement, which will be incorporated into the First Great Western franchise agreement. The amended franchise agreement will be available through the Department for Transport's Public Register.

Motorcycles

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcycles of 50cc or under are being used on roads; and what the trend has been in use of these vehicles over the last five years. [196080]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of licensed motorcycles of 50cc or under in Great Britain over the last five years were as follows:

Year end	*Number of licensed motorcycles of 50cc or under (Thousand)*
2002	166
2003	170
2004	172
2005	163
2006	154

Motorcycles: Accidents

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents there have been involving 16-year-olds driving 50 cc or under motorcycles in each of the last five years. [196079]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one 16-year-old driving a 50 cc or under motorcycle, in 2002 to 2006, are shown in the table.

	Number of accidents
2002	1,783
2003	1,876
2004	1,997
2005	1,953
2006	1,947

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what responsibilities *(a)* her Department and *(b)* Network Rail has for (i) train path allocations and (ii) network growth. [191813]

Mr. Tom Harris: Train path allocations are commercial agreements between Network Rail and the train operators, which are independently regulated by the Office of Rail Regulation.

The Government have set out both the growth they wish to see on the network during the five year review period 2009-10 to 2013-14, and the funds available to pay for meeting that demand. Network Rail and the train operators are developing the detail of how to implement this, subject to independent evaluation by the Office of Rail Regulation.

Railways: Land

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1438W, on railway track, what consultations her Department held with BRB (Residuary) Ltd before a sale was agreed for each of the areas of land indicated in the answer. [193981]

Mr. Tom Harris: Prior to disposing of any land in its ownership, BRB (Residuary) Ltd. consults with interested parties, including the Department for Transport in accordance with the guidance that I issued to them in July 2007. Details of that guidance are outlined in my

statement to the House of 26 July 2007 and are available in the Library of the House and on BRB(R)'s website at:

www.brbr.gov.uk

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment her Department has made of the impact on road maintenance costs of allowing heavy goods vehicles weighing up to 60 tonnes; and if she will make a statement; [190566]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the impact on safety of other road users of allowing heavy goods vehicles weighing up to 60 tonnes on the roads; and if she will make a statement. [190567]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The impact of such vehicles on safety and road infrastructure is being considered in a study, the report of which should be published in full shortly.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency spent on safety improvements in each year since 2001, broken down by county; and what the Agency's safety improvement budget is for each of the next three years, broken down by county. [195425]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Agency cannot identify all monies spent on safety improvements without incurring disproportionate costs to obtain this information.

Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many useable carriages and units she estimates are held in sidings or depots. [195237]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is a matter for the rolling stock companies who own the trains, though the Department for Transport is not aware of any substantial quantity of usable rolling stock held off-lease.

Trains

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2758W, on Intercity Express: consultants, what *(a)* benefits and *(b)* value for money gains she expects to arise as a result of her Department's detailed involvement in the specification process. [194550]

Mr. Tom Harris: There is a good business case for the introduction of the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) train on the network's main intercity routes.

The Intercity Express programme offers better value for money than would otherwise be available from continuing with the current mix of trains, or from pursuing other train options.

Depending on the total number of routes chosen for deployment, and the tenders from the market, the benefits of the Intercity Express Programme are expected to exceed costs by around £3 billion over the life of the train.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Finance

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what method is used for calculating the funding for academies. [196260]

Jim Knight: The principle followed is that an academy should be funded at the same level as a maintained school in the same circumstances, so far as circumstances allow. Therefore the largest component of an Academy's General Annual Grant (GAG), the school budget share, is calculated using the relevant local authority's school funding formula, together with the Learning and Skills Council's formula for sixth form provision. Other grants such as School Standards Grant and specialist school funding for which there is a national formula are calculated on the same basis as for maintained schools. Academies have certain additional grants to recognise additional responsibilities. They cannot reclaim value added tax, so a VAT grant is paid; and they also receive a grant based on the local authority's spend per pupil on central services. Start-up grants are also payable in the period after opening, to support the educational transformation required of an academy.

Children in Care: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in care obtained A* to C GCSE grades in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics in each of the last 10 years. [195965]

Kevin Brennan: We do not collect information about the numbers of looked after children who achieve A*-C GCSE grades in English or mathematics separately. However, these data are available at a local level enabling local authorities to set targets for the attainment of looked after children at key stage 4 which include English and mathematics. These targets are negotiated with the National Strategies and Government offices and form a statutory part of a local authority's local area agreement.

As our Care Matters programme demonstrates we are committed to improving the education of looked after children. At national level the DCSF is matching data on looked after children to the National Pupil Database (NPD), which provides a wide range of data on the educational attainment of children and young people. From 2009 an initial analysis of looked after children to attainment data along with a range of other data will be available, including English and mathematics at GCSE.

Data collected since 2000 and published in 'Outcome indicators for looked after children twelve months to 30 September', show the percentage of children who were looked after for at least 12 months achieving five GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A*-C. Data for England are shown in the following table.

Number and percentage of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months in year 11 who achieved five A- C GCSE grades (or equivalent)[1], 12 months ending 30 September 2000-06, England*

	Number	Percentage[2]
2000	300	7.3
2001	330	8.0
2002	320	7.5
2003	400	8.7
2004	450	9.4
2005	510	10.8
2006	600	11.8

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Expressed as a percentage of all looked after children in Year 11.
Source:
OC2 Survey

Children in Care: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care were permanently excluded from school in each of the last 10 years. [195967]

Kevin Brennan: Data collected since 2000 and published in 'Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children Twelve Months to 30 September', show the number and percentage of children who were looked after for at least 12 months and who were permanently excluded from school. Data for England are shown in the table. Information prior to 2000 was not collected.

Number and percentage of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months who have been permanently excluded[1, 2], England

12 months ending 30 September 2000 to 2006	Number	Percentage
2000	500	1.5
2001	450	1.3
2002	420	1.2
2003	380	1.1
2004	320	0.9
2005	310	0.9
2006	280	0.8

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] If a child was permanently excluded more than once in the previous year, each occasion has been counted.
[3] Expressed as a percentage of the number eligible for full-time schooling.
Source:
OC2 Survey.

Latest statutory guidance on exclusions advises that looked after children should be excluded from school only as a last resort and that schools in conjunction with the local authority should first consider alternative options for supporting the child or young person. Local authorities are under a duty to arrange suitable full-time education from the sixth day of exclusion for all permanently excluded children. The guidance makes clear the Government's view that for looked after children alternative provision should be arranged from the first day of exclusion.

Children: Population

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children *(a)* under 12, *(b)* under 10 and *(c)* under seven years were living in the UK in each year since 1997, broken down by region; and what forecast he has made of the numbers in each group living in the UK in each year to 2011, broken down by region. [176689]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many children (a) under 12, (b) under 10 and (c) under seven years were living in the UK in each year since 1997, broken down by region; and what forecast have been made of the numbers in each group living in the UK in each year to 2011, broken down by region. (176689)

Table 1 shows population estimates for the requested age groups for each Government Office Region within England and for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland for the years 1997-2006. The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006.

Table 2 shows the latest (2006-based) national population projections for the requested age groups for the UK and constituent countries for the years 2007-2011.

Table 3 shows the 2004-based subnational population projections for the requested age groups for each Government Office Region within England for the years 2007-2011. Please note that they are not directly comparable with the latest (2006-based) national projections. 2006-based subnational projections are due to be published in June 2008.

Table 1: Mid-year population estimates by UK country and government office region, 1997-2006

Thousand

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
(a) Children aged 0-11										
United Kingdom	9,096	9,058	9,010	8,904	8,787	8,679	8,578	8,505	8,464	8,445
England	7,583	7,561	7,531	7,450	7,356	7,271	7,192	7,136	7,107	7,096
North-east	395	388	380	373	366	359	352	345	341	338
North-West	1,085	1,073	1,059	1,041	1,023	1,004	987	972	962	956
Yorkshire and the Humber	785	779	771	759	749	738	727	720	716	712
East midlands	636	633	632	625	618	612	604	599	595	593

Table 1: Mid-year population estimates by UK country and government office region, 1997-2006

Thousand

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
West midlands	843	838	831	820	808	797	786	779	776	773
East	814	816	820	815	807	801	797	794	793	792
London	1,129	1,138	1,133	1,123	1,109	1,102	1,098	1,095	1,101	1,110
South-east	1,196	1,197	1,204	1,197	1,187	1,175	1,165	1,159	1,155	1,155
South-west	700	700	701	696	690	682	677	672	669	666
Wales	448	445	441	436	431	424	418	413	408	405
Scotland	757	748	738	724	711	698	685	677	671	666
Northern Ireland	307	304	300	295	290	286	282	279	278	278
(b) Children aged 0-9										
United Kingdom	7,583	7,516	7,457	7,355	7,217	7,103	7,036	6,999	6,984	6,986
England	6,332	6,282	6,239	6,158	6,045	5,956	5,906	5,880	5,871	5,877
North-east	326	319	313	306	298	290	285	281	279	278
North-west	901	886	872	855	834	814	803	795	791	789
Yorkshire and the Humber	653	645	637	625	612	601	594	591	589	587
East midlands	529	524	521	514	504	498	493	490	488	488
West midlands	701	694	687	675	661	650	645	641	641	640
East	681	678	680	675	665	658	655	654	654	654
London	959	961	955	945	931	924	922	924	932	942
South-east	1,001	997	999	991	977	963	956	953	951	954
South-west	582	578	576	571	563	557	553	550	547	546
Wales	371	367	363	358	352	345	340	337	334	332
Scotland	626	617	609	597	582	568	558	553	550	548
Northern Ireland	253	250	246	243	238	234	232	229	229	229
(c) Children aged 0-6										
United Kingdom	5,258	5,179	5,107	5,027	4,935	4,871	4,831	4,807	4,810	4,840
England	4,396	4,333	4,277	4,216	4,140	4,090	4,062	4,046	4,053	4,083
North-east	224	218	211	205	200	196	193	191	190	191
North-west	619	604	588	576	563	554	548	543	543	545
Yorkshire and the Humber	451	442	433	424	416	410	405	403	403	405
East midlands	365	357	353	348	342	338	335	334	334	336
West midlands	484	475	467	460	451	446	443	440	441	443
East	473	469	468	464	456	451	449	448	449	451
London	686	685	678	670	660	659	659	661	670	684
South-east	695	689	687	680	669	659	655	654	653	657
South-west	399	395	393	389	384	378	375	373	371	371
Wales	255	250	246	242	239	234	231	228	226	226
Scotland	434	425	415	404	393	385	379	376	375	375
Northern Ireland	174	171	169	166	163	161	159	156	156	157

Note:
Figures may not add due to rounding.
Sources:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Table 2: 2006-based national mid-year population projections for UK countries 2007-11

Thousand

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
(a) Children aged 0-11					
United Kingdom	8,482	8,529	8,581	8,662	8,761
England	7,136	7,184	7,239	7,317	7,411
Wales	403	403	402	403	406
Scotland	665	664	663	663	665
Northern Ireland	278	278	278	279	280
(b) Children aged 0-9					
United Kingdom	7,022	7,082	7,166	7,279	7,413
England	5,916	5,975	6,055	6,160	6,283
Wales	330	330	332	335	339
Scotland	547	547	548	552	557
Northern Ireland	229	229	230	232	235
(c) Children aged 0-6					
United Kingdom	4,928	5,036	5,155	5,264	5,354
England	4,164	4,262	4,369	4,466	4,547
Wales	227	230	234	239	242
Scotland	379	383	389	394	397
Northern Ireland	159	161	163	166	168

Note:
Figures may not add due to rounding
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 3: 2004-based subnational mid-year population projections by English regions 2007-11

Thousand

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
(a) Children aged 0-11					
North-east	334	331	328	326	325
North-west	952	948	941	939	938
Yorkshire and the Humber	711	709	707	707	708
East midlands	594	593	591	591	591
West midlands	770	768	764	762	762
East	794	794	793	793	795
London	1,112	1,117	1,120	1,126	1,133
South-east	1,149	1,146	1,143	1,141	1,141
South-west	664	662	658	656	654
(b) Children aged 0-9					
North-east	274	272	271	271	271
North-west	783	781	780	780	784
Yorkshire and the Humber	586	585	586	589	594
East midlands	488	488	488	490	493
West midlands	636	634	634	635	638
East	655	655	656	660	664
London	942	947	955	964	975
South-east	948	946	945	947	951
South-west	543	541	539	539	541
(c) Children aged 0-6					
North-east	190	190	191	191	190
North-west	545	548	551	552	550
Yorkshire and the Humber	408	412	416	419	419
East midlands	338	340	343	345	345
West midlands	443	446	449	450	449
East	455	459	463	465	466
London	687	698	706	711	712
South-east	657	660	665	668	667

Table 3 2004-based subnational mid-year population projections by English regions 2007-11

Thousand

	2007	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
South-west	371	372	375	376	376

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Children's Fund

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what projects are funded by the Children's Fund. [186753]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect this level of information centrally. Day to day management of the fund rests with the 149 Children's Fund Partnerships.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [193434]

Kevin Brennan: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193525]

Kevin Brennan: The Information is not available in the form requested and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I can, however, confirm that the total cost of overnight accommodation for my Department and the Department of Innovation and Skills (DIUS) in the last 12 months is £981,189. This is made up of:

£970,208 mainland Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

£264 Republic of Ireland; and

£10,617 other countries.

Departmental Property

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what property was lost or stolen from his Department and its predecessor since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187475]

Kevin Brennan: The information you require is as follows:

Item	*Number*	*Total approximate value (£)*
2007/08		
Blackberry	6	1,320
Laptop PC	12	9,600
Mobile Telephone	2	80
2006/07		
Sat Nav system	1 (stolen from a van)	342.98
Laptop PC	9	7,200
PDA	1	180
Blackberry	3	480
Mobile Telephone	1	40
Laptop Power Cable	1	25
2005/06		
Conference Telephone	1	240
Official Car	1 (stolen and crashed)	22,550.46
Laptop PC	19	15,200
PC Base Unit	1	600
Mobile Telephone	3	120
2004/05		
Digital camera	1	300
Projector	1	700
Laptop PC	37	49,083.46
Wireless Router	1	100
PDA	3	350
PC Base unit	3	1,800
Mobile Telephone	6	200
Scanner Cable	1	20
2003/04		
Data Projector	2	5,520
Laptop PC	8	10,621.64
Digital Voice Recorder	1	100
Desk Telephone	1	113.40
PC Chips	94	2,820
Mobile Telephone	7	640
Wall Clock	1	10
PC Carrying Case	51	5
2002/03		
Mobile Telephone	4	410
Digital Camera	1	200
Headphones	1	10
2001/02		
Video Telephone	1	200
Laptop PC	3	3,000
Mobile Telephone	2	200
Chair	1	80
Telephone Charger	1	25
Dictaphone	1	40

Item	Number	Total approximate value (£)
2000/01		
Laptop PC	2	2,000
Palm Pilot PG	1	300
Nokia WAP Telephone	1	200
Mobile Telephone and Charger	1	100
1999/2000		
Laptop PC	5	5,000
Palmtop PC	1	250
PC Processing Unit	2	2,000
Mobile Telephone	1	60
1998/99		
Laptop PC	7	7,000
Palmtop PC	1	250
PC Chips	From 205 PCs	86,831
1997/98		
Laptop PC	5	5,000
Printer	2	600
PC Chips	4	500
PC Hard Drive	1	900
IT Kit	13	13,455
Power Drill	2	200
CCTV Camera	1	1,000
Mobile Telephone	1	200

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of his Department's expenditure was allocated to Government growth areas in the last year for which figures are available. [190956]

Kevin Brennan: The four growth areas identified by the Government are made up of district and borough councils. We do not allocate funding directly to this level. Funding is allocated to local authorities who have education and children service responsibilities.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on travel (*a*) within and (*b*) outside the UK for officials in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of his Department's overall expenditure was spent on such travel in each such year. [181521]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows:

	Spend for travel outside UK (£)	Spend for travel within UK (£)	Percentage of overall departmental spend
2003-04	197,297	5,561,184	0.023
2004-05	167,675	5,444,822	0.021
2005-06	251,630	5,109,929	0.019
2006-07	251,328	5,864,827	0.089

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many claims for discrimination, based on (*a*) sex, (*b*) race and (*c*) sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and its predecessor and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194975]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows:

	Sex	Race	Sexual orientation	Settled in court	Settled out of court
2003	0	0	0	0	0
2004	2	0	0	0	2
2005	2	2	0	1	3
2006	1	0	0	0	1
2007	0	0	0	0	0

Educational Visits

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of A-level biology students were not offered the opportunity to conduct course-related fieldwork in the school year 1995-96; [189207]

(2) what percentage of GCSE science students took a residential field trip in the school year 1995-96. [189208]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect this information broken down by subject and qualification.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 853W.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which maintained

mainstream schools fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five A*-C GCSEs including English and mathematics in the latest period for which figures are available. [195305]

Jim Knight: This information can be found in the key stage 4 achievement and attainment tables which have been placed in the House Library.

Health Education: Sex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of sex education in England; and if he will make a statement. [195969]

Jim Knight: The Department has not made an assessment of the effectiveness of sex education in England. However, as part of the Children's Plan we have given a commitment to review best practice in effective sex and relationship (SRE) and how it is delivered in schools. We have listened to young people and recognise that many feel that they do not currently have the knowledge they need to make safe and responsible choices about relationships and sexual health. The review is being overseen by the SRE Review Steering Group which I co-chair alongside a member of the UK Youth Parliament and a member of the National Council for Educational Excellence. We are involving young people fully in the review to make sure that future SRE better their needs.

Local Education Authorities: Finance

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent calculating the funding allocations to each local education authority in 2007-08. [195259]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold the information requested.

National Programme for Specialist Leaders of Behaviour and Attendance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on the National Programme for Specialist Leaders of Behaviour and Attendance since its inception; and how many teachers have been enrolled on the programme. [195970]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has spent about £6 million on the National Programme for Specialist Leaders of Behaviour and Attendance since its development in 2005. A total of 3,877 teachers and other staff have enrolled on the programme to date.

Physical Education: Standards

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance provided to school sports partnerships on what constitutes high quality physical education and sport; [195431]

(2) what definition of high quality physical education and sport he uses in relation to schoolchildren; [195432]

(3) what percentage of schoolchildren participate in two hours of sport during curriculum time; [195383]

(4) what the average time spent by schoolchildren on sport during curriculum time was in each of the last five years. [195384]

Kevin Brennan: The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and school sport. Over the last four years, pupils in School Sport Partnership schools spent the following average curriculum times on PE in a typical week:

	minutes
2003/04	103
2004/05	107
2005/06	111
2006/07	115

In 2006/07, 70 per cent. of the pupils received two hours of curriculum PE in a typical week.

The annual PE and School Sport Survey is accompanied by guidance to support the completion of the questionnaire. The definition of high quality PE and out of hours school sport is:

> this produces young people with the skills, understanding, desire and commitment to continue to improve and achieve in a range of PE, sport and health-enhancing physical activities, in line with their abilities, as set out in the 'High Quality PE and Sport for Young People' guide

Copies of the guide 'High Quality PE and Sport for Young People' have been placed in the House Libraries.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies were in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189656]

Kevin Brennan: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department for Children Schools and Families was established in June 2007. We are therefore unable to provide costs prior to April 2007. Information for the current financial year is not yet available.

(b) The Department does not have any agencies.

(c) We do not hold costs for our non-departmental public bodies.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were excluded from school in each of the last five years. [195428]

Kevin Brennan: The available information can be found in Tables 1 and 2 in the Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England 2005/06 have been placed in the House Libraries.

SFR on the Departments website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/SFR21-2007.pdf

The fixed period exclusion figures were only collected from 2003/04.

Redundancy: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 381W, on redundancy pay, how much was spent by his Department on voluntary redundancy payments in the last 12 months prior to 30 June. [166284]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested can only be provided in financial years. The total cost of voluntary early release payments for the former Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in the last financial year is as follows:

Financial year	*Total cost to DfES (£ million)*
2006-07	10.553

The former DfES commitment for voluntary early releases in the 2007-08 financial year was £2.591 million.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will amend the Schools Admissions Code to limit more explicitly its religious content of admissions criteria. [195767]

Jim Knight: As announced in the Children's Plan in December 2007, we are reviewing the school application and allocation process and are considering how admissions should be managed as part of that review. We will consult on a range of proposals as a result of this review to further strengthen the admissions system in the summer.

All admission authorities, including those for maintained faith schools, have to act in accordance with the School Admissions Code and admissions legislation, to ensure fair access for all. Every school must consider all applications and ensure that families are not discouraged from applying.

Schools: Crime

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect of crime levels in schools on the decisions prospective students make in determining which school they will attend. [195674]

Kevin Brennan: Recent research published by Sheffield Hallam University on secondary school admissions in 2006 (Research Report DCSF-RR020) which included a survey of parents' experiences with the admissions system, indicated that common reasons for parents favouring their preferred secondary school included that the school has a good reputation in the community (40 per cent.) and that the school has good discipline/behaviour (19 per cent.). Reasons for parents not applying to their nearest maintained school included that the school has a poor reputation in the community (38 per cent.) and that the school has a problem with behaviour/discipline (21 per cent.). Both of these reasons could be linked to parents' fears about crime, but we have no direct evidence for this. As the Practitioners' Group on School Behaviour and Discipline has noted, incidents of the most serious misbehaviour in schools remain rare and are carried out by a very small proportion of pupils.

Schools: Culture

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours of cultural activity a week are planned to be offered to schoolchildren in school hours. [195802]

Jim Knight: The "Find Your Talent" programme will trial different ways of offering children a range of high quality cultural experiences, including ways of ensuring that all children are able to experience at least five hours a week of cultural activities in and out of school, and provided by a range of partners in addition to schools.

There is already much cultural activity taking place and the pilots will build on this. Rather than identifying one particular model, the pilots will test a variety of approaches to a cultural offer over the next three years.

Schools: Sports

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which projects have received funding from the Sports Champions Mentoring Programme; and what criteria are being used to assess the effectiveness of this programme. [173851]

Kevin Brennan: The information is as follows:

Sporting Champions

Sport England provides £300,000 per year to fund "Sporting Champions" an initiative which brings world-class athletes face to face with young people to inspire and motivate them to participate in sport.

The scheme provides around 450 visits per year to community organisations and schools free of charge.

Evaluation for this work is undertaken by the Sporting Champion and the host organisation after each visit. Longer term impact studies are also undertaken with a sample of visits.

Respect Athlete Mentoring Programme

Between 2005/06 and 2007/08 the Department for Culture Media and Sport has provided over £650,000 to fund the Respect Athlete Mentoring Programme (RAMP). The programme is delivered jointly by Sport England (through its delivery agent, Creating Excellence) and the Youth Sport Trust.

RAMP uses elite sports people to mentor young people within deprived areas who are at risk of social exclusion.

The project uses a computer-based data collection programme to collect a range of statistics about the behaviours and attitudes of the young people involved. This is backed up by continuous dialogue and feedback from the mentor.

Secondary Education: Teachers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of secondary school teachers of *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biology, *(d)* mathematics, *(e)* history and *(g)* modern languages who qualified in each year since 1992 are teaching full-time. [195920]

Jim Knight: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding will be provided to secondary schools to introduce small group tuition. [180466]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to every child having access to personalised learning support to ensure every child achieves their potential It is for schools to decide how best to support the progression of their pupils, including the use of small group tuition as part of this. This is why we have given schools the support as well as flexibility of funding to enable these decisions to be taken by school in line with the needs of their pupils. As part of personalising learning for children and young people, the Government are encouraging schools to consider the opportunities to children beyond the school day, and in particular through extended schools. The extended school core offer includes a varied menu of activities for children and young people, with study support as part of this. The Government have committed over £1.3 billion over the next three years to support the development of extended schools, and included in this is funding to support small group tuition in some secondary schools, with funding for this becoming available in 2009-10.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children *(a)* were classified as having special educational needs, *(b)* were given a statement of special educational needs and *(c)* were classified as having emotional and behavioural difficulties, in each of the last 10 years. [195960]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils with special educational needs in the last five years in all schools can be found in table 1a (with statements) and 1b (without statements) of the Statistical First Release 'Special Educational Needs in England, January 2007' available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml.

Further information on earlier years can be found in table 1a and 1b of the Statistical Bulletin 'Special Education Needs In England, January 2002', available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000367/index.shtml.

The number of maintained mainstream school pupils for whom statements were newly made for the years 1997 to 2006 can be found in the following table.

Year	Number of children for whom statements were newly made	Placement in maintained mainstream schools[1,2]	
		Number	Percentage
2006	22,600	15,660	69.3
2005	24,040	17,380	72.3
2004	25,990	19,050	73.3
2003	28,780	21,330	74.1
2002	30,720	23,350	76.0
2001	32,470	24,790	76.3
2000	33,750	25,510	75.6
1999	35,420	26,330	74.3
1998	36,180	26,780	74.0
1997	35,650	25,140	70.5

[1] Includes resourced provision/units/special classes in maintained mainstream schools.
[2] Includes SEN units in maintained mainstream schools.
Source:
SEN 2 Survey

The number and percentage (from those at School Action Plus or with a statement of SEN) of pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools and all special schools classified as behavioural, emotional and social difficulties as a primary need from 2004-07 can be found in the following table.

	Total	
	Number	Percentage of those at School Action Plus or with a statement of SEN
2007	139,310	22.2
2006	134,800	21.9
2005	128,130	21.4
2004	126,890	21.6

Source:
School Census

Data on type of need were not collected prior to 2004.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what objectives have been set for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust; what the Trust's costs were in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available; and what proportion of these costs were funded *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly by his Department. [195651]

Jim Knight: The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust is an independent, charitable organisation, which receives income from different sources. Details of its costs, and the amount of Government funding paid, can be found in its annual accounts.

The DCSF funds SSAT through a range of grants and contracts to support the Specialist Schools and Academies programmes and a range of other activities designed to raise pupil achievement. Each programme has separately agreed outcomes, negotiated over varying time-frames, which are subject to appropriate reporting and monitoring procedures. Within each grant and

contract funded by the Department, a proportion of funding will cover the associated direct and indirect delivery costs, as appropriate for each programme

Teachers TV: Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on Teachers TV in each year since its introduction. [195800]

Kevin Brennan: Teachers' TV was launched in February 2005 and aims to help raise standards in classrooms by sharing good practice, supporting continuing professional development, offering classroom resources, and providing education news and information.

In the channel's first operating year the Department provided funding of £19.9 million, in the second £16 million and £16.7 million in its third year.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training is provided to teachers involved in providing physical education to schoolchildren. [195429]

Kevin Brennan: All teacher trainees for the primary phase learn about PE as part of their initial training. For secondary, teacher trainees who specialise in PE will learn about PE as a major part of their training programme. For experienced teachers, the Training and Development Agency for Schools has a remit to support their continuing professional development Funding for this area is devolved to schools, which are best placed to decide what activities meet the needs of the school and the individual teachers working there. Additional support is available through the PE and School Sport Professional Development Programme which allows schools to draw, free of charge from a menu of resources to help teachers raise the quality of the PE and school sport they provide.

Truancy

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance is issued to schools on the removal of pupils from school rolls after a period of unauthorised absence; and if he will make a statement; [192925]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils were removed from school rolls after a period of unauthorised absence in each education authority area in each of the last five years; [192926]

(3) on how many occasions school pupils were removed from school rolls with no contact having been made with the pupil's parents or carers in each of the last five years; [192927]

(4) on how many occasions in each local education authority area the police were notified by schools or local education authorities of the non-appearance of an enrolled pupil in each of the last five years; [192928]

(5) on how many occasions in each local education authority area schools have notified a social services department of the non-appearance of an enrolled pupil in each of the last five years. [192929]

Kevin Brennan: Schools' authority to remove pupils from the register is prescribed by the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1751) and we have also provided guidance in "Keeping Pupil Registers". Under the regulations, schools can delete a pupil only after a period of unauthorised absence if they and their local authority have failed, after reasonable inquiry, to ascertain where the pupil is.

The regulations require all schools to inform their local authority of any pupil who has amassed 10 continuous school days of unauthorised absence following extended leave, typically a family holiday. Maintained schools must inform their local authority of any pupil who has amassed 20 continuous school days of unauthorised absence at any time. The regulations also require schools to inform their local authority of any deletion when the name of the pupil's new school is unknown. "Keeping Pupil Registers" has references and electronic links to guidance on other areas such as forced marriages and children missing from education. We would always expect schools to take action where they are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child; and to involve other agencies—local authority children's social care, and the police—as appropriate, in line with locally agreed safeguarding procedures.

The statistical information requested is not available centrally.

Young People: Population

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* 16-year-olds and *(b)* 18-year-olds are projected to be living in the UK in each year until 2018. [173207]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding the number of *(a)* 16-year-olds and *(b)* 18-year-olds projected to be living in the United Kingdom in each year to 2018. (173207)

The table below shows the projected United Kingdom population aged 16 and 18 for each year from 2006 to 2018. The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 October 2007.

Projected population aged 16 and 18, United Kingdom, 2006 to 2018

Thousand

Age	*16*	*18*
2006	791	809
2007	802	802
2008	789	809
2009	764	820
2010	753	805
2011	737	780
2012	733	770
2013	738	753
2014	720	749
2015	706	754
2016	686	735
2017	671	722
2018	671	702

Source:
2006-based national population projections, ONS

Young People: Research

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish the Next Steps component of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England. [195457]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* Next Steps is the term by which its participants know the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE).

Provisional data for LSYPE interviews conducted in 2004 (wave 1) were available in October 2006. Revised data from this first wave of interviews were available in October 2007. Provisional data for 2005 (wave 2) was available in January 2008. This did not include some complex elements of the data, for instance on income and benefits. Revised data from wave 2, (which is expected to include information about income and benefits), and provisional data from wave 3 are due to be available later this month.

Data sets from LSYPE, are released to researchers through a website maintained by the Economic and Social Data Service: http://www.esds.ac.uk/longitudinal/access/lsype/L5545.asp. The data sets are usually available on the website about six weeks after they become available for analysis in the Department.

An official, statistical publication, covering the first four waves of the study, will be announced as part of the schedule of official publications later this month.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many organisations in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley have charitable status. [194660]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the non-ministerial Government Department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The chief executive of the Charity Commission will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Disease Control

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure utility companies maintain good bio-security practice when carrying out works on farmland. [195221]

Jonathan Shaw: Encouraging good bio-security by everyone that enters and leaves farms is something the Government take seriously. DEFRA has published guidance for anyone who enters a farm or premises with farm animals, or enters land used for grazing or keeping farm animals, including specific advice for utility companies. This can be found on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA has written to all utility companies on its database to remind them of the need to practice good bio-security, and take appropriate precautions when coming into contact with livestock or poultry.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what value of single farm payments were issued by the Rural Payments Agency for between *(a)* £60.01 and £80.00, *(b)* £80.01 and £100.00, *(c)* £100.01 and £120.00, *(d)* £120.01 and £150.00 and *(e)* £150.01 and £200.00, excluding delayed payments from previous years, in each of the last three years. [195439]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* The number and value of Single Payment Scheme payments in the bands specified in the question and by scheme year are as follows:

	SPS 2005		*SPS 2006*	
Band	*Number*	*Value (£)*	*Number*	*Value (£)*
£60.01 to £80.00	3,555	247,229	2,176	152,302
£80.01 to £100.00	2,791	250,448	2,114	190,168
£100.01 to £120.00	2,228	244,509	1,748	192,074
£120.01 to £150.00	2,832	380,816	2,246	302,151
£150.01 to £200.00	3,739	649,383	3,025	527,011

The figures are presented by scheme year to avoid including delayed payments from previous years.

SPS 2007 payments are still being made and so we cannot provide equivalent figures at this stage.

Animal Welfare: Birds

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes have been made to the regulations governing the welfare of birds in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [195249]

Joan Ruddock: Assuming that the hon. Member is referring to birds under the control of man, a significant amount of legislation regarding their welfare has changed in some way in the last 10 years.

While it is not possible to list every change succinctly, two of the most important changes to the requirements are:

i. a duty of care for the owners and keepers of all animals, including birds, in the Animal Welfare Act 2006; and

ii. a ban on the use of conventional cages for laying hens from 2012, in the provisions of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007.

Additionally, further changes have been made to improve welfare for birds during transport and at slaughter; these are provided for by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, and six amendments to the Welfare of Animals (Slaughterer Killing) Regulations 1995.

Similar legislation has also come into force in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Arm's Length Management Organisations: Finance

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 34W, on arm's length management organisations, what funding will be provided by his Department to each of its *(a)* arm's length bodies and *(b)* gross controlled agencies in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [194954]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the following written answers published on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1853-55W.

Birds: Game

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many birds were killed in sport shooting events in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [195247]

Joan Ruddock: My Department does not hold information on how many birds are killed in sport shooting events. The most recent information my Department is aware of is the Public and Corporate Economic Consultants report on Shooting Sports. The report estimates that the total number of game birds and wildfowl shot for sport in the UK in 2004 was just under 19 million, almost four-fifths of these were pheasants and 99 per cent. were destined for the food chain.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence of the policies of other countries he plans to take into account when making a decision on whether badger culling should form part of his Department's response to outbreaks of bovine TB. [194414]

Jonathan Shaw: In making our decision, we are considering all available evidence, including bovine TB policies in other countries, such as Ireland, New Zealand and Australia, and anything we can learn to help with the situation in England. However, it is important to bear in mind that other countries' experiences are not directly transferable to England because the wildlife population, farming practices and general environment are all different. As a result, while we can learn from other countries' experiences, directly applying such policies here is not possible.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what compensation payments were made to farmers in Shropshire in respect of cattle destroyed following contraction of bovine tuberculosis in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [194683]

Jonathan Shaw: A county breakdown of the amount of compensation paid to farmers is not available.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192514]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to revise the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991; and if he will make a statement. [195332]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 36W.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce his Department's carbon dioxide emissions in 2008-09. [191008]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs can confirm that DEFRA is working in partnership with the Carbon Trust and industry experts to deliver carbon emissions reductions. A number of initiatives are currently being implemented through its carbon management and energy efficiency programmes. DEFRA is the first Government Department to receive energy efficiency accreditation for its core and Executive agency estate.

Through site level benchmarking, monitoring and targeting of energy consumption, DEFRA has built up a site by site data set of its energy use and has identified opportunities for significant carbon reductions across its network estate over the next three years.

Initiatives already undertaken include: installation of voltage optimisation technologies (powerPerfector™); energy efficient lighting technologies; insulation and draught proofing and feasibility studies for renewable energy technologies. A fully costed investment programme has been agreed to enable savings to be delivered that are required to meet cross-Government sustainability targets (2010 and 2020).

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193444]

Jonathan Shaw: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many regulatory impact assessments his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [191268]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on impact assessments (IAs) is published on DEFRA's website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/regulat/impact-assessment/index.htm

The Department published 19 consultations in 2007 which included a draft or partial regulatory impact assessment (RIA)/IA. For the same period, DEFRA published 51 final RIAs/IAs to support orders laid in Parliament. Information on the final RIAs/IAs published between 1 January and 30 June 2007 can also be found in Command Paper 7297, available at:

http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/ria/regulatory_reporting/index.asp

For DEFRA, 33 RIAs/IAs have been listed.

Departments are in the process of identifying the final RIAs/IAs published between 1 July and 31 December 2007 for the next Command Paper.

From April 2008, all final IAs will be published on a central BERR/BRE website.

In accordance with BERR guidance, impact assessments are not required where policy changes will not lead to costs or savings for businesses, the public, third sector organisations, regulators or consumers. Nor are they required where changes to statutory fees or taxes are covered by a predetermined formula. It is also standard practice not to produce impact assessments where emergency legislation is concerned.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people over the age of 55 have been recruited by his Department in each of the last three years. [191530]

Jonathan Shaw: The civil service statistics are collected by ONS from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (formerly Mandate) and the latest published statistics are for the year to 30 September 2006.

The information requested is shown in the following table. All figures are headcount.

			Headcount
	2006	*2005*	*2004*
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (excluding agencies)	0	0	30
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	[1]—	0	[1]—
Central Science Laboratory	10	[1]—	[1]—
Government Decontamination Services	n/a	n/a	n/a
Marine Fisheries Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pesticides Safety Directorate	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rural Payments Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a
State Veterinary Service	n/a	n/a	n/a
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	0	0	10
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = data not available

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by "—".

Note:

Entrants are based on Department Date of Entry.

Departmental Retirement

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the effect on the public purse will be as a result of the operation of his Department's voluntary retirement scheme. [194801]

Jonathan Shaw: Based on overall departmental gross pay bill costs the estimated net savings from the voluntary early retirement and severance schemes in the current year and over the next three years will be:

			£ million
	VER	*VES*	*Total*
2007-08	4.8	5.2	10
2008-09	8.45	8.75	17.2
2009-10	8.8	9.00	17.8
2010-11	9.1	9.4	18.5

Departmental Sick Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187516]

Jonathan Shaw: For the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007, the total cost of sick pay for all staff in core DEFRA and those executive agencies covered by the core Department's terms and conditions (i.e. Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Pesticides Safety Directorate and Government Decontamination Service) was £3,376,240.

Dogs

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many charges have been brought against owners of dogs that attacked postmen in each of the last three years; and how many prosecutions were successful. [195331]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not held by DEFRA or the Ministry of Justice.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice are unable to separately identify details of the victims of crime, as this level of detail is not held on their database, unless it is specified in either the statute or offence description.

Dogs: Electric Shock Equipment

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of the Kennel Club to discuss the use of electric shock collars on dogs. [193844]

Jonathan Shaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State recently met with representatives of the Kennel Club, and the use of electric shock collars was discussed. There are no further plans to meet the Kennel Club at present.

Facilities Management

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect that outsourcing of his Department's facilities management infrastructure will have on his Department's staff. [194171]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* As part of the consultation process under the project, an impact assessment has been undertaken, in accordance with departmental guidelines.

Furthermore, as the negotiations with bidders proceed, the welfare of any staff who may be impacted by Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations will be of paramount importance to the programme and further assessments will be undertaken.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to make a decision to outsource his Department's facilities management infrastructure. [194172]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The Department's existing FM infrastructure is delivered through five regional contracts with the private sector.

The current re-procurement project which incorporates the existing FM infrastructure is expect to be concluded by October 2008, the commencement of such contract to be April 2009.

Farms: Inspections

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse of farm inspections was in each of the last five years, broken down by inspection agency. [192034]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of all on-farm work (covering all types of visit, and not restricted to those classed as inspections) by Animal Health (AH) for 2005-07 are broken down in the following table:

	State Veterinary Service[1]		*Animal Health*[1]
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total expenditure (£)	109,745,000	98,465,000	109,864,000
Proportion of total as on- farm work (percentage)	82	81	65
Estimated cost (£)	89,991,000	79,757,000	71,412,000

[1] These figures include the cost of the Egg Marketing Inspectorate and the Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate.

These calculations represent the full costs of on farm work, including back office costs and inspections. Costs for only inspections cannot be separated. Disease outbreak costs are not included in farm work nor abattoir visits.

Prior to 2005 costs are not available as the State Veterinary Service (SVS) did not exist as an agency. The cost to the public purse of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate inspections is nil, as these are part of a charged for service.

Fisheries: Inspections

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent training inspectors that monitor fish landings in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [193202]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, regular training is provided to staff.

MFA British Sea Fisheries Officers undertake a comprehensive programme of training on both legal and practical issues before receiving their BSFO warrants. Further training is provided where identified and as necessary. These officers also undertake the three week course with the RN to act as mentors and to prepare themselves as training officers for the RN 'on the job training'.

RN officers undertake a three week course on fisheries legislation prior to appointment to their ships and once within the squadron receive 'on the job' training from an experienced MFA officer.

Food: Poverty

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were in food poverty in each of the last three years, broken down by region. [194909]

Jonathan Shaw: Responsibility for issues concerning poverty do not lie with DEFRA. Therefore, we do not hold the information requested.

Food: Procurement

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the rising global demand for food products on the UK's ability to secure domestic food supplies; [194806]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of rising food costs on *(a)* food security, *(b)* food poverty and *(c)* international food programmes. [194809]

Jonathan Shaw: Food security is about ensuring consumers have access to a stable and adequate supply of food. This requires effective risk management and contingency planning, security of our energy supplies, access to food from a variety of sources and a strong food chain and infrastructure.

The UK currently enjoys a high level of food security, however, we are not complacent and we will continue to monitor the key indicators of our food security.

Responsibility for issues concerning poverty and international development do not lie with DEFRA.

Food: Wastes

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much food entered the waste stream in each of the last three years; [194905]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of food waste from domestic sources on landfill capacity in the last three years. [194906]

Joan Ruddock: Research carried out by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimates that around 6.7 million tonnes of food waste is generated by UK households each year, the equivalent of one third of food bought, or £8 billion worth of produce. A similar amount is produced by businesses, particularly the food manufacturing and retail sectors.

No assessment has been made of the effects of food waste from domestic sources on landfill capacity in the last three years, although approximately 5.25 million tonnes of municipal food waste is sent to landfill in the UK each year.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Waste and Resources Action Programme in encouraging supermarkets to take steps to reduce food waste. [194907]

Joan Ruddock: Signatories to the 2006 Courtauld Commitment between major food and drink retailers, manufacturers and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) agreed to support WRAP's business plan target of securing 100,000 tonnes/year of household food waste reduction by March this year. WRAP is currently assessing the programme's success and new targets are being drawn up which extend to 2011.

As part of the strategy for delivering this reduction, WRAP and its partners are also running a 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign. This campaign is being delivered in partnership with the WI, local authorities, the UK grocery sector, food industry, Government and organisations such as the Food Standards Agency. Its aim is to help people get the most from the food they buy, and waste less of it.

Freedom of Information: Personal Records

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms his Department has in place to maintain the separation of personal data from the information required by section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [192140]

Jonathan Shaw: Guidance for staff makes clear that rights of access to personal information under the Freedom of Information Act are limited by the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

If in any doubt staff can consult the departmental data protection officers who form part of our access to information team.

A training day for FOI practitioners in the Department and its agencies was held on 7 March with specific focus on the operation of Section 40.

Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Government Departments and agencies will have access to the Shared Spatial Information Service. [193893]

Jonathan Shaw: The Shared Spatial Information Service is currently accessible to DEFRA and all members of the wider DEFRA Delivery Network including DEFRA Executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies.

Access has also been provided to a number of other Government Departments with mutual interests in data sharing and to Government offices.

The SPIRE ownership group will be reviewing the access policy during 2008 in anticipation of the broader requirements for sharing spatial data arising from the EC INSPIRE directive.

Hearing Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by his Department through call centres. [194950]

Jonathan Shaw: The DEFRA helpline, the Pet Travel Scheme and the Environment Agency's inquiries services all provide minicom/textphone facilities, as well as offering e-mail and postal contact addresses. Comprehensive website material is also available in each case.

The Rural Payments Agency's (RPA) customer contact centre does not have a minicom/textphone, but e-mail and postal address are available, and there is a comprehensive website for Single Payment Scheme and livestock traceability work. The RPA also carries out regular mail-shots and there are drop-in centres at each of the Agency's sites and facilities for customers to authorise a third party agent to represent them.

Natural England is able to take text-type calls via a service offered by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. The Government Decontamination Service does not offer a minicom service but provides an e-mail

address on its website and on any published material. The Consumer Council for Water does provide a minicom/textphone service.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many vulnerable households with *(a)* children of zero to four years of age, *(b)* children of five to 16 years, *(c)* people in receipt of disability living allowance and *(d)* people over the age of 60 were assisted under the Warm Front Grant scheme in the financial years (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08, broken down by local authority area. [195121]

Mr. Woolas: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on administration of the Warm Front grant scheme by *(a)* the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *(b)* EAGA plc and *(c)* local authorities in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [195169]

Mr. Woolas: Warm Front is administered by EAGA plc, as part of their contracted duties as Scheme Manager.

The costs incurred by EAGA in performing this administration are commercially sensitive, and therefore cannot be provided.

DEFRA does not hold information on the value of any administrative costs spent by local authorities on Warm Front.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total budget was for the Warm Front Grant scheme in the financial years *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by local authority area. [195123]

Mr. Woolas: The total Warm Front budget for the years requested is outlined as follows:

Scheme year	*Approximate total spend/budget (£ million)*
2003-04	164
2004-05	166
2005-06	192
2006-07	320
2007-08	350

Because Warm Front is a national scheme, budgets are not allocated to individual local authority areas.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on the Warm Front scheme in each year since its inception; and what funding has been allocated to the scheme in each of the next three years. [195293]

Mr. Woolas: Warm Front spend since the scheme's inception in 2000 is as follows:

Scheme year	*Approximate total spend/budget (£ million)*
2000-01	72
2001-02	197
2002-03	163
2003-04	164
2004-05	166
2005-06	192
2006-07	320
2007-08	350

Warm Front's budget for the 2008-11 period is approximately £800 million. However, the yearly breakdown over this period has not yet been finalised.

Housing: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether spending on the Green Homes Service will be additional to spending on Warm Front; and what budget has been allocated to the service in each of the next three years. [195294]

Mr. Woolas: We will be providing over £100 million in the next three years to the Energy Saving Trust to develop a proactive Green Homes Service, based on a regional network of "one-stop shops". The service will provide advice not only on energy efficiency but also on microgeneration, water efficiency, recycling and greener travel, and easy access to an energy audit and the full range of discounted and free offers available. The funding will be additional to spending on Warm Front.

Pest Control: Devon

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make available funds from within existing budgets for home owners in Devon to erect electric fences and other measures to repel badgers. [194676]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* DEFRA has no plans to make funds available for home-owners in Devon to erect electric fences or other measures to repel badgers.

Planning Permission: Upchurch

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on usage of Four Gun Field in Upchurch, Sittingbourne. [195636]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* The Environment Agency has not been approached regarding this site. However, it has had discussions with the Swale borough and Kent county councils.

Ports: Inspections

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff were based in each of his Department's port offices in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [193200]

Jonathan Shaw: The retrospective information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The current staffing levels in each of the port offices is as follows:

	Number
North Shields	10
Amble	3
Hartlepool	2
Whitehaven	2
Fleetwood	5
Grimsby	7
Scarborough	8
Kings Lynn	2
Lowestoft	6
Harwich	2
Hastings	5
Shoreham	4
Poole	6
Portsmouth	2
Plymouth	9
Brixham	8
Newlyn	9
Penryn	4

We have not included details of fishery officer staff based in Wales as they transfer to the Welsh Assembly Government on 1 April 2008. Administrative staff based in Wales are already employees of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Information on previous years is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Resomation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental benefits of the disposal of bodies via resomation; and if he will make a statement. [195155]

Mr. Woolas: At present we are unable to give an indication of environmental risk. To do this the companies providing this service would need to supply a detailed analysis of the products from the process and to liaise with the appropriate regulator.

Rural Payments Agency: Consultants

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Rural Payments Agency has spent on external consultants in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of each engagement. [188008]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 March 2008]:* The amounts spent on external consultants by the Rural Payments Agency in each of the last three years are shown in the following table:

£

	Financial Year			
Supplier name	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*3 year totals*
Atos Consulting	—	—	100,000	100,000
Black & Veatch	473,127	—	—	473,127
Corven	—	277,159	—	277,159
Gartner	47,811	318,886	502,954	869,651
Helm	—	1,836,392	—	1,836,392
Logica	931,254	459,816	237,090	1,628,160
OEE	—	—	54,814	54,814
Outside Insight	—	—	19,008	19,008
Youll Consulting	—	2,979	—	2,979
Annual totals	1,452,192	2,895,232	913,866	5,261,290

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran

11. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent election results in Iran and their likely impact on UK-Iran relations. [196054]

Dr. Howells: The parliamentary elections in Iran were neither free nor fair. Over a third of all prospective candidates were disqualified by the so-called Guardian Council prior to the elections. The people of Iran were denied their democratic right to choose freely from the full range of political views.

Iran needs to take action to address international concerns, including the democratic shortcomings and lack of fundamental freedoms inside the country.

Burma

12. **Ann Clwyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Burma. [196055]

Meg Munn: The Government continue to be deeply concerned by the political situation in Burma. The regime's proposed referendum on a new constitution in May, and elections in 2010, will not bring peace, stability and national reconciliation to Burma. By excluding the opposition and the ethnic groups, the process will entrench division rather than unite Burma. The regime has made no progress towards meeting the demands set out by the UN Security Council in October 2007.

Pakistan

13. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the political situation in Pakistan. [196056]

Dr. Howells: Parliamentary and provincial elections took place in Pakistan on 18 February. It was an important opportunity for the people of Pakistan to exercise their democratic voice. The political parties—Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Awami National Party—have said publicly that they will form a coalition and work together. A new assembly has been called and elections for the speaker took place on 18 March. The announcement of the new Prime Minister is expected soon.

US Ballistic Missile Defence Programme

14. **Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US Administration on development of their ballistic missile defence programme in the UK. [196057]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to chapter 4, section 4.68 of the recently published National Security Strategy which deals with the United Kingdom's response to the current and emerging security challenges. We already contribute to ballistic missile early warning through the facilities at RAF Fylingdales and RAF Menwith Hill, and we regularly discuss with the US ongoing support.

Israel

15. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representations he has made since 1 January 2008 to the Government of Israel on Israeli action against the Palestinian community. [196058]

Dr. Howells: The UK makes regular representations to the Government of Israel regarding their actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories via the UK embassy in Tel Aviv and the Israeli embassy in London. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made numerous public statements and personally spoken to members of the Israeli Government, including Foreign Minister Livni and Defence Minister Barak, six times since January 2008 on this issue.

Tibet

16. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the Government's response to the recent events in Tibet. [196059]

David Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray) today (UIN 196052).

21. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Tibet. [196065]

Meg Munn: We remain concerned about the situation in Tibet. We understand an uneasy calm has returned to streets of Lhasa though unrest has spread to surrounding regions. We continue to urge the Chinese to respect fully the human rights of those detained; to avoid use of excessive force in dealing with riots; and to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet. And we have called on the protesters, in Lhasa and elsewhere, to desist from further violence. We believe the best way to resolve the situation is for dialogue without pre-conditions, working towards a long-term solution acceptable to everyone.

Belize-Guatemala: Border Dispute

17. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the statement on the border dispute between Belize and Guatemala; and if he will make a statement. [196060]

Meg Munn: UK policy is to reduce the likelihood of conflict on the Belize-Guatemala border and to encourage settlement of the dispute through arbitration or negotiation.

We do this through our contacts with both Governments and by supporting confidence building measures, designed to reduce the potential for conflict. These aim to improve links between the two countries and by providing impartial investigation and mediation of border incursions and other incidents.

Turks and Caicos Islands

18. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands. [196061]

Meg Munn: The UK Government have good relations with the Turks and Caicos Islands, an overseas territory. This is based on the 1999 White Paper, Partnership for Prosperity, which includes the right of each territory to remain British if this is the wish—freely and democratically expressed—of their people.

Russia

19. **Mr. Ian Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on UK relations with Russia. [196062]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Close engagement with Russia is important to the successful achievement of a wide range of the Government's international priorities, including climate and energy security, as well as Kosovo and Iran. The UK/Russia bilateral trade and investment relationship is vibrant and growing. We want to build an effective partnership with Russia, which furthers our national interest and principles.

Colombia

20. **Sandra Osborne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Colombia. [196063]

Dr. Howells: Colombia has suffered a devastating internal armed conflict in the past 40 years. We want all Colombian citizens, including trade unionists and human rights defenders to live free of fear of violence, murder and kidnapping. We are helping the Colombian Government and working closely with civil society in Colombia to protect and promote the rights of all Colombians.

Sri Lanka

22. **Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the political situation in Sri Lanka. [196066]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary recently stated that a sustainable solution to the conflict can only emerge through just political processes involving all communities and not through violence. We support efforts by the All-Party Representative Committee to devise a political solution. We would also welcome fresh thinking on solutions that satisfy the legitimate aspirations of all communities.

EU-Russian Relations

23. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on EU-Russian relations. [196067]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The EU and Russia share common interests and face common challenges. A comprehensive relationship based on trust should be our objective. EU support for the UK over Litvinenko and the British Council shows that it can. The best way to secure the relationship is through talks on a successor to the current Partnership and Co-operation Agreement.

Albania

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on Albania's request to participate in the forthcoming NATO summit in Bucharest. [196048]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK's policy is to firmly support Albania's North Atlantic Treaty Organisation membership application. Should a membership invitation be extended to Albania at the Bucharest Summit it will be invited to a short extraordinary meeting of the North Atlantic Council to welcome the start of the accession process.

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred on the ministerial flat in Admiralty House occupied by the right hon. Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) since he vacated the property. [195254]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has incurred no expense on the ministerial flat occupied by my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) since he moved out of Admiralty House on 30 June 2006.

China: Arms Trade

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU-China arms embargo; what his policy is on proposals to end the embargo and place the arms trade with China under a strengthened EU Code of Conduct; when he expects these proposals will next be discussed at the General Affairs and External Relations Council; and if he will make a statement. [195024]

Meg Munn: The EU-China Arms Embargo and EU Code of Conduct are separate. The European Council text on the embargo is politically binding and does not have the force of law. The embargo is narrowly defined by most major European exporters as covering lethal exports only. The UK's interpretation of the embargo was set out in a written answer the then Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr. Derek Fatchett) gave to the then Member for Reading East (Jane Griffiths) on 3 June 1998, *Official Report*, columns 246-47W. The EU Code of Conduct is the primary means of controlling arms sales and the UK regularly meets with its EU partners to discuss, enforce and strengthen it.

There is currently no consensus within the EU to end the arms embargo. The European Council in December 2003 agreed to launch a review of the embargo, which is still under way. The matter was last discussed by EU Foreign Ministers at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) on 13 December 2005. The embargo will not be discussed at the next GAERC and is not scheduled to be discussed in the near future. As set out in the December 2004 European Council Conclusions, the result of any decision on the embargo should not be an increase in arms exports from EU member states to China, either in quantitative or qualitative terms. The Government continue to fully implement the embargo.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of China's arms trade with Sudan; what estimate he has made of the value of that trade; and if he will make a statement. [195025]

Meg Munn: The UK does not keep comprehensive information about arms sales other than where the UK is an exporter. Sudan is subject to an EU arms embargo for all of Sudan and a UN embargo (UN Security Council Resolution 1591) for all arms in Darfur, but not the rest of Sudan.

We have told the Chinese that arms supply to countries such as Sudan fuels rather than resolves conflict and we are urging China to apply the UN arms embargo more strictly, and use their influence with all parties for a peaceful resolution of the Darfur conflict.

China: Tourism

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Chinese authorities on the indefinite closing of access to Mount Everest for climbers. [195857]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: We are aware that China has placed temporary restrictions on access to Mount Everest citing concerns over overcrowding and increasing environmental pressures. We will continue to monitor this situation and consider appropriate action. In the meantime, we continue to raise our concerns with the Chinese authorities about the events in Tibet and in the surrounding regions and we urge them to respect the rights of their citizens to express their political and religious views peacefully.

Departmental Intranet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 170W, on the departmental intranet, how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by officials who are not special advisers or communications officials and (ii) from departmental IP addresses. [195202]

Meg Munn: This information is not held centrally and to collate it would incur disproportionate cost. If the Foreign and Commonwealth Office should decide to create or alter Wikipedia entries, any such input would be done in accordance with the civil service code. This states that civil servants should: "use resources only for the authorised public purposes for which they are provided" and "make sure public money and other resources are used properly and efficiently".

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many ministerial residences were available to his Department's Ministers in each of the last 10 years. [183180]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) gave to him on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

For each of the past 10 years the residence 1 Carlton Gardens has been available to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred in relation to the ministerial residence at 1 Carlton Gardens since the last resident vacated the property. [195253]

Meg Munn: Since 1 October 2007 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has spent £11,629.24 on the residence including expenditure on planned mechanical and electrical maintenance and facilities management charges. Other expenditure for the residence, which cannot be separated from the wider charge for the whole of 1 Carlton Gardens which continues to be used for official functions and meetings, totals £53,423.05 for the same period. This includes payment for rent and utilities. Security for 1 Carlton Gardens is included in the guarding contract for the FCO's UK estate; expenditure cannot be broken down by premises.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193565]

Meg Munn: 588 UK-appointed members of staff in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (9.7 per cent. of the total) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2007. This has decreased to 585 members of staff (9.8 per cent. of the total) who were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2008.

Durban II

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on objectives PC1/13 numbers 1 and 4 of the Preparatory Committee for Durban II on reviewing progress and sharing best practice. [194097]

Meg Munn: Along with EU partners, we were able to join consensus on the objectives for the Durban Review Conference contained in decision PC.1/13 of the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference.

We want the Durban Review Conference to assess how states have implemented the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme for Action. This should be fundamental to the purpose of the conference. We therefore accepted at the August 2007 Preparatory Conference the need to review progress on implementation of relevant international agreements to which the UK is a party.

The UK has replied to a questionnaire to member states of the UN prepared by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which included detailed information on how the UK combats racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We will seek opportunities to promote UK practice in combating all forms of intolerance through the Durban Review Conference.

EC Institutions: Accountancy

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the official auditors have failed to approve the accounts of the European Union in recent years; for how long these refusals have been applied; and what steps are being taken by the EU to change its practices so that the accounts can be approved. [195359]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 18 March 2008]*: As my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury set out on 28 January in the annual debate on the European Court of Auditor's (ECA) report into the EU's finances, since 1994 the ECA has been required to provide a

"declaration of assurance"

on the EU's accounts. Since that date this has not been possible. Much of the ECA's difficulty in giving a positive statement of assurance arises from those areas of spending, which are jointly managed by the European Commission and member states, amounting to almost 80 per cent. of EU budget spending in 2006. Improvements have been made in recent years.

This Government are determined to ensure that EU funds are always used properly and efficiently. The UK is one of four member states, along with the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, that has proactively increased national audit requirements on EU spending and parliamentary scrutiny. The UK will be publishing its first consolidated statement and audit opinion in the spring, in respect of 2006-07.

A number of measures have been taken to improve the planning, management and control of the EU's budget. This includes a new financial regulation setting out rules for spending and the implementation of the Commission's Action Plan towards an Integrated Internal Control Framework. The 2008-09 EU budget review will be an important opportunity to look again at the accounting and financial management framework of the EU's budget to ensure stronger financial management.

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the mechanism is for resolving any disagreements between the Government and the European Union concerning the common security policy. [195286]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As the Lisbon treaty makes clear, all substantive decisions regarding the Common Security and Defence Policy are taken by Council acting in unanimity. The Government work with their European partners to develop a consensus on the issues that come to Council. If, however, member states are unable to agree on a particular issue, then there will be no Common EU policy on that issue.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the President of the European Council will have the ability to make decisions affecting the common security and defence policy without reference from the Council. [195287]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The President of the European Council has no role in making defence decisions. The Lisbon treaty makes clear "decisions relating to the common security and defence policy, including those initiating a mission as referred to in this Article, shall be adopted by the Council acting unanimously on a proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy or an initiative from a Member State".

Gaza: Hamas

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on the compliance of Hamas with international law in Gaza; and if he will make a statement: [194353]

(2) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on the use by Hamas of human shields in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [194354]

Dr. Howells: The UN Security Council has held a number of meetings on this issue in recent weeks during which the UK has reiterated its condemnation of the firing of rockets by Hamas against civilian areas in southern Israel, from civilian areas in Gaza. While we will continue to make our views clear, we are not planning to take specific action. On 4 March, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the situation in Gaza with the UN Secretary-General.

A number of UN Security Council Resolutions on Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories call on the Palestinians to end terrorism and stress the need to respect international humanitarian law.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with (i) Arab states and (ii) the government of Israel on (A) the compliance of Hamas with international law in Gaza and (B) the use by Hamas of human shields in Gaza; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [194355]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth officials and I regularly discuss issues connected with the Middle East Peace Process with counterparts and senior government figures and officials in the region. The Government have made their position on Hamas, its policies and its activities clear. The international community continues to urge Hamas to renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept existing agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap. As such, Hamas compliance with international law has not been part of the discussions.

Indonesia: Religious Freedom

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the action taken against Rev Bedali Hulu in Indonesia; and if he will make a statement. [195108]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports of attacks against the house of Reverend Bedali Hulu and the difficulties facing his congregation from the Jakarta Christian Baptist Church. Christians in Indonesia, in general, enjoy a high degree of religious freedom. Their right to worship is protected under the Indonesian constitution. Regrettably there are sporadic incidents of inter-religious violence in certain areas. We continue to call for religious tolerance across Indonesia.

Malta: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials have had with the Governments of (i) Malta and (ii) Poland on their dissent from the line adopted by the European Union on reproductive health at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York; and if he will make a statement. [194249]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers have had no direct contact with their Maltese and Polish counterparts during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meeting in New York. During the CSW UK officials spoke alongside a number of other EU partners to defend language that has previously been agreed by the EU on sexual and reproductive health rights.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 26 March 2008

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Second Homes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members claim for a second home *(a)* in London and *(b)* in their constituency. [195741]

Helen Goodman: Hon. Members are entitled to claim the additional costs allowance when staying away from their main home on parliamentary business. The allowance may be used for help with the cost of purchase or rental of a property, or for hotel or other overnight costs. In 2006-07 441 Members claimed the allowance for staying in London and 148 in their constituency.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers were employed to promote (i) the bid for and (ii) the hosting of the 2012 Summer Olympics in each year for which figures are available. [182511]

Tessa Jowell: There were no press officers employed in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport solely to work on the Olympic bid. Subsequent to London winning the bid, the Department has employed the following numbers of press officers to work on the Olympics:

	Press officers
2005-06	2
2006-07	3
2007-08	3

The Department does not have a "communication officer" grade. The "White Book" of contacts in Government Departments and agencies contains listings for the Department and the book is updated twice yearly.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Criminal Justice and Policing

8. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on devolution of criminal justice and policing to Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [195504]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh).

Fuel Smuggling

9. **Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the level of fuel smuggling in Northern Ireland. [195506]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave earlier to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones).

Policing Budget

10. **David Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the policing budget for Northern Ireland is in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [195507]

Paul Goggins: The allocation made to the Northern Ireland Policing Board in respect of policing in 2007-08 amounts to £1.231 million.

Security Situation

11. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [195508]

Mr. Woodward: The security situation in Northern Ireland has been dramatically transformed, not least because of the historic agreement reached exactly one year ago today by the right hon. Member for North Antrim (Rev. Ian Paisley) and the hon. Member for Belfast, West (Mr. Adams).

Abortion

12. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to introduce new legislation on abortion in Northern Ireland. [195509]

Paul Goggins: The Government have no plans to amend the law on abortion in Northern Ireland.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193536]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office does not record the costs of overnight accommodation in the format requested. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Sentencing

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions for drink-driving offences resulted in a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) specific offence, (ii) age and (iii) sex. [194756]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 sets out the number of arrests for drink driving offences from 1998 to 2007. Breakdown by gender is available from 2002-07. However, the only information recorded on age is the average age of those arrested.

Table 2 sets out the number of convictions for drink driving offences which have resulted in a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years, 2006 being the latest available.

Table 3 sets out the number of convictions for drink driving offences resulting in a custodial sentence categorised by age in each of the last 10 years, 2006 being the latest available.

Table 4 sets out the number of convictions for drink driving offences resulting in a custodial sentence categorised by gender in each of the last 10 years, 2006 being the latest available.

Table 1: Breakdown of number of arrests 2002-07

	Male	*Female*	*Average age*
2007	3,866	478	33
2006	4,145	512	33
2005	3,992	443	34
2004	3,489	388	34
2003	3,142	349	33
2002	2,145	283	32

Total number of arrests 1998 to 2001

	Number
2001	4,271
2000	5,284
1999	5,025
1998	4,711

Table 2

Offence	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*	*2000*	*1999*	*1998*	*1997*
In charge of vehicle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failing to provide specimen of blood/urine—major accident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Driving with excess alcohol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
In charge with excess alcohol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Driving with excess alcohol—blood/urine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
In charge with excess alcohol—blood/urine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failing to provide specimen of breath—driving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failing to provide specimen of breath—attempting to drive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failing to provide specimen of blood/urine—minor accident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Driving when unfit through drink or drugs	5	5	3	8	4	2	5	12	15	8
Attempting to drive when unfit through drink or drugs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In charge when unfit through drink or drugs	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Driving with excess alcohol in breath	9	14	5	11	3	11	4	5	4	14
Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in breath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In charge with excess alcohol in breath	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0
Driving with excess alcohol in blood	0	0	4	3	2	5	2	3	1	3
Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in blood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In charge with excess alcohol in blood	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Driving with excess alcohol in urine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In charge with excess alcohol in urine	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Failing to provide specimen of breath for preliminary test	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Failing to provide specimen of breath for analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Failing to provide specimen of blood or urine for analysis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Failing to provide specimen when driving unfit	0	1	2	3	2	0	0	3	2	0
Failing to provide specimen when attempting to drive unfit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failing to provide specimen when in charge unfit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Failing to provide specimen when driving with excess alcohol	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Failing to provide specimen when attempting to drive unfit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2

Offence	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*	*2000*	*1999*	*1998*	*1997*
Failing to provide specimen when in charge with excess alcohol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Causing death by driving carelessly when unfit	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Causing GBI by driving carelessly when unfit	3	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	0	0
Causing death or GBI by driving carelessly-excess alcohol	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0
Causing death by inconsiderate driving with excess alcohol	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Causing GBI by driving carelessly with excess alcohol	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Causing death—driving carelessly, failing to provide specimen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Causing GBI—driving carelessly, failing to provide specimen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24	28	19	31	14	23	21	36	28	27

Table 3

Age (years)	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*	*2000*	*1999*	*1998*	*1997*
0 to 17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 to 24	3	10	2	9	7	7	3	12	12	12
25 to 39	16	6	9	11	4	11	15	15	9	14
40 to 59	3	12	8	11	3	5	3	6	6	1
60 +	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Not recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Total	24	28	19	31	14	23	21	36	28	27

Table 4

Sex	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*	*2002*	*2001*	*2000*	*1990*	*1998*	*1997*
Male	23	28	19	30	14	21	21	35	28	27
Female	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0
Total	24	28	19	31	14	23	21	36	28	27

PSNI data on numbers of arrests are not directly comparable with statistics on convictions, as the offence recorded initially may differ from that which is used in court.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) when Mr. Phil Taylor formally ended his employment as a special adviser to the Northern Ireland Office; [191031]

(2) what the employment status was of special adviser to the Northern Ireland Office, Mr. Phil Taylor while working on a Labour Party deputy leadership campaign; and if he will make a statement. [191034]

Mr. Woodward: Mr. Phil Taylor ceased to be employed by the Northern Ireland Office on 28 June 2007.

Special advisers working in the Northern Ireland Office were aware of the Special Adviser Code of Conduct and the additional guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Fairtrade Initiative

John Battle: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will provide for the stocking of Fairtrade bananas in House cafeterias. [196223]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Catering and Retail service stocks Fairtrade bananas from time to time and in particular during Fairtrade fortnight, which ran from 25 February to 7 March 2007.

Despite extensive research of the market, however, it has proven exceptionally difficult to source a supplier able to supply Fairtrade bananas in the relatively small quantities required by the Catering and Retail service. Most Fairtrade bananas are purchased at source by the major supermarkets and those that are available on the wholesale fruit market in London generally have a minimum order level of one pallet (540 kg) per delivery, which is far more than we can reasonably use or store.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: International Assistance

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential role of international companies in promoting development in Africa; and what steps he is taking to promote and co-ordinate such involvement. [194578]

Mr. Thomas: International companies have a key role in contributing towards development and economic growth in Africa through investment, job creation and their contribution to Government revenues by paying taxes.

The UK Government work with developing country governments and international agencies to create an environment that supports the growth of business by supporting reforms that allow markets to work with greater efficiency and fairness. The UK Government also promote adherence to the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises which set out the standards on issues such as employment and industrial relations, the environment and corruption that OECD governments expect business to adhere to when they invest overseas.

Companies can also use their core business to deliver better development outcomes. The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with companies that have signed up to the Prime Minister's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Call to Action to develop concrete initiatives which apply core business, skills, and expertise to enhance growth and wealth creation to help meet the MDGs.

Developing Countries: Water

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to reduce conflict over water in developing countries. [196894]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises the importance of promoting co-operation over water resources to reduce the risk of conflict. DFID provides support to programmes in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia that reduce conflict over water resources. DFID is also increasing funding to support countries to manage the effects of climate change, which will improve the management of water and reduce the risks of conflict as resources become more scarce.

In the Middle East, DFID provides support to the EXACT programme (part of the multilateral track of the Peace process), to improve regional management of groundwater pollution. In Sudan, DFID is providing £1 million for the development of an integrated water resources management plan to improve co-operation over scarce water resources and help build sustainable livelihoods. We have provided £14 million to the Nile Basin Initiative that supports co-operation among the countries that share the waters of the Nile. DFID has also recently agreed to provide initial funding to the South Asia Water Initiative to promote co-operation over water in one of the world's most volatile regions. We continue to consider other requests for support to improve the management of water to help reduce conflict at regional levels and in countries.

EU Aid: Food

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in Brussels have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the EU Commission on the additional €160 million funding announced to supplement EU food aid; what assessment his Department has made of the planned distribution of these additional funds; whether his Department was consulted in the process of reaching this decision; and if he will make a statement. [192972]

Mr. Thomas: The European Commission's €160 million operational plan for food aid to meet the food needs of approximately 18,675,000 people was discussed with member states at the Humanitarian Aid Committee (MAC) on 13-14 December in Brussels. DFID received the papers about the decision but was not represented at this meeting.

Following the Humanitarian Aid Committee in December the operational plan for food aid was adopted by the European Parliament on 19 February.

These funds form part of the €223 million food aid budget under the European Commission's Humanitarian Regulation. They take account of expected increases in humanitarian demand due to climatic shock, the decreasing availability of food, the impact of recent food price rises and the reducing incomes of the most vulnerable groups.

DFID subsequently reviewed the operational plan and is confident that the allocation is appropriate and will be spent where there is genuine need.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his officials and *(c)* UK representatives in Washington DC have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the US Administration on the possible matching of the increase in EU food aid by the US; and if he will make a statement. [192973]

Mr. Thomas: Our UK representatives in Washington understand that there is no move to increase budgets or overhaul the structure of US food aid.

There are also no current plans to increase EU food aid. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him today (UIN 192972).

Global Plan to Stop TB

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has allocated to the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-15 since the programme was launched; what progress has been made towards the targets in the Plan to Stop TB; and how much of the funding required to implement the Global Plan has been *(a)* identified and *(b)* spent. [194960]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* The Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis (TB) lays out the actions and resources needed to achieve its target to halve TB prevalence and deaths by 2015. It does not receive funding directly but acts as an umbrella organisation for those involved in TB control.

The World Heath Organisation estimates that globally the number of new cases of TB is falling slowly (less than 1 per cent. a year) and the reported treatment success rate is now 85 per cent.

When launched in 2006, the Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis (TB) set the overall plan cost at US $56 billion, the estimated funding gap being US $ 31 billion. For its first three years, the Global Plan identified the need for about US $12 billion of which countries have reported US $7.6 billion in available resources.

Global Schools Partnership

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 284W, on Global Schools Partnership, how many of the participating schools in Wales were from each local authority in Wales. [195032]

Mr. Malik: The breakdown, by local authority, of Welsh schools participating in the DFID Global School Partnerships (DGSP) programme in the period 1 April 2005 to 29 February 2008 is as follows:

Local authority	*Eligible DGSPs*
Blaenau Gwent	3
Bridgend	2
Caerphilly	6
Cardiff	8
Carmarthenshire	9
Ceredigion	7
Conwy	3
Denbighshire	13
Flintshire	2
Gwynedd	6
Isle of Anglesey	9
Merthyr Tydfil	4
Newport	2
Pembrokeshire	5
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	8
Swansea	3
The Vale of Glamorgan	2
Wrexham	10
Grand total	102

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department has made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194313]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any payments to Ipsos MORI during the past 24 months. DFID has recently contracted Ipsos-MORI through the Central Office of Information to research issues around the attitude of the UK public to international poverty.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken to ensure that aid given by his Department is spent on the purposes for which it was intended. [196893]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) always checks three points for each aid programme:

That the funds were paid to the intended recipient;

That the funds have been used for the purposes agreed; and

That the use of the funds has been audited.

DFID checks on the use of funds by requiring recipients to provide audited financial statements and by conducting annual monitoring reviews.

DFID's programme management is supported by regular audits by DFID's internal audit department and the National Audit Office, both providing further evidence of the correct use of aid funds.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-4WS, on FCO scholarships and fellowships, what assessment he has made of the rigour and transparency of selection methods for the *(a)* Commonwealth and *(b)* Chevening Scholarship schemes. [195766]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The selection process for Commonwealth scholars is both rigorous and transparent. The changes we are making to the Chevening scholarship scheme, set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-24WS, will improve the consistency of the selection of Chevening scholars.

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* value was of each contract placed with (i) Deloitte & Touche, (ii) Ernst & Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers, and (v) PA Consulting by his Department and its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [179022]

Meg Munn: The information requested by my hon. Friend is as follows:

Company/Objective		*Value of contract (£)*
For the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)		
Deloitte and Touche		
Advice in relation to Private Finance Initiative options for various projects	2004-05	11,300
Ernst and Young		
None	—	—

Company/Objective		Value of contract (£)
KPMG		
IT Strategy Development, Shared Services Banking consultancy, Efficiency Health Check	2006-07	154,429
	2007-08	118,518
PricewaterhouseCoopers		
Provision of Accounting and Auditing services to FCO Resource Accounts and Internal Audit Departments	2004-05	5,000
	2005-06	499,377
	2006-07	112,300
	2007-08	300,000
PA Consulting		
UK Visas Biometric consultancy, Shared Services consultancy, Commercial Partnerships Consultancy and Change Management Support	2004-05	590,579
	2005-06	5,125,928
	2006-07	15,737,004
	2007-08	11,763,173
FCO Services (an Executive Agency of the FCO)		
Deloitte and Touche		
None	—	—
Ernst and Young		
None	—	—
KPMG		
Accountancy services in respect of a Value Added Tax Review (VAT)	2007-08	128,912
PricewaterhouseCoopers		
None		
PA Consulting		
General Management Consultancy Services including those related to the Future Vision and Strategy/Trading Fund Programme	2004-05	193,456
	2005-06	47,400
	2006-07	36,008
	2007-08	3,840,879

The figures in the table represent FCO and FCO Services commitments (i.e. excluding VAT) to these companies during this period and not the actual expenditure against these commitments some of which may be made in subsequent periods. These figures are based on reports produced by Prism, the FCO's financial and management information system. The amounts actually paid against these commitments may differ where VAT is applied. The contracts/services detailed reflect the key services/contracts which these commitments have covered.

These figures also only cover commitments/contracts made in the UK and exclude those made by our missions overseas, which due to currency/exchange rate issues we are not readily able to include here.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will publish the full strategic framework document Better World, Better Britain following his letter to right hon. and hon. Members of 29 February 2008 enclosing a leaflet setting out in brief the new strategy. [196307]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The key points of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) new strategic framework were set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-53WS. Additionally, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to all hon. Members and peers, enclosing a leaflet titled: "Better World, Better Britain", with further information about the strategic framework. Further details will be available on the FCO website (www.fco.gov.uk) from 28 March 2008 and in the forthcoming FCO departmental report.

Departmental Scholarships

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 March 2008, *Official*

Report, column 23WS, on FCO scholarships and fellowships, if he will publish the review. [195650]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I will arrange for a copy of our 2006 review of the Chevening scholarship scheme to be placed in the Library of the House.

Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1356W, on detainees, what subsequent assessment he has made of the *(a)* adequacy of domestic legislation and international legal instruments and *(b)* future discussions of the Secretary General's proposals by the Committee of Ministers following the Oral Statement on terrorist suspects (renditions) of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-59. [197029]

Dr. Howells: Officials continue to work through the details and implications of the new information received from the US on renditions through Diego Garcia. Once this work is completed we will look again at the proposals of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will continue to take account of any discussions of rendition in the Council of Europe's, Committee of Ministers and will keep UK procedures under review to ensure that they meet the standards we have set and comply with UK domestic law and our international obligations.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the power sharing agreement in Kenya. [196343]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* We welcome the power-sharing agreement signed by President Kibaki and the Leader of the Opposition, Raila Odinga, on 28 February 2008. We join the international community in thanking Kofi Annan and his team for their outstanding efforts in brokering this deal.

But the hard work must continue. Real leadership, patience and tolerance is necessary to ensure that the agreement sticks and is implemented in full. We welcome signs that this is happening, including the constitutional reforms passed on 18 March 2008 involving creating the office of Prime Minister.

Middle East: Broadcasting

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the effects of transmissions by al-Jazeera and al-Arabiyya on public perception of the UK in the Middle East. [195622]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office employs two Arabic spokespeople: one in London and one in Dubai, both appear regularly on Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiyya to put forward the UK's position. They monitor and report regularly on how UK issues are covered in the Arab media.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the recent report funded by the British High Commission into public attitudes within the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [197114]

Dr. Howells: The recently published report "Understanding FATA" examines attitudes towards governance, security, religion and the wider society within the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). It was produced by Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme, a Pakistani non-governmental organisation, and funded by the cross-departmental conflict prevention pool. It is based on independent polling and research and forms an important contribution to our developing understanding of the FATA—particularly through acknowledging and examining the opinions of the tribal people themselves. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid to PricewaterhouseCoopers in each financial year since 2000. [180816]

Meg Munn: The amounts paid to PricewaterhouseCoopers in each year were:

	£
2000-01	202,364.53
2001-02	9,350.52
2002-03	0
2003-04	221,801.00
2004-05	5,875.00
2005-06	254,798.76
2006-07	384,196.97
2007-08	[1]297,026.02

[1] To December 2007.

These figures are based on reports produced by Prism, the FCO's financial and management information system. The above include value added tax (VAT), some of which was recoverable VAT. The figures represent Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services payments made during this period. Payments may be made in periods following those in which contractual amounts were previously committed.

The aforementioned figures given only cover commitments/contracts made in the UK and exclude those made by our missions overseas which, due to currency/exchange rate issues, were not readily available to include here.

Russia: TNK-BP

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the police search of TNK-BP and BP-Trading Limited in Russia in March 2008. [197095]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are aware that on 19 and 20 March, the Russian authorities conducted searches at the Moscow offices of both TNK-BP and BP. Files and computer servers were seized, and company employees were questioned. None of them were UK nationals. We are in touch with the companies and continue to monitor the situation closely. Clearly, we expect any investigations by the Russian authorities to be conducted in full transparency and in accordance with Russian law.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will encourage the representation of Arab militias in peace talks in Darfur. [196327]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* We have made clear to the UN and African Union (AU) envoys, most recently at the international meeting they hosted in Geneva on 18 March, that we believe civil society and Arab engagement in the political process are essential for an inclusive process and a sustainable settlement.

The UK has filled five key posts in the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation, which will be the main mechanism for civil society engagement in the political process and in longer-term reconciliation and rehabilitation in Darfur. We have also committed £1 million to support the AU and UN Joint Mediation Support Team, which is currently focused on encouraging rebel movements to unify further and agree on common platforms ahead of negotiations with the Government of Sudan.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Tibet; and if he will make a statement. [196277]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* We do not have access to all the information needed to make an accurate assessment of the humanitarian situation in Tibet. However, we remain seriously concerned about the recent events in Tibet and the surrounding region and continue to closely monitor the situation. We have asked the Chinese authorities for permission for an official, from our embassy in Beijing, to visit Tibet. We have expressed our concern to Chinese authorities both in Beijing and London and have urged them to respect fully the human rights of those detained; to avoid use of excessive force in dealing with riots; and to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet.

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Tibet; and if he will make a statement. [196278]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* We remain very concerned about the situation in Tibet and surrounding areas, including reports of loss of life, use of force and damage to property. We understand an uneasy calm has returned to the streets of Lhasa. We continue to urge the Chinese to respect fully the human rights of those detained; to exercise maximum restraint in restoring public order; and to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet. We also call on the protesters, in Lhasa and elsewhere, to desist from further violence. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Chinese Premier Wen on 19 March urging the Chinese Government to address the underlying issues by re-engaging in dialogue without preconditions with the Dalai Lama and his representatives. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also emphasised the need for dialogue when he spoke to Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on 21 March.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192221]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999; the Office spent the following on advertising:

	£
1999-2000	26,861
2000-01	270,494
2001-02	186,564
2002-03	10,390
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	17,510

Most of the expenditure in 2000-01 and 2001-02 relates to electoral registration matters. Since 2001, this has been the responsibility of the Electoral Commission.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193446]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling

Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196443]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not record the information in the form requested.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crime: Victims

Keith Vaz: To ask the Solicitor-General what arrangements have been put in place to improve the level of service given to victims of crime by the Crown Prosecution Service. [195737]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) commitments to victims of crime are contained within the Prosecutors' Pledge, which was launched by the Attorney-General in 2005, and the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, which was introduced in April 2006.

The CPS has made significant progress in improving victim and witness care in recent years with the introduction of initiatives such as the Direct Communication with Victims scheme, the Victim Focus Scheme and the 'No Witness No Justice' initiative.

Under the 'No Witness No Justice' initiative, the CPS, working in partnership with the police, has introduced witness care units across England and Wales. From the point of charge until the conclusion of the case, a witness care officer provides a single point of contact for the victim ensuring that information about the case and support is provided to meet the needs of individual victims and witnesses.

Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General how many cases the Crown Prosecution Service has prosecuted in the last three years; in how many instances a conviction was secured; and if she will make a statement. [196256]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows the number of defendant cases prosecuted in each of the last three years and the number that resulted in a conviction. Convictions are also shown as a proportion of cases completed in each year:

	2005	2006	2007
Total prosecutions	1,156,325	1,098,627	1,071,738
Convictions	946,187	914,245	907,709
Convictions as percentage	81.8	83.2	84.7

The volume of cases has fallen as crime levels have reduced and as increasing numbers of lesser offences have been dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice, rather than court proceedings. Against this background, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has achieved effective increases in conviction rates, from 81.8 per cent. in 2005 to 84.7 per cent. in 2007.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Art Works: Intellectual Property

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in obtaining the indefinite extension of the derogation of artists' resale rights. [191313]

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is his policy to obtain the indefinite extension of the derogation which limits the artists' resale rights scheme to the work of living artists only; and if he will make a statement. [191875]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

We are in the process of considering the evidence on the impact of artist's resale right on the UK art market, including the derogation. We will be continuing our discussions with the Commission on this issue.

Arts: Resale Rights Scheme

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy that artists should be required to register their names at the beginning of each year on a centrally available database if they wish to exercise their right to receive payment under the artists' resale rights scheme; and if he will make a statement. [191874]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

An artist's resale rights under article 1 of Directive 2001/84/EC are inalienable and cannot be waived. It would not therefore be consistent with this Directive to make payments of resale rights dependent upon whether the artist has registered with a database.

Departmental Intranet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1296W, on departmental intranet, what the *(a)* creations and *(b)* amendments were referred to in the Answer. [195854]

Margaret Hodge: The following table shows all changes made by staff in DCMS to pages on Wikipedia.

Page title	Diff	Comments
A Brighter Summer Day	138119739	—
Adamski	9535361	corrected spelling of Tinley
American Revolutionary War	69983408	Germany did not exist until 1870 therefore reference to 'Germans' amended
Amersham	18665642	—
Amersham	18665719	—
Arthur C. Clarke Award	8510343	added external links
Arthur C. Clarke Award	81027462	—
Aryan race	70380391	/* Nazism */
Aryan race	70380431	/* Nazism */
Baron Phillimore	95701674	—
Baron Phillimore	100873930	/* See also */
Battersea Park railway station	1846151	—
Beeston, Nottinghamshire	1714319	—
Beeston, Nottinghamshire	1714332	—
Bjorn Lomborg	7796392	/* Miscellaneous trivia */ removed non-neutral characterisation
Boots Group	1714584	—
British Army	6936241	/* Major Actions and Deployments */ int links
British Science Fiction Association	6358875	new page
British Science Fiction Association	6378225	added ext links and extra content
British Science Fiction Association	13711021	new internal link replacing content
Brixton	1564257	—
Brixton	1564315	—
Brixton	1564323	—
Brixton	1588007	—
Brixton Hill	2467268	First entry
Buffy the Vampire Slayer	114771126	corrected first line to past tense "was a" to match past tense later in para
Buffy the Vampire Slayer	114771191	—
Colin Wells	66333259	—
Crash (1973 novel)	6927844	added detail
Crash (1973 novel)	6927894	revised for clarity
Crash (1973 novel)	9440306	fixed int links
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	6575717	add info
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	6825899	added info
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	39568170	—
DJ Shadow	7245168	/* Discography */ added releases
Douglas Hurd	22621605	Ruislip-Northwood link fixed
Ellie Levenson	77184331	—
Flickr	25743854	/* History */
Greg Rutherford	78884909	—
Hackney	6977423	—
Hard science fiction	6776829	corrected list of authors
Hector Monro, Baron Monro of Langholm	79607877	—
History of South Africa in the apartheid era	66118113	—
HTML	8288090	—
Iain Banks	6773059	/* Miscellany */ correction
J. G. Ballard	6927524	/* Novels and short story collections */
J. G. Ballard	7060557	created proper bibliography
James College	71813179	—
Jesse Boot, 1st Baron Trent	1714567	—
Jesse Boot, 1st Baron Trent	1760318	—
Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam	142228236	—
John Boot	1714471	—
Ken MacLeod	7060613	added information on critical studies
List of science fiction authors	6932349	/*R*/
LSRfm.com	139666304	/* Station Managers */
LSRfm.com	145186572	/* Station Managers */
Mahmoud Ahmed	50240163	/* See also */
Martin Callanan	19373013	/* External link */
Martin Callanan	19576435	—
Michael Todd	103163022	—
Michael Todd	103163479	—
Michael Todd	103163596	—
Michael Todd	103163712	—
Michael Todd	103164630	—

Page title	Diff[1]	Comments[2]
Michael Todd	103164660	—
Michael Todd	103164690	—
Michael Todd	103165164	—
Michael Todd	103165648	—
North London Lions	106310570	/* History */
North London Lions	106312118	/* International tour matches */
North London Lions	106312315	/* History */
Nottingham Playhouse	15069764	—
Performance art	56299783	—
Performance art	56300035	—
PS Publishing	6932132	added 2001 history
PS Publishing	7273036	/* 2002 */
Remembrance Day	27354408	—
Remembrance Sunday	33833547	—
Remembrance Sunday	33833618	—
Remembrance Sunday	40874224	—
Remembrance Sunday	45260044	—
Streatham	1585677	—
Streatham	1585792	—
Streatham	1587823	—
Streatham (UK Parliament constituency)	15693607	/* Politics and history of the constituency */
Streatham Hill railway station	1585938	—
Streatham Hill railway station	1585969	—
Streatham Hill railway station	1585971	—
Streatham Hill railway station	1586038	—
Talk:A Brighter Summer Day	138120049	Plot spoilers removed
Talk:James Fenton/Comments	131268154	[[WPAES]]Created page with 'This article is VERY POOR in terms of failing to h wide-ranging intellectual interests and a concer...'
Talk:Kennington Park	83900443	—
Talk:Peter F. Hamilton	6942226	—
Talk:Transformational Government	79026089	—
The Fourth Horseman	69614762	/* Part 2 */
The Guardian	6941893	/* Supplements */
User talk:Mailer diablo	116804531	deletion james hulme
West Yorkshire	7062291	/* Places of interest */added categories
Wiki	8264708	—
Wikipedia:Sandbox	20041140	/* A new title */
Wikipedia:Sandbox/History	10826753	—
Wikipedia:Tutorial (Editing)/sandbox	18659308	/* This is a Headline */
Wikipedia:Tutorial (Editing)/sandbox	19772543	/* Level 2 */

[1] Diff is a file comparison utility that outputs the differences between two files. The number here refers to the page change in Wikipedia. This report was created using http://wikiscanner.virgil.gr/

[2] The comments here were added by the editor making the change to the page and generated in the report referred to in 1.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195873]

Margaret Hodge: My Department installed a new video-conferencing system as part of the recent refurbishment of our HQ building. This system is already widely used, and we are promoting the use of video-conferencing to staff with the aim of doubling use by 2010.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the Heritage Lottery Fund's new mentoring scheme. [194743]

Margaret Hodge: The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will launch its third strategic plan in April 2008, with changes and improvements to all its grant programmes. HLF will offer a mentoring service to applicants who need extra help in developing their projects, to increase the capacity and skills of groups applying for grants and to help improve the delivery of projects.

The role of a mentor is to help the organisation and individuals leading the project to achieve the project's aims. Mentors may give general advice on how to carry out the project, specialist advice where a project team lacks particular experience, and guidance on good practice.

WALES

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195892]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department is currently establishing a sustainable operations policy.

We already have a robust recycling programme for paper, cans, glass, plastic, cardboard and shredding. We recycled 5,913 kg from April to September 2007. We have been successful in reducing both energy and water consumption, and 100 per cent. of our electricity is supplied from renewable sources.

As soon as the policy is in place the statement will be published on our website.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195893]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is always looking at ways to reduce the need to travel to meetings. Staff are encouraged to use video conferencing facilities, both in London and Cardiff, for meetings whenever possible and do so on a regular basis.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Naval ratings are being retrained to act as HGV drivers in Afghanistan. [195954]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Currently, 36 Royal Navy ratings are being trained as HGV drivers in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan with three Commando Brigade Royal Marines later this year.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of expenditure on British military operations in Afghanistan during *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [196114]

Des Browne: The MOD has requested £1.649 billion from the Treasury Reserve to cover the net additional costs of operations in Afghanistan for 2007-08. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Budget speech that we expect to spend over £2 billion supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2008-09. The highly changeable nature of operations means that we are not able to provide an accurate forecast for Afghanistan alone nor any indication of cost for 2009-10.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria he uses to assess the effectiveness of spending on British military operations in Afghanistan. [196115]

Des Browne: The success of British military operations in Afghanistan (for which the net additional cost is funded from the Treasury Reserve), is judged against military strategic objectives set by the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Progress is reported quarterly by the relevant commander through the Department's formal performance management process (the Defence Balanced Scorecard), which includes endorsement by the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Commitments). The Balanced Scorecard is reviewed by the Defence Board. The Defence Board's conclusions are submitted to Ministers and reflected in the Department's quarterly published public service agreement (PSA) reports and in the departmental annual report and accounts.

As part of its review of Departments' SR04 PSA reporting systems, the National Audit Office concluded that the MOD's data system is fit for the purpose of measuring and reporting performance against this target and that it found no weaknesses in the quality of disclosure of Ministry of Defence public performance reports.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials from his Department have had with representatives of Global Health Partners on contracts operated by the Priory Group; and if he will make a statement. [195391]

Derek Twigg: Neither I nor officials are aware of any recent discussions with Global Health Partners on contracts operated by the Priory Group.

Cyprus: Armed Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints have been received from *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* dependents of service personnel about treatment received after referral by a service doctor to hospitals in Cyprus in each of the last 10 years. [194946]

Derek Twigg: The majority of complaints received by Commander Medical BFC concerning either The Princess Mary hospital (TPMH, based at RAF Akrotiri) or one of the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) medical facilities are resolved locally and to the satisfaction of the complainant. TPMH operate a robust complaints procedure which is based on the equivalent NHS processes.

Records are available for 1999-2007 concerning treatment received in civilian medical facilities in the Republic of Cyprus. In this period there have been a total of 22 complaints (six from service personnel and 16 from dependents) recorded.

	Complaints recorded as being made by service personnel	*Complaints recorded as being made by dependents*
1999	0	1
2000	0	1
2001	0	2
2002	0	1
2003	0	0
2004	0	1
2005	2	5
2006	2	3
2007	2	2

During the same time frame 137 complaints were made against TPMH itself (58 by service personnel and 79 by dependents):

	Complaints recorded as being made by service personnel	*Complaints recorded as being made by dependents*
1999	5	12
2000	5	3
2001	3	7
2002	5	10
2003	10	10
2004	7	9
2005	10	14
2006	7	7
2007	6	7

The incidence of complaints made by service personnel and their dependents concerning medical care in Cyprus (both complaints against RoC medical facilities and TPMH) is broadly comparable to the incidence of complaints received by the NHS in England when allowance for the very different size of patient population is made.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will break down, by sub-head in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms his Department's (i) gross resource outturn, (ii) operating appropriations in aid outturn, (iii) gross capital outturn and (iv) non-operating appropriations in aid outturn for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07; [191679]

(2) what his Department's *(a)* gross resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* operating appropriations in aid, *(c)* net capital DEL and *(d)* non-operating appropriations in aid outturn, broken down in (i) near cash and (ii) non cash terms, was for financial years 2000-01 to 2006-07. [191682]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Gerald Howarth:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2346W and 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2284W, with details on various aspects of Departmental Public expenditure.

Attached at Annex A are tables which provide a detailed breakdown of the Department's outturn for 2001-02 to 2006-07, together with a breakdown of the Department's Spring Supplementary Estimate for 2007-08.

The figures are based on the accounting regime in effect at the time that those accounts were produced. Prior to financial year 2001-02, all Departmental expenditure recorded in the Estimates and accounts was on a cash basis. This data was published in the Estimates reports and end of year Appropriations Accounts, copies of which can be found in the Library of the House. Prior to the introduction of Stage 2 Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) in Financial Year 2003-04 non-cash DEL did not exist as a budgeting aggregate. The non-cash costs were scored to Non-Cash AME.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many road side bomb attacks there were in Basra in each year since 2003. [195382]

Des Browne *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* The number of reported improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in Basra in each year since 2003 is as follows:

	Total
2003	31
2004	115
2005	82
2006	169
2007	296
2008	24

Data for 2003 covers the period after 6 May 2003. The figure for 2008 is for incidents up until 14 March 2008.

These data reflect reported attacks on both military and civilian targets where IEDs have detonated. The figures can only be an estimate of the actual number of such incidents, as, for example, we can never be sure that all attacks, especially against civilian targets, have been reported.

Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: RAF Fairford

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the US authorities on the level of policing at RAF Fairford by the Ministry of Defence Police. [196388]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Discussions are currently taking place between officials and the US authorities on the policing arrangements for RAF Fairford. This is part of a continuing review of security at bases used by the United States visiting force. Any changes in security would not take place without mutual agreement.

Porton Down: Human Experiments

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what settlement has been reached in respect of veterans' claims relating to participation in trials at Porton Down; what the implications of the settlement are for veterans not represented in the claims made; and if he will make a statement. [189696]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Mark Todd:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1808W, about compensation for Porton Down veterans.

Solicitors on behalf of Porton Down veterans issued the Ministry of Defence (MOD) with a letter of claim on 8 March 2007 for alleged illnesses arising from non-therapeutic human experimentation conducted at Porton Down. 244 veterans claiming short term illnesses and 116 claiming long term illnesses formed a Group Action. The majority of claims relate to experiments involving nerve gas, mustard gas or riot control agents.

The matter has been resolved by way of mediation at which the MOD agreed to pay a global settlement of £3 million in full and final settlement to the entire group of 360 veterans and to make an apology by way of a written ministerial statement in the House, which I did on 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 26WS. The MOD has therefore paid all known claims from Porton Down veterans.

That said we recognise that more veterans, some of whom decided against joining the Group Action, might come forward. This is despite being assured by the Claimants' solicitors that the Group Action had been publicised and that those who remained in the group had been carefully selected on the basis that each had a meritorious claim for personal injury said to have been caused by exposure to a specific chemical warfare or treatment agent which was supported by expert evidence. I should make clear that the MOD did not compensate individuals for mere attendance at Porton Down.

Against this background, the MOD has decided that it will consider any additional meritorious claims that are made on or before 30 June 2008; after that date, the MOD reserves the right to plead a defence based on the provisions of the Limitation Act 1980.

Any veteran now considering pursuing a claim for compensation might wish seek advice to establish whether they have a reasonable claim against the Department. One option would be to contact the solicitors involved in the Group Action who have considerable experience already in handling such cases. They are:

Leigh Day & Co
Solicitors
Priory House
25 St. Johns Lane
London
EC1M 4LB

or

Thompson Snell & Passmore
3 Lonsdale Gardens
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN1 1NX

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Adventure Capital Fund: Contracts

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what criteria his Department used in the process which resulted in Adventure Capital Fund being awarded a contract to distribute grant funding; and if he will make a statement. [196228]

Phil Hope: The criteria used to determine the new fund manager for the Futurebuilders programme were:

quality and efficiency of service;

quality of bidding organisation or consortium;

engagement with the Government's aims for the third sector; and

price.

The Cabinet Office used the European Union model known as the "competitive dialogue" process, which allowed the Cabinet Office to discuss its needs and requirements with a pool of potential bidders with the aim of selecting one or more solutions capable of meeting its needs.

The Adventure Capital Fund (ACF) submitted the tender that best met the set criteria for the re-tender and offered best value.

Futurebuilders England: Contracts

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for what reasons his Department's contract with Futurebuilders England for the distribution of grant funding was not renewed. [196227]

Phil Hope: The tripartite agreement between Cabinet Office, Futurebuilders England and Charity Bank expires on 31 March 2008. In recognition of its success to date, Ministers have decided to continue the programme into a second phase. The second phase of the programme will see the arrangement moving to a bipartite structure, between the Cabinet Office and the fund manager. Under new procurement rules, this required a new tender process. Following this process Cabinet Office have appointed the successful bidder to run the fund from April 2008 to April 2011.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methodology for assigning international aviation emissions to the national emission inventories the Government are advocating in the international negotiations for a post-2012 framework to tackle climate change. [195034]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA commissioned a study, published in 2006, which examined what the different allocation methodologies proposed by the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) would mean to greenhouse gas inventories (UK and all others). No judgement was made on which methodology the UK advocated.

The inventory includes domestic aviation and international aviation as a memo item (using bunker fuel sales to estimate the GHG emission). A recent workshop in Oslo looked at methodological issues with regards to the climate change impact of aviation - it was concluded that whilst it is technically feasible to include international aviation in a post-2012 agreement, there is a political barrier to this at present.

We continue to work with EU and international partners to seek a way through the current political impasse, and very much hope to see it included in future frameworks for tackling climate change.

Departmental Data Protection

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by her Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [173688]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the "Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report" on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance in their annual reports.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency uses to check the bona fides of private parking control companies before releasing personal data relating to vehicle owners and operators to them; what steps the Agency takes to assess the uses to which such data is put by such companies; and if she will make a statement. [175771]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* In the Secretary of State for Transport's statement to Parliament on 17 December she outlined measures to improve the security of personal data in the context of the Cabinet Secretary's review of data across Government.

She also advised that, to ensure greater clarity of responsibility, the Permanent Secretary has written to senior officials in the Department, including Agency Chief Executives, drawing their attention to current guidance on the application of the Data Protection Act 1998. This includes the main principles of the Act, information on handling personal data appropriately and the role of the Information Commissioner.

New measures for companies requesting information manually were introduced on 1 November 2006, following the review of the release of information from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA) records announced by the then Minister of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman). The use of company headed paper has been replaced by the introduction of two new forms—V888/2 and V888/3. All applications must be supported with a business resume outlining details of the company's operations and provide details of why they want the information and how it will be used, as well as evidence to corroborate their request.

Car park enforcement companies have to confirm that a parking charge scheme is in operation, and provide evidence that they are operating on the instruction of the landowner. All forms contain a note that reminds applicants that it is a criminal offence under Section 55 of the DPA to falsely obtain personal information.

Companies that request and receive data via a secure electronic link do so under strict contractual terms and must firstly complete a six-month probationary period making manual requests, during which time their behaviour in the use of the information is monitored. The level and nature of any complaints is taken into account before an electronic link is established. Since 1 October 2007, all organisations that do not have a statutory regulator are required to be a member of a DVLA Accredited Trade Association (ATA).

An ATA must have a clear, enforceable code of practice (COP) governing the conduct and business practices of their members and will publish that COP on their website, along with a list of their members. ATAs that fail to enforce their COP will lose their accreditation and their members will forfeit their entitlement to request and receive DVLA data electronically.

The Agency has the right to carry out ad-hoc audits on companies to ensure that inquiries are appropriate. Any evidence of abuse will be referred to the Information Commissioner for investigation and, when appropriate, prosecution.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency may release details of vehicle ownership to private companies; and if she will make a statement. [174659]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the Secretary of State for Transport's statement to Parliament on 17 December, she outlined measures to improve the security of personal data in the context of the Cabinet Secretary's review of data across Government.

She also advised that, to ensure greater clarity of responsibility, the Permanent Secretary had written to senior officials in the Department, including Agency Chief Executives, to draw their attention to current guidance on the application of the Data Protection Act. This includes the main principles of the Act, information on handling personal data appropriately and the role of the Information Commissioner.

Regulation 27(1)(e) of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002 requires the DVLA to release information to any person who can demonstrate 'reasonable cause' to have that information.

The term 'reasonable cause' is not defined in legislation but the DVLA has always taken the view that release should normally be associated with road safety or events occurring as a direct consequence of the use of the vehicle. Everybody that applies for personal information is required to produce evidence that they have 'reasonable cause' for requesting the information.

A full list of the circumstances that the DVLA has, in the past, considered to meet 'reasonable cause' has been published on the DVLA and Direct.gov websites. The website also contains a list of bodies that it has released information to and the names of companies that have approved conditional access (ACA) which allows companies to request and receive information via an electronic link.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many responses have been received to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation; and how many of these were from *(a)* individuals, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* groups of individuals. [196311]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation ended on 27 February. We are not yet in a position to provide data on the numbers of responses received or provide any breakdowns.

M1: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have given to widening the M1 between junctions 10 and 13; what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of such motorway widening; and when she expects such work on widening to commence. [194005]

Mr. Tom Harris: A scheme to widen the M1 between junctions 10 and 13 is currently being prepared by the Highways Agency. Following the publication of the Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study on 4 March 2008 we have also asked the Agency to examine whether active traffic management with hard shoulder running might be a cost effective alternative to widening on some sections. The scheme cost and the timetable for works to commence are dependent on the option that we decide to take forward.

M1: M62

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on widening parts of the M62; what research her Department and its agencies have commissioned on M1/M62 widening and improvements in the last three years; what estimate she has made of the cost of such widening and improvements; and when she expects work to commence on the outstanding sections of the M1/M62 widening and improvements package. [194015]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is our policy to provide targeted improvements on seriously congested sections of the road network, subject to schemes offering value for money and being affordable. The Highways Agency has carried out detailed investigations over the last three years into options for increasing capacity on the M62 between junctions 25 and 28 and on the M1 between junctions 30 and 42. A scheme to widen the M1 between junctions 31 and 32 was opened to traffic in December 2007 and fully complete in February 2008.

In light of the results of the Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study published on 4 March, the Highways Agency will be examining whether Active Traffic Management including hard shoulder running would provide a cost effective means of providing additional capacity on the other sections. The scheme cost and delivery timetable are dependent on the options that we decide to take forward for each section.

M6: East Midlands

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of widening the M6 between junctions 11a and 19; when she expects such work to commence; and whether plans for such widening include *(a)* a stretch of four-laned motorway through the East Midlands, *(b)* climbing lanes for lorries and *(c)* junction improvements; [194006]

(2) what progress has been made on the widening of the M6 between Manchester and Birmingham; and what account she has taken of the potential for hard shoulder running in developing those proposals; [194013]

(3) what steps she is taking on the widening of the M6 between junctions 11a and 19. [194014]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has been preparing proposals for widening the M6 between junctions 11a and 19. However, in light of the findings of the Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study published on 4 March, the Agency will carry out a detailed assessment of whether Active Traffic Management, including hard shoulder running, would be a more cost effective method of adding capacity than widening on sections of the M6 between junctions 11a and 19. The assessment will also include examination of the case for climbing lanes and junction improvements. The cost and delivery timetable for these improvements are dependent on the option selected. This section of the M6 does not run through the East Midlands.

Motor Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish the report of the study of longer, heavier road vehicles commissioned by her Department in December 2005; and if she will make a statement. [195930]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The study was actually commissioned in October 2006. We expect the report to be published shortly.

Motorcycles: Safety Measures

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has made an assessment of the effectiveness of measures for improving the safety of motorcycle users established in the Government's motorcycling strategy; and if she will make a statement. [196081]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's motorcycling strategy includes a wide range of actions. We regularly keep each of these under review, working with motorcycling industry and user groups through the National Motorcycle Council and its four sub-groups.

Railways

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* time required to complete high speed rail links from London to (i) Birmingham, (ii) Manchester and (iii) Scotland. [195176]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* In developing the July 2007 Rail White Paper, the Department for Transport commissioned work on various inter-urban capacity options. One element of this work suggested a high-speed line between London and Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow might cost £29 billion. It should be noted that, informed by this and other work, the White Paper made clear that a new line was not necessary in the period 2009-14.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on committing to *(a)* network wide electrification, *(b)* a high speed line and *(c)* other all or nothing projects. [195642]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* Electrification and new rail lines are not necessarily 'all or nothing' projects. We are beginning work with the rail industry to re-examine the long-term cases for electrification and new lines. Options identified may include incremental solutions such as electrifying short stretches of line where there is a strong argument in favour of doing so.

Railways: Consultants

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on consultants for work on high speed rail links from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Scotland in each of the last five years. [195182]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* In developing the July 2007 Rail White Paper, the Department for transport commissioned work on various inter-urban capacity options.

In the year preceding the July 2007 Rail White Paper, work on the potential for new lines amounted to around £250,000. No substantial sums were spent by the Department in previous years.

Railways: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many delay minutes there were on the railway network in each year since 1993 for which *(a)* Railtrack and Network Rail and *(b)* a train operating company was responsible; and what the equivalent figures were for the most recent month for which data are available. [195976]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* The Department for Transport holds the data requested only from 2005-06 when it took over responsibility for rail passenger franchises. These figures relate to delays caused to franchised passenger services, and are:

		mins
	2005-06	*2006-07*
(a) Network Rail	8,256,000	8,251,000
(b) Train operating companies	7,379,000	6,304,000
Total	15,635,000	14,555,000

The most recently available equivalent data (for the year ending 2 February 2008) is given in the following table.

	(mins)
(a) Network Rail	7,689,000
(b) Train operating companies	5,506,000
Total	13,195,000

To seek historic data prior to 2005-06, the hon. Member is advised to contact Network Rail at the following address.

Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE

Roads: Tolls

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the amendments to the Road User Charging (Charges and Penalty) (London) Regulations due for completion by the end of 2007 have not yet been made. [196346]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport (DfT) expects to have the necessary resources available to complete consultation on the amendments to the road user charging regulations ready for implementation in 2009.

TREASURY

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions officials of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs were (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) alleged breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data, broken down by (1) grade, (2) sex and (3) age in each of the last five years for which information is available. [169431]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is not available.

Devolution: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* amount and *(b)* purpose of payments made to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland outside (i) block grants calculated under the Barnett formula and (ii) main departmental programmes in annually managed expenditure was in each year since 1997. [195803]

Yvette Cooper: Figures for departmental expenditure limits and departmental annually managed expenditure for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses. Changes in DEL are determined as set out in the Statement of Funding Policy. Forecasts of annually managed spending are updated in the Budget and pre-Budget report in the normal way. Details of specific settlements for the devolved Administrations are set out in the relevant spending review White Paper. The devolved Administrations' spending plans are set out in their own budget publications.

Income: Equality

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 112W, on income: equality, what assessment he has made of trends in *(a)* national prosperity and *(b)* household income inequality in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [195564]

Jane Kennedy: The ONS publishes measures of regional gross value added (GVA) per head in current prices in the regional accounts publication. The lowest regional level available is the NUTS3 level (unitary authorities or districts). The published data show a significant increase in GVA per head in England, North East and Tees Valley since 1997. There are no published data for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland as they are below the NUTS3 level.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=7359

Currently there are no available statistics of household income inequality at regional level. Data at UK level are published by the DWP in "Households Below Average Income" and by the ONS in "The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income". Available statistics show that the inequality at UK level has been stable since 1997.

Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of Government spending per capita was in each of the last 10 years. [196461]

Yvette Cooper: Total managed expenditure per head (total UK population) from 1997-98 to 2006-07 is provided in the following table:

Financial year	*Total managed expenditure divided by UK population (£)*
1997-98	5,521
1998-99	5,657
1999-2000	5,843
2000-01	6,183
2001-02	6,582
2002-03	7,097
2003-04	7,648
2004-05	8,232
2005-06	8,703
2006-07	9,074

Restricted Share Awards

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the payment of bonuses through restricted share awards. [196286]

Jane Kennedy: It is for employers to decide how and how much their employees are paid in the light of what is necessary to recruit, retain and motivate labour in the market conditions in which they operate. Government policy is to ensure that all employers and employees pay the proper amount of tax and national insurance contributions on these rewards of employment, however these rewards are delivered.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reconsider again at whether Stamp Duty/Land Tax (SDLT) should be charged on shared equity properties for first time buyers when they reach the thresholds for SDLT because of changes to house prices especially, in southern England. [196295]

Angela Eagle: Stamp duty rates and thresholds, like all other taxes, are kept under review as part of the Budget process.

Taxation: Social Security Benefits

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy on the taxation of social security benefits is. [196873]

Angela Eagle: Social security benefits are taxable when they are paid as a substitute for earned income. Income related social security benefits, child allowances and disability allowances are generally not taxable.

VAT: Repayments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to process a value added tax refund was in each of the last five years. [196265]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is committed to paying correct repayment claims without undue delay. It does not keep figures on average processing times, but operates to a published target to authorise at least 90 per cent. of correct repayment returns within 10 working days of their receipt. At the same time, HMRC makes clear to businesses that it will carry out checks and apply safeguards to ensure that claims are legitimate and accurate. In each of the past five years the target has been met.

Young People

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in the age groups (i) 15 to 19 years and (ii) 20 to 24 years there were in the UK in each year since 1991. [196824]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 March 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question on how many (a) men and (b) women in the age groups (i) 15 to 19 years and (ii) 20 to 24 years there were in the UK in each year since 1991. (196824)

The latest available population estimates are for mid-2006. The attached table shows the figures requested:

Mid-year population estimates: United Kingdom; estimated resident population at ages 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 by sex, 1991 to 2006

Thousand

	Male		*Female*	
	15 to 19	*20 to 24*	*15 to 19*	*20 to 24*
1991	1,905	2,242	1,815	2,207
1992	1,802	2,193	1,729	2,157
1993	1,733	2,135	1,672	2,097
1994	1,721	2,053	1,666	2,021
1995	1,737	1,979	1,687	1,951
1996	1,763	1,889	1,716	1,863
1997	1,799	1,800	1,752	1,780
1998	1,829	1,741	1,780	1,729
1999	1,839	1,737	1,786	1,727

Mid-year population estimates: United Kingdom; estimated resident population at ages 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 by sex, 1991 to 2006

Thousand

	Male		Female	
	15 to 19	*20 to 24*	*15 to 19*	*20 to 24*
2000	1,850	1,757	1,783	1,750
2001	1,879	1,792	1,799	1,790
2002	1,935	1,823	1,822	1,820
2003	1,989	1,866	1,867	1,851
2004	2,018	1,935	1,903	1,882
2005	2,030	2,000	1,927	1,929
2006	2,060	2,048	1,936	1,976

Sources:
Office for National Statistics, General Register Office for Scotland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received consolatory payments from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Child Support Agency, *(c)* Jobcentre or Jobcentre Plus, *(d)* the Disability and Carers Service, *(e)* the Pension Service, *(f)* the Rent Service and *(g)* the Debt Management Service in each year since 1997; what the average value of payments made in each year was; and how much was paid in consolatory payments in each year in each case. [185931]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the tables.

Consolatory payments made by DWP

	Total value of payments (rounded to nearest £000)	*Number of individual awards made[1]*
2006-07	850,000	11,389
2005-06	822,000	11,435
2004-05	752,000	10,946
2003-04	557,000	7,248
2002-03	773,000	9,725
2001-02	835,000	9,811
2000-01	758,000	7,553
1999-2000	575,000	5,211
1998-99	664,000	4,645

Consolatory payments made by DWP agencies

	Total value of payments (rounded to nearest £000)	*Number of individual awards made[1]*
2006-07		
TPS	43,000	509
JCP	109,000	1265
DCS	25,000	272
CSA	666,000	9,194
2005-06		
TPS	38,000	414
JCP	125,000	1,294
DCS	35,000	323
CSA	608,000	9,208
2004-05		
TPS	38,000	511
JCP	96,000	993
DCS	29,000	322
CSA	582,000	8,998
2003-04		
TPS	23,000	304
JCP	90,000	932
DCS	24,000	289
CSA	407,000	5,561
2002-03		
TPS	14,000	150
JCP	60,000	667
DCS	33,000	377
CSA	661,000	8,443
2001-02		
BA	83,000	849
CSA	696,000	8,320
2000-01		
BA	72,000	737
CSA	654,000	6,336
1999-2000		
BA	82,000	682
CSA	485,000	4,469
1998-99		
BA	80,000	300
CSA	565,000	4,235

[1] Notes:

1. The Department has three main categories of consolatory payments. Where a person is found to have suffered gross inconvenience, embarrassment or severe distress as a result of maladministration a consolatory payment is made. Each case is judged on its individual merits and an award is made, as applicable, for each of these categories.

2. The Department does not retain details of the number of individuals who receive consolatory payments. Records are retained of the number of awards made under each of the above categories. Where, for example, a customer receives an initial award based on an early examination of a complaint he may later receive additional awards as a result of further investigation or under one of the other categories. The number of awards made therefore exceeds the number of individuals concerned.

3. The first table shows the entire sum awarded as consolatory payments by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and its predecessor, the Department of Social Security (DSS). The figures include those paid by agencies that were part of the Department at the relevant time.

4. The Pension Service, Jobcentre Plus and the Disability and Carers Service were formed in 2002, prior to this they were part of the Benefits Agency (BA).

5. Debt Management is not an Executive agency of DWP. A consolatory payment awarded because of maladministration by Debt Management is awarded by Jobcentre Plus.

6. The Rent Service (TRS) was formed in October 1999 as an Executive agency of the Department of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. TRS became an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions in June 2001. The Rent Service has not made any consolatory payments.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action has been taken in response to allegations of a breach of the Civil Service Code in respect of unauthorised publication of material on the internet by a member of his Department; what the cost to the public purse of this action has been; what the results were; and if he will make a statement. [196178]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department takes any allegation of a breach of the civil service code seriously. It would be inappropriate to comment on any investigation or disciplinary procedure.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to departmental staff were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184318]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table shows the numbers of *(a)* mobile telephones *(b)* personal digital assistants (PDAs), and *(c)* laptop computers which were issued to departmental staff and were reported as stolen, lost, or missing (presumed to be stolen) since 2001, together with the average number of staff in each year. The records do not differentiate between those items which were reported as lost, stolen or missing, respectively.

	Total number of staff	*Mobile phones*	*PDAs*	*Laptops*
2001	[1]86,806	1	0	23
2002	124,117	3	0	42
2003	131,409	30	0	42
2004	130,786	34	1	75
2005	126,988	31	0	46
2006	119,972	15	0	28
2007	114,500	14	19	15

[1] Figure relates to the former Department of Social Security only.

Employment: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposals contained in the Green Paper, In Work Better Off: Next steps to full employment on rural communities; by what process such an assessment was reached; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that rural communities receive in equitable benefit from the implementation of any proposals arising out of the Green Paper. [192824]

Mr. Timms: Most Department of Work and Pensions policies and programmes are aimed at individuals, with eligibility dependent on personal circumstances rather than where they live. This means that even without specific targeting the help provided by the Department is concentrated in areas facing labour market disadvantage. Over the last ten years, the biggest labour market improvements have been in the areas that started in the worst position.

In addition to national programmes there is also a range of locally flexible support, such as the Jobcentre Plus Adviser Discretion Fund, the Deprived Areas Fund and the new Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

When determining how to deliver its services, Jobcentre Plus also considers the implications for rural and other areas. For example, support is provided not only through the Jobcentre network but also by telephone through the Contact Centre and Benefit Delivery Centre network as well as the internet. This allows all customers to access key services regardless of where they live. Where there are issues about the ability of customers to access Jobcentre Plus support, provision can be made for additional or more flexible arrangements. These include the installation of jobpoints in libraries, surgeries in third party premises, partnering in local authority outlets and, where practical, some mobile services.

Taken together, the Department's approach helps to ensure that individuals in deprived communities across the country are able to get the help and support they need to move back into work. However, our new generation of employment programmes, including Pathways to Work and the flexible New Deal, will offer further scope for provision to be tailored to the needs of individuals in different geographical locations and those facing particular labour market challenges.

On 13 December 2007, we published 'Ready for work: full employment in our generation' which sets out the measures the Government will take to reach the goals of an 80 per cent. employment rate and working people with world class skills. The paper responds to the 'In work, better off' consultation exercise which ran from July to October 2007. A full assessment of the effects of those measures will be carried out as part of post-implementation evaluation.

A key feature of the measures is the need to provide more flexible, responsive and individually focused employment and skills support. For example, by extending our use of private and voluntary sector organisations we will be making use of their knowledge of the challenges faced by particular groups or localities. They will be able to provide the right kind of support to individuals based on their particular circumstances, which could include issues related to where they live. Each contract will be evaluated as to its effectiveness throughout the duration of that contract.

Hearing Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by his Department through call centres. [194953]

Mrs. McGuire: Deaf people can use the typetalk service or our separate textphone numbers to access all our call centres.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance is issued by his Department to local authorities on issuing discretionary housing payments to *(a)* all those in receipt of housing benefit and *(b)* those in receipt of the single room rent. [190307]

Mr. Plaskitt: Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) can be made, subject to an annual cash limit, where a person is entitled to housing benefit or council tax benefit and the local authority considers that person is in need of further financial help to meet any shortfall in their housing costs or council tax. The scheme is discretionary so it is up to local authorities to decide how they operate it, with any decisions on its use being made on a case-by-case basis.

DWP cannot prescribe the circumstances in which an authority must make payments, but guidance has been issued to all local authorities setting out the conditions for entitlement to an award. In deciding whether to award a DHP local authorities should consider the circumstances that give rise to a shortfall.

In our revised guidance, due to be published shortly, we make it clear that a DHP can cover a shortfall resulting from rent officer restrictions such as the single room rent.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the outcome was of his Department's review of the operation of the single room rent; [190332]

(2) what his estimate is of the quantity of accommodation that meets the criteria for eligibility for the single room rent. [190333]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department's recent review examined the shortfalls faced by many single room rent (SRR) claimants and considered why the majority of this group do not live in shared accommodation. Three aspects were examined—affordability, accessibility and availability of shared accommodation.

On affordability we found that there are gaps in the market evidence on which the Rent Service set SRR rates and this may impact on affordability. However, changes to the way the Rent Service gathers market evidence brought about by the introduction of the local housing allowance (LHA) from April 2008, and a change in the SRR definition, should overcome the current evidence gaps and lead to an increase in SRR rates.

On availability we found that some areas of the country, particularly rural areas, appear to have a shortage of shared accommodation that falls within the definition currently used for the SRR. However, the introduction of the national LHA will address some of these issues through the move to a median LHA rate and the new Shared Room Rate. The latter covers a wider definition of shared accommodation than under the current SRR and will better reflect the range of accommodation available to tenants.

The findings on accessibility from academic research and some anecdotal evidence suggest that young people and housing benefit tenants are unpopular with landlords in the private rented sector which may restrict SRR customers' access to shared accommodation.

The Department plans to make an initial assessment of the impact of the rollout of the LHA on the SRR as part of the two year review of the LHA.

There are no data available to provide an accurate estimate of the quantity of accommodation that matches the definition of the SRR.

Industrial Health and Safety

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what resources his Department has made available for *(a)* enforcement and *(b)* advice and guidance on health and safety at work in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [188365]

Mrs. McGuire: The annual gross expenditure for 2002-03 to 2006-07 on enforcement (including investigations) and advice and guidance on health and safety at work by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which is sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, is provided in the following table.

HSE's gross expenditure[1]

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Enforcement and Investigation[2]	39.9	40.2	38.8	41.4	51.0
Advice and Guidance[3]	18.1	21.7	21.8	34.2	33.7

[1] To allow comparison across the years, the figures have been adjusted for years 2002-03 to 2004-05 to exclude HSE's Rail Safety function which transferred to the Office of Rail Regulation on 1 April 2006.

[2] HSE measures the cost of enforcement from the point at which it decides to proceed with legal sanctions and the cost depends on a range of factors, many of which are not in HSE's control, e.g. whether a prosecution is defended. HSE investigates those incidents reported to it that fall within the Health and Safety Commission's incident selection criteria and this is one of the main activities from which enforcement is initiated and the costs are included in the table. Figures are based on historical work recording data from HSE's Field Operations Directorate, Hazardous Installations Directorate and Nuclear Directorate; and its Corporate Science and Analytical Services Directorate and Health and Safety Laboratory's expenditure in support of enforcement activities.

[3] Advice and guidance includes that given by inspectors in Field Operations Directorate. Also included are resources that HSE spends on providing information e.g. through campaigns, guidance through publications, staff in other directorates and its Infoline service.

Industrial Training: Standards

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints his Department has received about the suitability of placements offered to people by Skills Training UK in the last 12 months. [195021]

Mr. Timms: My Department is not aware of any complaints in the last 12 months about the suitability of placements offered by Skills Training UK.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* safety, *(b)* suitability and *(c)* value of placements offered to people by Skills Training UK; and if he will make a statement. [195022]

Mr. Timms: All welfare to work contractors, including Skills Training UK, are required to meet the quality and delivery standards set out in the contract specification, and are subject to contract management and monitoring by professional and trained procurement staff, in addition to any Ofsted inspection and audit.

The Department's contract management and supplier relationship processes aim to ensure that corrective measures are introduced if the provider does not achieve the level and standard of performance required. This includes the suitability and value of placements and contractual compliance issues, such as the safety of trainees during their placement.

Low Incomes: Children

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* pensioners lived in households with below 60 per cent. of median household income in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) each region of England, (A) before and (B) after housing costs and (1) including and (2) excluding the self-employed in each year from 1999 to 2000. [195390]

Mr. Timms: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Maternity Benefits

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed maternity allowance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [192892]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available in the format requested. Information is not available prior to 2003. The available information is in the table.

Maternity allowance, new claim commencements in Great Britain

	Number
2003-04	47,100
2004-05	50,300
2005-06	55,300
2006-07	51,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
Source:
DWP Maternity Allowance Quarterly Statistics

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people had claimed maternity allowance but had yet to receive payments as of 28 February 2008; and if he will make a statement; [192893]

(2) what the average length of time was between the point at which an individual claimed maternity allowance and the start date of their payment in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [192894]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 26 March 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply direct to your questions asking how many people had claimed maternity allowance but had yet to receive payments as of 28 February; and what the average length of time was between the time an individual claimed maternity allowance and the start date of their payment in the latest period for which figures are available and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within my responsibilities as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As of 28 February we have 6,233 maternity allowance claims outstanding. We aim to clear maternity allowance claims within 20 days. We clear on average 350 claims per day, so this outstanding figure equates to 18 days of work, which is below the normal stock of work.

From March 2007 to February 2008 we received 89,626 maternity allowance claims and have cleared 86,563. The yearly average of cleared claims is 18.16 days to the end of February.

I hope this is helpful.

Personal Income

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income was of the *(a)* top and *(b)* bottom quartile of households with dependent children in each year since 1997. [173891]

Mr. Timms: The information is in the following table.

Average (median) weekly equivalised incomes of the top and bottom quartile of households with dependent children since 1997

£

	Before housing costs		*After housing costs*	
	Bottom quartile	*Top quartile*	*Bottom quartile*	*Top quartile*
1996-97	155	512	103	412
1997-98	157	520	105	419
1998-99	160	535	108	433
1999-2000	166	538	112	443
2000-01	174	562	118	466
2001-02	183	589	128	485
2002-03	185	584	130	493
2003-04	187	599	132	506
2004-05	191	596	135	510
2005-06	191	606	134	524

Notes:
1. The information shown is for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards. Earlier years are Great Britain only.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, equivalised for household size and composition, as a proxy for standard of living.
3. Median incomes within the relevant quartiles have been presented. We have used median rather than mean as a measure of average incomes within the quartile. This is in line with the HBAI publication, where medians are used because the mean will be heavily influenced by the small number of households having very high or very low incomes.
4. Figures have been presented on both a before housing cost and an after housing cost basis. For before housing cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for after housing cost they are. This means that after housing cost incomes will generally be lower than before housing cost.
5. Amounts in the tables have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.
Source:
Family Resources Survey, 2005-06

The figures show that households with dependent children in the lowest quartile and highest quartile of incomes have both seen their incomes grow over the last decade. Those families with dependent children in the lowest quartile have seen their incomes grow by a greater extent than those in the highest quartile.

Social Security Benefits: Ireland

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1388W, on social security benefits: Ireland, whether discussions took place on the time migrants have to be resident before claiming benefit in the meetings referred to. [190910]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: The meetings referred to in the answer of 26 February 2008 to question 186429 were to discuss measures to prevent benefit fraud. No discussions took place at those meetings on the time migrants have to be resident before claiming benefits.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost of incorrect benefit payments was, excluding those payments resulting from fraud, in each of the last 10 years. [189296]

Mr. Plaskitt: Reliable estimates regarding the total cost of incorrect benefit payments are not available from 1997-98 to 1999-2000. The available information is in the following table.

Estimated cost of incorrect benefit payments (not including fraud)

£ billion

	Total amount of benefit paid	*Cost of incorrect payments*	
		Customer error	*Official error*
2000-01	101.3	0.7	0.4
2001-02	106.6	0.7	0.4
2002-03	110.2	0.6	0.6
2003-04	105.7	0.7	0.8
2004-05	111.1	0.9	0.9
2005-06	115.8	1.0	0.9
2006-07	119.1	1.0	0.9

We have had great success in reducing benefit fraud, and we are now applying the same drive and determination to reduce the level of overpayments caused by error in the benefit system. We have:

established a task force to reduce official error in the benefits most vulnerable to error;

launched the first ever long term error reduction strategy which addresses both official and customer error across the whole benefits system;

created a Benefit Simplification Unit to direct our work on reducing complexity in the benefit system.

Sunbeds

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many instances of burning from sunbed use have been reported to the Health and Safety Executive since January 2006. [195373]

Mrs. McGuire: There were no such instances reported to the Health and Safety Executive during this period.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances a retrospective claim for a winter fuel payment may be made. [195568]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically without the need for a claim. However a small number of people who are not in receipt of a benefit administered by DWP or who have not received a payment before need to make a claim.

For people who need to claim, claim forms are available from July for the oncoming winter and can be submitted up to the 30 March cut off date the following year. Payment cannot be made for claims received after the cut off date.

Winter Fuel Payments: Finance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of extending winter fuel payments to all those eligible for the cold weather payment. [195438]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Approximately £320 million a year.

Notes:

1. Cold weather payment caseload extracted from Work and Pensions Longitudinal Survey, 100 percent data.

2. Cold weather payments to people under age 60 are made to those awarded income support or income based jobseeker's allowance who have a disability premium or a child under age five. The caseload for these benefits can go up or down from month to month. This estimate is based on those meeting the cold weather payment eligibility as at May 2006.

3. This estimate is based upon the assumption that individuals now eligible for a winter fuel payment under the cold weather criteria do not live in the same household as any other individual eligible for a WFP (therefore they are awarded the full winter fuel payment).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change: Population

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration his Department has made of the effects of global population growth on climate change. [195742]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA ensures that UK greenhouse gas emissions projections include the impact of predicted population growth.

Global emissions scenarios contained in the IPCC Third and Fourth Assessment Reports take into account global population growth when predicting future greenhouse gas emissions.

Crops: Biofuels

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects the production of biofuels has had on the production of food crops. [196199]

Mr. Woolas: The impact in the EU has been very limited as less than 2 per cent. of total cereal consumption will be used for biofuels this year. The current high level of cereal prices is mainly due to a mix of short and long term factors as set out in the DEFRA briefing note "Implications of rising agricultural commodity prices" available on the DEFRA website.

The Government are very eager to ensure that biofuel production is sustainable, and has commissioned Professor Ed Gallagher, chairman of the Renewable Fuels Agency, to lead a study on the wider economic and environmental impacts, including the impact on food prices, of different forms of biofuel production. The terms of reference for the review were published on the Department for Transport's website on 13 March.

Energy: Housing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the effects the provisions of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 on the energy efficiency of *(a)* local authority housing stock and *(b)* privately rented homes; [195659]

(2) what changes the operation of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 has produced in levels of carbon dioxide emissions from residential housing stock; [195660]

(3) what estimate he has made of the changes in residential accommodation energy efficiency which have resulted from the provisions of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995; [195661]

(4) what estimate he has made of the tonnage change in carbon dioxide emissions as a result of the implementation of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995; [195679]

(5) what estimate he has made of the terawatt hour energy savings resulting from the implementation of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995; [195680]

(6) what assessment he has made of changes to levels of energy efficiency within residential accommodation as a result of the operation of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. [195682]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 requires local authorities with housing responsibility to prepare a strategy for improving energy efficiency within residential accommodation in their areas and report annually on progress. Since 1996, authorities have reported an average total improvement of approximately 19 per cent. to 31 March 2006. Results for the period up to 31 March 2007 will be published shortly.

A number of programmes are likely to have contributed to this improvement in energy efficiency, particularly the Energy Efficiency Commitment, Warm Front and Decent Homes. It is important to note that Home Energy Conservation Act strategies and monitoring techniques differ, and that the figures reported have not been independently verified.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent efficiency directions have been issued to authorities that have not met the targets resulting from the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. [195681]

Mr. Woolas: The Sustainable Energy Act 2003 provides a power for the Secretary of State to issue an Energy Efficiency Direction to local authorities. This power has not been exercised.

The Government's policy to support and incentivise increased local authority action on climate change is outlined in the 2006 UK Climate Change Programme and the 2007 Local Government White Paper.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities achieved the improvement targets resulting from the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 in each year since the Act was implemented; and how many he expects to achieve the targets in the next 12 months. [195683]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 requires local authorities with housing responsibility to prepare a strategy for improving energy efficiency within residential accommodation. These are aimed at achieving a voluntary 30 per cent. improvement within 10 to 15 years, though authorities identify their own specific targets. Most authorities have set 15 year targets, giving them until 2011 to meet them. However, annual progress reports suggest that 4 per cent. of authorities had met their targets by 31 March 2006.

Floods: Insurance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Dorset and North Poole of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2510-11W, what progress is being made in his discussions with the insurance industry on the availability of insurance cover for homes in flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [194588]

Mr. Woolas: A statement from the Government and Association of British Insurers (ABI) was issued on 13 February confirming joint working to carry out the regular review of the statement of principles.

The scope of the review includes joint working groups looking at: assessing the information and mapping currently available and ensuring better understanding of flood risk; the approach to a long term strategy in order to provide effective flood risk management; promoting increased resilience, preventing inappropriate development in high flood risk areas, and addressing the interim conclusions from the Pitt Review on the availability and uptake of insurance.

The review is expected to be finalised in the summer. In the meantime ABI members will continue to adhere to the existing statement of principles.

Forestry: Borneo

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has held with the Governments of Indonesia and Malaysia on deforestation on the island of Borneo; and if he will make a statement. [196272]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The Malaysian and Indonesian Governments signed the tri-Government (with Brunei) declaration on trans-boundary co-operation to preserve the Heart of Borneo in February 2007. The UK supports the development of a tri-national action plan to be completed in the first

half of 2008. This will be important in shaping the future protection and sustainable use of forests on Borneo. DEFRA is currently funding 16 projects in Indonesia and Malaysia under the Darwin Initiative, including forest related projects on Borneo.

DEFRA Ministers have met several times in the last year with their Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts, and discussed the importance of tackling deforestation in general in these countries.

I met with Indonesian Environment Minister Witoelar on 21 February 2008, and discussed forest carbon, among other issues. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn) met with the Indonesian Minister of Agriculture on 1 October 2007 and discussed the problems of deforestation, and the related issues of illegal logging. He also discussed the need for a balanced approach to palm oil production. My hon. Friend the Member for Brent, North (Barry Gardiner) met with the Malaysian Minister for Plantation Industries and Commodities in May 2007, explaining the UK's concern that palm oil production is increasing the pressure on forests.

Hazardous Substances

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the toxic equivalence quote is, as the maximum allowable level of dioxin contamination permitted before some form of corrective action must be taken, in the UK; what the evidential basis for this level is; and if he will make a statement. [193734]

Mr. Woolas: Maximum limits for dioxins and total toxicity equivalence (dioxins plus PCBs) in fish and fatty foods are set out in Regulation (EC) 1881/2006 and any food found to contain levels above these limits must be withdrawn from sale. Recommendation 2006/88/EC defines separate action levels for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in the same food categories. When a sample is found to exceed these levels, prompt action is taken to reduce the levels.

Legislation and abatement technologies have led to a significant reduction in environmental releases and human exposure to dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs. There is no single threshold set for dioxin emissions into the environment. Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration set an emission limit for dioxins of 0.1 nanogram I- Toxicity Equivalence (TEQ) per cubic metre of gaseous releases to air, and emission limit values for discharges to water are set at 0.3 nanogram per litre. The Persistent Organic Pollutants regulation (EC-850/2004) brought in additional controls on the disposal of waste containing dioxins above a trigger level of 15ug/kg TEQ.

Heating: EC Law

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that the views of UK industry are sent to the European Commission officials drafting the impact assessment for the Energy-using Products Directive implementing measure for heaters and boilers. [196165]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* My officials are in the process of preparing a submission to the Commission which sets out our view of the proposals. This has been developed following extensive consultation with industry. I would also encourage industry to submit their views directly to the Commission.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations the Energy-using Products Board plans to hold with industry on the working document on boilers and water heaters. [196166]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1133W.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations the Energy-using Products Board plans to have with the European Commission on the matter of boilers being outside the scope of the Energy-using Products Directive. [196167]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* DEFRA officials regularly meet and have discussions at EU level, including on energy efficient products, and have held a number of meetings with the Commission on the Energy-using Products Directive, including an informal meeting on the Commission's proposed implementing measure on boilers and water heaters. No specific discussions have been held on the matter of boilers being outside the scope of this directive as my Department supports their inclusion due to the high energy use of these products.

The Commission is currently analysing responses from the boiler and water heater industry on its proposals for boilers and water heaters. DEFRA officials attended a Consultation Forum (comprising the Commission, European trade associations and other member state representatives) on these proposals on 29 February.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints his Department has received from hon. Members on the operation of the Warm Front scheme. [197039]

Mr. Woolas: Since 1 April 2007, DEFRA has received in the region of 340 letters from hon. Members wishing to make representations on behalf of constituents or discuss issues relating to scheme delivery.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Advertising

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on advertising the Warm Front Grant scheme by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* EAGA plc and *(c)* local authorities in the financial years (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [195127]

Mr. Woolas: Eaga plc has responsibility for generating awareness of Warm Front as part of their contract as Scheme Manager.

DEFRA does not hold information on the amount spent by Eaga plc on advertising the scheme or on the cost of any activities performed by local authorities to advertise Warm Front.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on measures carried out in households under the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by local authority area. [195119]

Mr. Woolas: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Social Security Benefits

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many benefits entitlements checks were carried out under the Warm Front Scheme in each of the last five financial years; and how many households were found to be eligible for a Warm Front qualifying benefit following a benefit entitlement check, broken down by local authority area. [195128]

Mr. Woolas: Data are not recorded in a manner that will allow a breakdown by local authority. The following table illustrates the number of benefit entitlement checks carried out over the last five financial years, and, based on the information provided, how many were subsequently found to be eligible for a Warm Front qualifying benefit.

	Number of benefit entitlement checks carried out	*Number subsequently eligible for Warm Front*
2003-04	1,772	689
2004-05	16,771	5,347
2005-06	14,674	5,699
2006-07	22,761	9,607
2007-08	16,712	4,845
Total	72,690	26,187

The total number of benefit checks carried out only includes households found to be ineligible for assistance when presented to the scheme.

2007-08 figures cover work completed between 1 June 2007 and 1 March 2008.

Litter

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce the levels of litter on streets. [196168]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The tools available to local authorities were enhanced considerably by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This provided the ability to issue notices to tackle litter hotspots on private land as well litter problems attributable to a particular business activity, including the recent extension of street litter control notices to eating and drinking establishments.

In addition, DEFRA continues to support the work of the charity ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns) on awareness raising and behaviour change campaigns; for example, on cigarette, chewing gum and fast food-related litter, as well as a web-based training resource to help drive up standards of street cleansing and environmental services.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Grants

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to double the maximum grant available under the domestic low carbon building programme. [195292]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

We have recently reviewed progress on the low carbon buildings programme household stream, consulting key stakeholders on a wide range of issues including grant levels. We are currently finalising plans and will announce shortly how we intend to take the household stream forward.

Recycling: Lancashire

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage businesses in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency to recycle waste in the last 12 months. [194714]

Joan Ruddock: I am not aware of any specific DEFRA initiatives in Morecambe and Lunesdale. However, the Government's Waste Strategy for England 2007 sets out the aim of encouraging local authorities to take on a wider role (in partnerships) to help local (particularly smaller) businesses reduce and recycle their waste with cost savings through more integrated management of different waste streams; and encouraging regional development agencies and other regional bodies to coordinate business waste and resource management in partnership with local authorities and third sector organisations. Small and medium sized enterprises can also get information on recycling from Government and Waste and Recycling Action Programme (WRAP) websites.

DEFRA supports businesses to improve their efficient use of resources and to reduce their carbon emissions. This work forms an important part of the Government's drive towards a sustainable consumption and production economy. By cutting their waste and reducing material use, businesses of all sizes can boost profits and create jobs by reducing environmental impacts.

The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme has delivered much of the above support to businesses. The programme has returned additional landfill tax to business over three years through resource efficiency and waste minimisation programmes, including recycling projects. Good results have been achieved from the intervention.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have expressed an interest in the pilot scheme for charging for refuse collection; and if he will make a statement. [196694]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 754W.

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to which wind farm proposals his Department lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191117]

Mr. Woolas: For onshore windfarms under 50 megawatts, planning decisions are taken by local planning authorities. For windfarms above this threshold, decisions are taken by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform under the Electricity Act 1989. DEFRA is not consulted in either case but Natural England will have a chance to comment as a statutory consultee. Natural England and its founding bodies have objected to three onshore wind farms in three regions, and seven offshore wind farms adjacent to four regions.

The Environment Agency is not a Statutory Consultee for windfarms, but is consulted on some windfarm developments for other statutory reasons. Between 2005 and 2007 (inclusive) the Environment Agency objected to a total of five planning applications for windfarms for reasons including flood risk, impact on biodiversity and groundwater. In all five cases after further work by the developer the Environment Agency were able to withdraw their objections.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) has a direct role in licensing offshore renewables under the Food and Environment Protection Act. An application could be rejected if assessment of the detailed environmental statement, submitted with the application, and other information showed that the proposed development would have a negative impact on the marine environment. To date, the MFA has not rejected an application for an offshore wind farm.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to accident and emergency departments there were for *(a)* knife-related injuries and *(b)* gunshot wounds in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [195427]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is collected on the number of finished admissions to hospital via accident and emergency. Tables have been placed in the Library which provide a breakdown of the data by primary care trusts (PCT). However, the tables only provide information on those PCTs where the number of admissions is more than five, due to the need to ensure that data remains anonymous.

It is worth noting that finished admission episodes do not represent the number of patients admitted, as a patient may be admitted more than once.

Allergies: Medical Treatments

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to undertake a review of allergy services and treatments. [193348]

Ann Keen: The Department and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) are currently working together on some focused proposals for guidance relating to allergy. These proposals will be fed into the NICE topic selection process for consideration alongside other possible topics for NICE's work programme.

Blood Transfusion Services: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff posts will be *(a)* discontinued and *(b)* moved to other sites from the Tooting Blood Processing and Testing centre as part of the planned consolidation of processing and testing centres following the Review of the National Blood Service Strategy. [195117]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Blood Service (NSB) is an operational division of NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). NHSBT plans to move processing and testing services from the Tooting centre during 2009-10. All other services will remain at the centre, including the issue department (from which blood is issued), so that local hospitals will continue to receive blood as and when they need it.

It is anticipated that these changes will result in the reduction of approximately 70 posts at the Tooting centre. NHSBT intend to deliver this reduction through non-compulsory means, such as voluntary redundancy, staff turnover and vacancy control. Staff affected by change will be given a range of support, including training and help with redeployment both within and outside NHSBT.

Breast Cancer: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the ability of breast cancer care facilities in South Essex to respond to changes in demand for services. [193067]

Ann Keen: This is a matter for the local national health service and the Essex Cancer Network. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the NHS for commissioning and funding appropriate health services for their resident populations. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this issue with the chief executives of South East and South West Essex PCTs.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 281W, on breast cancer: Essex, if he will investigate the factors behind the recent increase in breast cancer diagnoses in Essex; and if he will make a statement. [193197]

Ann Keen: This is a matter for the local national health service and the Essex and the North London cancer networks. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the NHS to assess the needs and priorities of their local populations and commission health services accordingly. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this issue with the chief executives of the PCTs in Essex.

Breast Cancer: Health Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to (*a*) promote for the early diagnosis and fast treatment of breast cancer and (*b*) ensure adequacy of breast cancer services in each primary care trust area. [193068]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy, published last December, contains a number of initiatives under the National Awareness and early Diagnosis initiative to promote early diagnosis and improve the treatment of breast cancer. These include:

patients with breast problems being referred to a cancer specialist within two weeks, whether or not cancer is suspected;

the breast-screening programme being extended to women aged 47 to 73 years;

working at a community level to promote better public awareness of cancer symptoms;

carrying out a regular national survey of cancer symptom awareness to gain a better understanding of the delays in patient diagnosis; and

carrying out a national audit in primary care of all patients diagnosed with cancer.

To ensure equality of treatment of all cancers we are developing a national cancer equality initiative involving key stakeholders.

More detailed information on these initiatives can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081006

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast cancer screenings there were in (*a*) Tamworth and (*b*) Staffordshire in each of the last five years. [193624]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, data for the national health service screening programme: coverage of women aged 53-64 for Staffordshire based primary care trusts (PCTs), at 31 March 2003 to 2007 has been set out in the following table.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
North Staffordshire PCT[1]					
Eligible population[2]	16,178	16,322	16,480	16,690	16,885
Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	12,291	12,902	12,971	13,404	13,654
Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)	76.0	79.0	78.7	80.3	80.9
South Staffordshire PCT[1]					
Eligible population[2]	45,554	46,029	46,623	47,245	48,008
Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	37,594	35,493	36,721	36,857	39,364
Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)	82.5	77.1	78.8	78.0	82.0

[1] Data prior to March 2007 have been mapped to the current PCT structure

[2] This is the number of women in the registered population less those recorded as ineligible

Notes:

1. The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years.
2. Coverage of the screening programme is currently best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50 and 53 birthdays.
3. The breast screening programme covers women aged 50-64 but it was extended to invite women aged 65-70 in April 2001.
4. The last unit began inviting women aged 65-70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.

Source:

KC63, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the national standards for the uptake of (*a*) breast cancer and (*b*) cervical cancer screening have been achieved in (i) Tamworth and (ii) the West Midlands. [193629]

Ann Keen: Uptake of cervical screening is not measured as women make their own appointments following receipt of a reminder letter. Therefore, to provide consistency all the figures given as follows are for coverage rather than uptake.

The national standard for breast screening coverage is 70 per cent. and the national standard for cervical screening coverage is 80 per cent. The following tables give coverage figures for the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT), which covers Tamworth, as at 31 March 2007 for breast and cervical screening.

NHS Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 53-64 for specified organisations, at 31 March 2007

	Eligible population[1]	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)
West Midlands SHA	395,515	311,203	78.7
South Staffordshire PCT[2]	16,885	13,654	80.9

[1] This is the number of women in the registered population less those recorded as ineligible.
[2] Data prior to March 2007 have been mapped to the current PCT structure.

Notes:
1. The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years.
2. Coverage of the screening programme is currently best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays.
3. The breast screening programme covers women aged 50-64 but it was extended to invite women aged 65-70 in April 2001.
4. The last unit began inviting women aged 65-70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.

Source:
KC 63, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Cervical screening programme: coverage of the Target Age Group (25-64), for specified organisations, at 31 March 2007

	Eligible population[1]	Coverage (less than 3.5 yrs since last adequate test) (%)	Coverage (less than 5 years since last adequate test) (%)
West Midlands SHA	1,350,787	71.2	79.3
South Staffordshire PCT2	148,521	76.6	82.4

[1] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.
[2] Data prior to March 2007 have been mapped to the current PCT structure.

Note:
National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, those aged 50 to 64 every five years).

Source:
KC 53 Parts A2 and A3, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Cancer: Screening

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken in Staffordshire to increase the uptake of screening for cancer. [193627]

Ann Keen: It is important to remember that no screening method is perfect and anyone invited to be screened for cancer must be aware of both the benefit and harm of being screened and be able to make an informed decision on whether to take part or not.

However, we do recognise the important role that screening plays and, as set out in the "Cancer Reform Strategy", we are taking steps to build on and improve our existing screening services.

This includes extending the age ranges for both breast and bowel screening, so that as many people as possible have the opportunity to be screened. We estimate that this will mean that an extra 3 million men and women will be screened over the next five years.

In the Staffordshire area, it is the responsibility of the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority working in partnership with its primary care trusts (PCTs) including South Staffordshire PCT, local screening services and stakeholders to provide appropriate cancer screening services for their local populations. This includes promotion of local screening services.

Chronically Sick: Lancashire

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions in South Ribble. [192810]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Central Lancashire PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the 'National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions' (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from Central Lancashire PCT.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that oral health is maintained in England? [196866]

Mr. Bradshaw: Oral health in England has improved considerably during the last 30 years and the Government wish to see this improvement maintained.

In 2003 the Government enacted new legislation which gives communities a real option of having their water fluoridated should this be needed to reduce oral health inequalities and improve oral health. A number of areas across the country are now actively considering the possibility of new water fluoridation schemes.

Recognising that it may not be feasible to fluoridate all these high need areas, the Government developed the Brushing for Life programme. Brushing for Life involves health visitors giving families with young children in high need areas advice on preventing dental decay and a free pack containing a tube of fluoridated toothpaste, a toothbrush and a leaflet on oral hygiene. In many areas it is run in close association with Sure Start.

In October 2005 the Government published Choosing Better Oral Health: an oral health plan for England which set out a strategy to reduce oral health inequalities. In September 2007 the Department

published Delivering Better Oral Health: An evidence-based toolkit for prevention, which contains guidance to dentists and other dental care professionals on how to promote oral health and prevent dental disease and provides information to primary care trusts on what preventive care they should be commissioning.

Dental Services: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the adequacy of NHS dentistry provision in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire; [193620]

(2) what steps he is taking to extend provision of NHS dentistry in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* Staffordshire. [193621]

Ann Keen: The numbers of dentists on open national health service contracts, in England, as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report. This information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA).

This report, published on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The numbers published are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology for reporting dental workforce information since the introduction of the new dental contractual arrangements, on 1 April 2006, is currently under review. The review is to ensure that the figures provide an appropriate measure of the workforce, given the way that the payments system is being used by PCTs. The workforce data within the report will therefore remain the latest available until this review is complete.

The number of people seen by an NHS dentist, in England, are available in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 2, 30 September 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, and 30 September 2007. The information is provided by PCT and by SHA.

Information on the number of courses of treatment performed, by treatment band, between 1 July 2007 and 30 September 2007, is available in Table A1 of Annex 3 of the report. Information on the number of units of dental activity performed, by treatment band, for the same time period is available in Table B1. Information is provided by PCT and by SHA in both tables.

This report, published on 28 February 2008, is available in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstatsq20708

Information by constituency under the new contractual arrangements is not available.

Both reports have been published by The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Increasing the number of patients seen within NHS dental services is now a formal priority in the NHS operating framework for 2008-09 and we have supported this with a very substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193445]

Mr. Bradshaw: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the "Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report" on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports. A copy of the Interim Progress Report is available in the Library.

Health Professions: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were successfully prosecuted for physically abusing doctors and nurses in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [193630]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of nurses physically abused by patients in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [193631]

Ann Keen: In April 2003 the National Health Service Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff.

Since 2003-04 the NHS SMS has collated data on the number of criminal sanctions following assaults against NHS staff in England. The numbers are in the following table. The numbers of prosecutions following assaults against doctors and nurses are included within these figures and are not available separately.

	Criminal sanctions
2003-04	51
2004-05	759
2005-06	850
2006-07	869

Criminal sanctions include:

cautions and conditional cautions;

community rehabilitation or punishment orders;

imprisonment (including suspended sentences);

conditional discharges; and

fines.

Since 2004-05 the NHS SMS has collected data on the number of physical assaults reported against NHS staff in England for the categories shown in the following table. The numbers of nurses physically assaulted by patients are included within these figures and are not available separately.

Reported assaults by sector	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Ambulance service	1,333	1,104	1,006
Acute/foundation trusts	10,758	11,100	9,685
Primary care	5,192	5,145	3,445
Mental health/learning disability	43,097	41,345	41,569
Other (special health authority)	5	1	4
Total	60,385	58,695	55,709

Health Services: Royal Household

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements funded by his Department are made for the provision of primary healthcare services to staff of the Royal Households. [196363]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Staff of the royal households are entitled to register with a general practitioner practice for primary medical services just like any other United Kingdom resident.

The Department is not aware of any special provision of primary health care service to staff of the royal households.

Health Services: Scanning

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will investigate the *(a)* effects on health of services offered by the body-scanning industry and *(b)* the appropriateness of the level of exposure to x-ray technology of those services; and if he will make a statement; [196356]

(2) what steps he plans to take following the Twelfth COMARE report on the use of computerised tomography (CT) to *(a)* improve regulations of the private CT scan industry and *(b)* investigate the advertising of private asymptomatic scans in relation to radioactive content; and if he will make a statement. [196418]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* In 2005 the Department asked the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) to include radiation protection aspects of medical practices in its work programme and as a first consideration to report on computerised tomography (CT) scanning of the asymptomatic individual. COMARE produced its 12th report entitled "The impact of personally initiated computer tomography scanning for the health assessment of asymptomatic individuals" in December 2007. The report has been placed in the Library and is also available on the COMARE website at:

www.comare.org.uk/documents/COMARE12thReport.pdf.

COMARE recommended that regulation of these commercial CT services should be reviewed. It also recommends that clients should be provided with comprehensive information regarding dose and risk of the CT scan, as well as rates of false negative and false positive findings. Among its detailed recommendations (nine in all) COMARE noted there is a regulatory requirement that all medical exposures using ionising radiation should be optimised, and that it is not possible to optimise exposure parameters for CT scans of the whole of the body. It has strongly recommended that services offering whole body CT scanning of asymptomatic individuals should discontinue. In addition, CT should not be used in assessment of spinal conditions, body fat and osteoporosis in asymptomatic individuals.

The Department will be consulting widely on implementation of these recommendations.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully claimed compensation in relation to a MRSA or clostridium difficile infection contracted in an NHS hospital by (i) themselves and (ii) a family member in each of the last five years. [193817]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the table. The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) provided the information. The year given is the year in which the NHSLA was notified of the claim.

All closed claims where the injury is meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus or Clostridium difficile as at 31 December 2007

NHSLA notification year	*Status*	*Claimant is patient*	*Claimant is family member*	*Total*
2002-03	Closed—nil damages	9	6	15
	Settled—damages paid	18	6	24
	Total	27	12	39
2003-04	Closed—nil damages	23	11	34
	Settled—damages paid	21	7	28
	Total	44	18	62
2004-05	Closed—nil damages	38	9	47
	Settled—damages paid	12	3	15
	Total	50	12	62
2005-06	Closed—nil damages	41	9	50
	Settled—damages paid	9	3	12
	Total	50	12	62
2006-07	Closed—nil damages	16	10	26
	Settled—damages paid	7	5	12
	Total	23	15	38
Total	Closed—nil damages	127	45	172
	Settled—damages paid	67	24	91
	Total	194	69	263

Hospitals: Telephones

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1462W, on hospital telephones, what estimate his Department has made of the average cost of an incoming telephone call to a child's bedside telephone; and what assessment he has made of the effect of telephone charges for incoming calls on parents' ability to contact their children while they are in hospital. [190518]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department recognises how stressful a child's hospital stay can be, which is why the average length of stay has been reduced to two days. The most important issue is to ensure that a child's stay in hospital is kept to a minimum, consistent with achieving a good recovery.

The relevant national service framework for children states that children should have the comfort and reassurance provided by personal contact with close family members. Wherever practicable, hospitals make suitable provisions for parents to stay overnight with their children.

Where this is not possible or practicable for parents to stay, mobile telephones may be used in certain areas of the hospital and bedside telephone systems allow children to maintain contact with friends and relatives.

The cost of a telephone call to the bedside system in a children's ward varies, although, in most cases, it is 39 pence per minute off peak and 49 pence per minute peak rate.

Other options exist for people not wishing to use the bedside telephone systems. These include the traditional payphones and hospital switchboard facilities and mobile telephones which ensure parents can be kept up to date on their child's progress.

No assessment has been made of any effect of telephone charges for parents calling a child while in hospital.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the median number of days wait was for patients to receive hospital treatment following GP referral in England in each month since January 1997 based on hospital episodes statistics. [196395]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: By December 2008, patients who want it, and for whom it is clinically appropriate, can expect to start their treatment within a maximum of 18 weeks from referral.

Referral to treatment (RTT) waits were not monitored centrally prior to January 2007. Measurement of referral to treatment waiting times for admitted patients commenced in January 2007 and for non-admitted patients from April 2007. The following table shows median referral to treatment waits for both admitted and non-admitted patients since January 2007 and April 2007 respectively.

Average (median) RTT times (commissioner based) for completed pathways

		Days
	Admitted patients	*Non-admitted patients*
January 2007	136	—
February 2007	135	—
March 2007	132	—
April 2007	122	57
May 2007	117	58
June 2007	115	54
July 2007	116	52
August 2007	109	51
September 2007	107	53
October 2007	102	47
November 2007	94	43
December 2007	79	49

Source:
Monthly RTT data collection

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were waiting more than six months for an NHS in-patient operation in each month since October 2005. [196396]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The figures are shown in the following table.

Number of patients waiting over six months (26 weeks) for inpatient admission

Month ending	*Provider based*	*Commissioner based*
2005		
October	25,679	24,847
November	12,744	12,297
December	1,021	108
2006		
January	1,014	129
February	954	165
March	939	222
April	928	162
May	888	85
June	884	67
July	913	59
August	834	122
September	1,043	206
October	1,089	353
November	892	212
December	756	138
2007		
January	920	299
February	785	378
March	597	352
April	694	426
May	726	436
June	529	312
July	491	269
August	524	250
September	433	122
October	323	18

Number of patients waiting over six months (26 weeks) for inpatient admission

Month ending	*Provider based*	*Commissioner based*
November	317	77
December	395	106
2008		
January	379	99

Notes:
1. Provider based figures include patients treated in English hospitals but registered with general practitioners (GPs) outside England.
2. Commissioner based figures relate to patients registered with GPs in England, and include national health service funded patients treated outside England or in the independent sector.

Source:
Monthly monitoring return

Locums: Vacancies

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of vacant locum appointment, *(a)* training posts and *(b)* services posts in secondary care trusts in England; and if he will make a statement. [192879]

Ann Keen: Data regarding locums are not held centrally. Workforce planning is a matter for local determination based on the healthcare needs of the local population, and this would include the appointment and training of locums.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the report of the independent evaluation of the security of the care records system. [195840]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Connecting for Health insists that penetration tests are conducted on suppliers systems that connect to the national infrastructure. Where weaknesses are identified that would lead to a breach of confidentiality, integrity or availability they are corrected before the systems are brought into service. The outputs from these tests are commercially confidential between the supplier, the evaluator and NHS Connecting for Health. NHS Connecting for Health does, in line with best practice, review the security infrastructure of the National Programme for IT (NPfIT) to allow it to be maintained in line with new technologies and emerging threats. These reviews are conducted on an ongoing basis by both internal security specialists and independent evaluators. The recommendations from these reviews are not made public to avoid compromising security arrangements and to avoid potential criminal exploitation of the information.

The NPfIT has adopted the highest levels of security. The NPfIT contracts require suppliers to comply with comprehensive and detailed security requirements in line with international standards (ISO-27001).

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patient data contained in limited data sets of the secondary users service are fully anonymised. [195841]

Mr. Bradshaw: Patient data contained in the limited, commissioning, data sets of the Secondary Uses Service are not fully anonymised, as the data are required for some core national health service business purposes.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, (1) whether the secondary users service will provide data on a commercial basis; [195205]

(2) what steps have been taken to prevent data made available to organisations through the secondary users service giving an unfair advantage in bidding procedures; [195206]

(3) whether patients will be able to opt out of having their data used in limited data sets in the secondary users service. [195207]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans for the secondary users service (SUS) to provide data on a commercial basis. The current proposals for pseudonymised data extracts from the SUS will be available for any supplier who agrees the terms and conditions. Information from the SUS is used for commissioning purposes, and it is therefore not expected that patients would be able to opt out.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether each accession of the care records system will be monitored by a Caldicott Guardian. [195208]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS Connecting for Health cannot comment on the specific monitoring process that each Caldicott Guardian within the NHS will employ. However, alerts where there is any potential irregular access will be sent to Caldicott Guardians. There are audit trails of any access to the NHS Care Record Service records which can be made available to Caldicott Guardians.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mechanism for monitoring any illicit access to the care records system through the full audit trail will be. [195209]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are a number of mechanisms available to monitor access to the NHS Care Record Service. These mechanisms include:

network based intrusion detection and prevention;

network based access controls, audit and alerting;

user authentication recording and monitoring;

system level security audit trails;

application level security audit trails;

security audit trail reports; and

alerts to the Caldicott Guardian on specific accesses that may indicate unjustified access.

These technology mechanisms are dependent on Caldicott Guardians and Information Governance staff carrying out their roles and responsibilities in conjunction with the policies and processes that national health service organisations are required to adhere to. NHS Connecting for Health has regular communications with the NHS to gain feedback and discuss the various mechanisms for monitoring access provided by the NHS Care Record Service.

Mental Health Services: Security

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which secure mental health units in England are categorised as *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high security. [195569]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the applicable security rating for each low and medium secure psychiatric unit in England is not held by the Department. An unvalidated contact list for medium secure mental health units has been placed in the Library. Low secure mental health services are not consistently defined and there is no central list.

There are three secure units which offer high security services: Ashworth, Broadmoor and Rampton hospitals.

NHS Questionnaires

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2860W, on NHS questionnaires, what the *(a)* subject and *(b)* cost was of each survey conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Department in 2007-08. [196231]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ipsos MORI were contracted by the Department to carry out four surveys in 2007-08. These, and their associated costs, were:

In 2007-08, the Department has budgeted a total of £10 million for both components of the 'General Practitioner (GP) Patient Survey—Access and Choice'.

Access

The purpose of the Access survey is to measure and reward GPs based on the patients reported experience in accessing their GP in the preceding six month period; and

Choice

The purpose of the Choice survey is to measure and reward GPs based on the proportion of patients whose referring GP discussed the choice's available when referring a patient to hospital.

In 2007-08, the "What Matters to Staff" survey cost £65,800. The purpose of the survey was to identify the major factors pertaining to staff engagement and motivation to provide high quality care so as to establish a clear picture of practical ways senior managers in the national health service can improve how staff feel about their workplace, their colleagues and their roles. The results of the survey are also informing the next stage review.

In 2007-08, the cost to date of the "National Patient Choice" survey is £367,043. The survey asks patients about their experience of choosing and arranging their hospital appointment.

In 2007-08, the cost to date of the "18 Weeks Patient Experience Pilot" is £42,400. The aim of the pilot is to develop a possible survey technique to measure the experience of patients from their referral to treatment under the 18 week waiting initiative.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons planned NHS spending over the years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 set out in the 2008 Budget report has been reduced from the planned spending set out in the 2007 pre-Budget report for those years. [196730]

Mr. Bradshaw: Planned national health service spending over the years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 as set out in the 2008 Budget report has not been reduced from the planned spending set out in the 2007 pre-Budget report.

The apparent difference in published figures was due to an error in the NHS revenue expenditure reported in the Budget Red Book. The correct revenue figures were presented to Parliament and published on the HM Treasury website on Friday 14 March 2008 at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/A/7/bud08_corrections.pdf.

The correction makes it clear that the planned resource delivery expenditure limit (DEL) for NHS England is £97.1 billion in 2008-09, £103.6 billion in 2009-10 and £110.7 billion in 2010-11. Compared to the plans published at the Comprehensive Spending Review and payment by results, these updated figures reflect decisions to allocate more resources to social care within the Department's DEL, including as a result of transfer of functions from the NHS to social care, and minor revenue transfers to other Government departments. The resources involved are £166 million in 2008-09, £236 million in 2009-10 and £230 million in 2010-11.

NHS: Foreigners

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reclaim monies owed by foreign national visitors to the UK for services delivered by the NHS; and what his most recent assessment is of the amount of outstanding payments during their visits owed to the NHS for such services at the latest date for which figures are available. [196219]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the national health service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, it is for national health service trusts to determine which overseas visitors should pay for any hospital treatment provided to them and to make and recover charges. Where charges are found to apply they cannot be waived for any reason and trusts must take reasonable measures to recover any outstanding debts, which can include the use of debt collection agencies. The Department has issued comprehensive guidance to the NHS on this matter.

Successive governments have not required the NHS to provide statistics on the number of foreign visitors seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the charging regulations nor any costs involved. Therefore, it is not possible to provide information on the value of outstanding payments owed to the NHS.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the progress of *(a)* iSoft and the Lorenzo system, *(b)* Cerner and the Millennium system and *(c)* IDX and the Carecast system against the (i) development and (ii) implementation timetable of each; and if he will make a statement. [195799]

Mr. Bradshaw: The development of Lorenzo software by iSOFT under a sub-contract to Computer Sciences Corporation has been regularly assessed by NHS Connecting for Health. It is understood that the development plans will enable the deployment of Release 1 of Lorenzo into early adopter sites in the North, Midlands and East Programme for information technology, formerly North West and West Midlands, North East and the East Midlands, in the summer. Release 2 of Lorenzo is due to be ready for deployment in the autumn.

The development of the Cerner Millennium software by Fujitsu in the South of England, where eight hospitals are using the Release 0 version of the software is the subject of a current contract reset. The development of Cerner Millennium software by BT in London has seen the deployment of Release 0 into two hospitals since July 2007 and a further deployment is now due. The next Release LC1 is due to be implemented in the summer.

Agreement on the software requirements and deployment plans became a responsibility of local national health service trusts from April 2007 to provide greater local ownership of the planning and deployment process. It is the responsibility of the local service providers to manage the delivery of the NHS Care Record Service to the contracted timetables and for the management of their sub-contractors and suppliers. NHS Connecting for Health routinely assesses progress against plans and manages the relationship and commercial arrangements with suppliers to ensure that NHS requirements are being met.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date deployment of 130 picture archiving and communications system was achieved; and if he will make a statement. [195830]

Mr. Bradshaw: The final picture archiving and communications system (PACS) deployment as part of the national programme for information technology took place on 10 December 2007. This deployment, involving Leeds teaching hospitals trust, marked the completion of a three year process that saw 127 trusts across England receive PACS.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated of the impact on the NHS IT programme of the purchase of iSoft by IBA Healthcare, with particular reference to the (i) financial stability and (ii) cash conversion rate in recent healthcare projects of IBA Healthcare; and if he will make a statement. [195839]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is the responsibility of the local service provider (LSP) with whom the national health service has entered into contract, to assure itself of the financial stability of its sub-contractors and suppliers, and to deliver the NHS Care Record Service solution in accordance with its contractual obligations. NHS Connecting for Health regularly monitors the performance of all information technology prime contractors, including LSPs and sub-contractors, for financial stability. Computer Science Corporation as the relevant LSP, has confirmed the financial stability of IBA Healthcare as its sub-contractor and that the purchase of iSoft by IBA has not adversely impacted on the delivery timescales for the Lorenzo solution to the NHS.

NHS: Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pages of content are available on the NHS Direct website; what the cost of operating the NHS Direct website was in 2007; and how many unique visitors to the NHS Direct website there were in each month between June 2007 and February 2008. [195805]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Direct website contains 14,567 unique pages of content. Additionally there are six health tools, 42 self-help guides, and 12 videos.

The total cost of the team of dedicated content authors and editors that work on the NHS Direct website was £212,000 in 2007.

The total number of unique visitors to the NHS Direct website for each month between June 2007 and February 2008 is shown in the following table.

	Number of unique visitors
June 2007	1,426,991
July 2007	1,528,356
August 2007	1,947,373
September 2007	1,929,542
October 2007	2,324,815
November 2007	2,390,630
December 2007	2,174,692
January 2008	2,905,369
February 2008	2,654,651

Over the next year NHS Direct will be working with colleagues at NHS Choices to provide a more integrated health information service for the public. The aim is to not only make online delivery more efficient and effective for government, but also, more importantly, improve the public's experience of health service provision via the internet, phone or television.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 100 largest clinical negligence payments were for compensation claims against his Department by award or settlement in the last five years; and what the nature of the complaint was in each case. [196328]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library, the table shows the top 100 damages payments last five years. The NHS Litigation Authority supplied the information.

The size of award for cases is the total amount paid on closed claims, or for the sum of the outstanding damages reserve and the damages already paid for open claims. Open claims are claims where settlement has been agreed but final payments have not yet been made.

Nurses: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses in England have received training in (*a*) asthma and (*b*) respiratory diseases over the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [193864]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

The annual national health service work force census does not separately identify the number of nurses who have received post-registration training from the rest of the nursing work force.

The Government have supported the development of a range of specialist roles within nursing. However it is for local NHS organisations to commission training places and to deploy specialist nurses in accordance with their local needs.

Nursing and Midwifery Council: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures exist for members of the Nursing and Midwifery Council to raise issues of concern (*a*) internally, (*b*) externally and (*c*) with his Department; what guidance his Department provides on these procedures; under what circumstances his Department intervenes in such proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [191964]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is an independent regulatory body and as such is responsible for its own internal management practices.

Council members may raise any issue of concern with individuals or bodies they feel might be able to assist, providing they comply with any requirement of confidentiality and codes of conduct of the NMC or the Charity Commission that might apply.

While the Department remains open for discussion with NMC Council members at all times, the Department does not have any specific powers in relation to complaints raised about the NMC or formal procedures for Council members to raise issues of concern.

The Department provides no guidance to Council members on complaints procedures. It is a matter for the NMC, as an independent statutory body, to inform Council members of its own procedures.

The Secretary of State has no powers to intervene in the internal management of the NMC. However, we have asked the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence to consider expediting its annual performance review, including addressing the central question of whether the NMC is fulfilling its statutory functions.

Obesity: Health Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1979W, on obesity: health education, for what reasons part of the budget allocated to obesity campaigns was unspent in 2006-07. [194737]

Dawn Primarolo: The reason for the underspend in 2006-07 allocated to obesity campaigns was due to the Government reviewing their approach alongside the development of the Foresight report.

Occupational Health: Cardiovascular System

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to support employers in improving the cardiovascular health of their workforces. [195376]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government recognise the importance of health promotion in the workplace, including cardiovascular health.

Last year the Government asked Dame Carol Black, the National Director of Health and Work, to conduct a review of the health of the working age population.

Dame Carol's report, "Working for a healthier tomorrow", was published on 17 March and contains specific recommendations for Government, health care professionals and employers in this area. There will be a cross Government response to the recommendations later in the year. A copy of this report is available in the Library.

The Government have invested £800,000 in to the Well*a*Work programme, which aims to assess the effectiveness of health promotion interventions in the workplace, including physical activity. Physically active people have up to 50 per cent. reduced risk of major chronic disease such as coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organ donors were registered in (*a*) Tamworth and (*b*) Staffordshire in each of the last five years. [193623]

Ann Keen: The numbers joining the NHS Organ Donor Register from the Tamworth and Staffordshire areas for the years 2003 to 2007 are shown in the following table:

	Tamworth	*Staffordshire*[1]
2003	1,249	12,875
2004	1,436	16,419
2005	1,622	16,418
2006	1,897	17,493
2007	1,562	15,835
Total	7,766	79,040

[1] Includes Stoke-on-Trent (unitary authority)

Source:
NHS Blood and Transplant

Palliative Care: Cheshire

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data are used by commissioners to determine accurately the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in Eddisbury. [195318]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Western Cheshire PCT and the Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions is available in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance on supportive and palliative care has been fully implemented in Eddisbury. [195319]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Western Cheshire PCT and the Central and Eastern PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The NHS has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on supportive and palliative care. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities (SHAs).

Information on the rate of progress locally can be obtained through the North West SHA.

Patients: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2527W, on patients: nutrition, what information is available on the cost of treating patients for nutritional deficiencies. [195339]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 477W.

Polyclinics: Rural Areas

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromsgrove of 18 March 2008, to Question 194632, on polyclinics (rural areas), if he will write to primary care trust chief executives to clarify that there is no requirement for each primary care trust to have a polyclinic in each primary care trust area. [196347]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Department wrote to strategic health authority chief executives in December to confirm the core criteria that will underpin the development of new general practitioner-led health centres. This letter clarified that local commissioners should determine whether or not to go beyond these criteria to achieve more integrated service models such as polyclinics. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

Pregnancy: Smoking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of women have continued to smoke through pregnancy in each year since 1997 for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* primary care trust. [195749]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Information on the percentage of mothers nationally who smoked during pregnancy in 1995, 2000 and 2005 is available from the editions of the Infant Feeding Survey as follows.

'Infant feeding 1995: A survey of infant feeding practices in the United Kingdom', Table 3.8 on page 37 which was published on 1 January 1997. This publication is available in the Library.

'The Infant Feeding Survey 2005', Table 10.7 on page 355 which was published on 14 May 2007. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Figures for regional and primary care trust are not available.

Prescriptions: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of prescriptions were issued in each month since the inception of the Electronic Prescriptions Service; and by how many and which *(a)* GP sites and *(b)* community pharmacies; [195201]

(2) how many and what proportion of prescriptions were transferred via the electronic prescriptions service between *(a)* prescribers and dispensers and *(b)* dispenser and the NHS Business Services Division in each month since the inception of the electronic prescriptions service; [195211]

(3) whether the electronic prescriptions service can process prescriptions other than FP10 prescriptions. [195212]

Mr. Bradshaw: In Release 1 of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), an electronic message is transmitted to the EPS in parallel with a paper FP10 prescription form which is handed to the patient. This is necessary while a patient may take a prescription to a pharmacy in the transitional period that is not yet using the electronic prescription service. The current scope of Release 1 and Release 2 is prescriptions generated by general practitioner (GP) practices, either GPs, nurse or pharmacist prescribers, and dispensed in the community.

Electronic prescriptions are not planned to be transmitted to the NHS Business Service Authority until Release 2 is in operational use.

The following table provides the total number of electronic messages transmitted through the service between prescriber and dispensers since its inception in February 2005.

Month	Total number of EPS R1 prescription messages generated by GPs	Total number of EPS R2 dispense notification messages sent by pharmacy
February 2005	607	158
March 2005	3,442	1,110
April 2005	2,887	1,284
May 2005	3,576	1,624
June 2005	3,394	780
July 2005	6,135	1,176
August 2005	6,432	1,118
September 2005	14,001	1,904
October 2005	46,039	1,485
November 2005	60,823	1,844
December 2005	68,365	2,431
January 2006	87,074	1,994
February 2006	153,771	666
March 2006	260,898	3,476
April 2006	262,952	2,458
May 2006	439,427	2,227
June 2006	662,362	7,984
July 2006	816,584	4,248
August 2006	1,083,300	7,761
September 2006	1,362,209	8,955
October 2006	1,361,877	17,110
November 2006	1,539,616	22,396
December 2006	1,607,737	23,308
January 2007	1,988,882	31,708
February 2007	2,223,368	44,690
March 2007	2,617,552	59,528
April 2007	2,493,531	51,913
May 2007	3,351,179	89,128
June 2007	3,575,681	126,382
July 2007	4,454,930	158,129
August 2007	4,982,637	191,286
September 2007	4,935,859	226,683
October 2007	6,291,931	271,948
November 2007	5,855,981	276,397
December 2007	5,573,366	255,916
January 2008	6,897,355	370,899
February 2008	6,623,597	428,500
1 to 17 March 2008	4,906,066	243,144
Total[b]		
17 March 2008	75,083,880	2,951,526

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of repeat prescriptions were transferred via the electronic prescriptions service in each month since its inception. [195213]

Mr. Bradshaw: Repeat electronic prescriptions will be transmitted through the electronic prescriptions service with the enablement of Release 2. At present, the system is unable to distinguish practice instigated repeat prescriptions compared to other prescriptions.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what percentage of GP sites were technically live on the Electronic Prescriptions Service system in each month since its inception, and how many and what percentage of GP sites were using the Electronic Prescriptions Service system in each month since its inception. [195257]

(2) how many and what percentage of community pharmacies were technically live on the electronic prescription service system in each month since its inception. [195274]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Technical go live—general practitioner	Percentage based on 8,480 sites	Technical go live—pharmacy	Percentage based on 10,663 sites
February 2005	2	0.0	1	0.0
March 2005	2	0.0	1	0.0
April 2005	2	0.0	1	0.0
May 2005	17	0.2	2	0.0
June 2005	61	0.7	3	0.0
July 2005	118	1.4	3	0.0
August 2005	167	2.0	5	0.0
September 2005	179	2.1	7	0.1
October 2005	198	2.3	7	0.1
November 2005	468	5.5	10	0.1
December 2005	610	7.2	11	0.1
January 2006	650	7.7	12	0.1
February 2006	739	8.7	17	0.2
March 2006	998	11.8	219	2.1
April 2006	1,083	12.8	243	2.3
May 2006	1,226	14.5	1,404	13.5
June 2006	1,408	16.6	1,425	13.8
July 2006	1,536	18.1	1,493	14.4

	Technical go live - general practitioner	Percentage based on 8,480 sites	Technical go live - pharmacy	Percentage based on 10,363 sites
August 2006	1,864	22.0	1,809	17.5
September 2006	1,987	23.4	2,195	21.2
October 2006	2,185	25.8	3,395	32.8
November 2006	2,289	27.0	3,544	34.2
December 2006	2,335	27.5	3,626	35.0
January 2007	2,375	28.0	3,950	38.1
February 2007	2,402	28.3	4,132	39.9
March 2007	2,815	33.2	4,340	41.9
April 2007	3,885	45.8	4,587	44.3
May 2007	5,023	59.2	4,933	47.6
June 2007	5,924	69.9	5,527	53.3
July 2007	5,980	70.5	6,036	58.2
August 2007	6,028	71.1	6,605	63.7
September 2007	6,177	72.8	6,971	67.3
October 2007	6,462	76.2	7,326	70.7
November 2007	6,552	77.3	7,652	73.8
December 2007	6,612	78.0	7,833	75.6
January 2008	6,649	78.4	8,052	77.7
February 2008	6,664	78.6	8,154	78.7
March 2008	6,667	78.6	8,159	78.7

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deployments of the general practitioner system for the electronic prescriptions service have been made, broken down by (*a*) local service provider and (*b*) practice. [195263]

Mr. Bradshaw: Existing general practitioner (GP) system suppliers have developed systems that support release one of the electronic prescriptions service (EPS). The EPS has been deployed to 6,663 (79 per cent.) GP practices in England. Through the local service providers, a number of alternative GP systems have been provided to 699 GP practices.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of dispensing appliance contractors were technically live on the electronic prescriptions service system in each month since its inception, and how many and what percentage of dispensing appliance contractors were using the electronic prescriptions service system in each month since its inception. [195276]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no dispensing appliance contractors participating in release one of the electronic prescription system.

Prostate Cancer: Screening

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prostate screenings there were in (*a*) Tamworth and (*b*) Staffordshire in each of the last five years. [193625]

Ann Keen: The national health service, including the South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust, does not operate a prostate cancer screening programme. There is currently insufficient evidence from any country in the world to show that screening would reduce deaths from prostate cancer. The Government are committed to introducing a national screening programme for prostate cancer if and when screening and treatment techniques are sufficiently well developed. The United Kingdom National Screening Committee keeps screening for prostate cancer under review.

The prostate cancer risk management programme was established in 2002 to ensure that men considering a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test are given information concerning the benefits, limitations and risks associated with having a test. Figures on the number of PSA tests taken as a result of the programme are not collected centrally.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of male prisoners eligible for prostate cancer screening have been screened in the last three years; [193634]

(2) what percentage of males eligible for prostate cancer screening have been screened in the last three years in England. [193635]

Ann Keen: The national health service does not operate a prostate cancer screening programme. There is currently insufficient evidence from any country in the world to show that screening would reduce deaths from prostate cancer. The Government are committed to introducing a national screening programme for prostate cancer if and when screening and treatment techniques are sufficiently well developed. The United Kingdom national screening committee keeps screening for prostate cancer under review.

The prostate cancer risk management programme (PCRMP) was established in 2002 to ensure that men considering a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test are given information concerning the benefits, limitations and risks associated with having a test. Figures on the number of PSA tests taken as a result of the programme are not collected centrally.

Radiography: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what forecasts he has made for the future requirements for (*a*) radiographers and (*b*) radiologists in (i) Tamworth and (ii) the West Midlands. [193628]

Ann Keen: Local national health service organisations are best placed to assess the health needs of their local health community and plan the work force they need.

The Department does collect the number of radiographers and radiologists working in the NHS. Data for the West Midlands and the NHS organisations which cover the Tamworth area have been set out in the following table, including figures for 1997 and the three most recent years for which data are available.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified diagnostic radiography staff and medical staff within the radiology group of specialties in England by strategic health authority (SHA) area and specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	1997	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	12,428	15,058	15,726	15,739
Diagnostic Radiographers	10,364	12,147	12,700	12,535
Radiologists	2,064	2,911	3,075	3,204
of which				
West Midlands SHA area	1,274	1,601	1,638	1,625
Diagnostic Radiographers	1,082	1,312	1,345	1,324
Radiologists	192	289	293	301
of which				
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	45	60	70	72
Diagnostic Radiographers	40	54	65	65
Radiologists	5	6	5	7
South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1]	n/a	13	13	13
Diagnostic Radiographers	n/a	13	13	13
Radiologists	0	0	0	0

n/a = Not applicable

[1] In 2006 Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT, Cannock Chase PCT, East Staffordshire PCT and South Western Staffordshire PCT merged to form the South Staffordshire PCT. Figures prior to 2005 are an aggregate of these four predecessor organisations.

Note:

More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Sources:

The Information Centre Non Medical Workforce Census.

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Radiotherapy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2105-6W, on radiotherapy, how many patients had (*a*) part funded and (*b*) fully funded proton therapy abroad; in which countries patients have received proton therapy treatment; and if he will make a statement. [193112]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of patients who have funded or part funded proton beam therapy abroad is not collected centrally.

Patients have been referred to Switzerland for proton beam therapy.

From April 2008 proton therapy for suitable cancers other than eye cancers, which can be treated in the United Kingdom, will be nationally commissioned from overseas. In the longer term, the Department will consider options for providing modern proton therapy services in this country.

Secure Psychiatric Units: Capacity

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the maximum capacity of provision for (*a*) NHS and (*b*) independent sector secure mental healthcare places has been, broken down by establishment, in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196072]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the form requested. The available data are collected on the numbers of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in national health service units, and do not include independent sector beds. The data are not broken down by establishment.

Data on the average daily number of mental health secure unit beds, and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units in England over the last ten years are set out in the following table.

Average daily number of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Available mental illness	1,921	1,747	1,882	1,952	1,848
Occupancy mental illness	1,566	1,578	1,750	1,792	1,699
Available learning disability	439	422	404	431	407
Occupancy learning disability	404	326	359	408	381

Average daily number of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Available mental illness	2,064	2,569	2,696	2,807	2,993
Occupancy mental illness	1,867	2,378	2,472	2,545	2,722
Available learning disability	508	514	503	526	516
Occupancy learning disability	482	470	484	502	489

[1] The definitions of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds, for the purposes of the KH03 annual beds collection, are:
Mental illness - Other ages, secure unit
an AGE GROUP INTENDED of National Code 8 'Any age', a BROAD PATIENT GROUP CODE of National Code 5 'Patients with mental illness' and a CLINICAL CARE INTENSITY of National Code 51 'for intensive care: specially designated ward for patients needing containment and more intensive management This is not to be confused with intensive nursing where a patient may require one to one nursing while on a standard ward'.
Learning disabilities - Other ages, secure unit
an AGE GROUP INTENDED of National Code 8 'Any age', a BROAD PATIENT GROUP CODE of National Code 6 'Patients with learning difficulties' and a CLINICAL CARE INTENSITY of National Code 61 'designated or interim secure unit'.
Source:
Department of Health Dataset KH03[1]

These figures do not represent the full level of secure services available to the NHS. "Low secure" mental health services are not consistently defined and may well fall outside the definitions used for this data collection. This means that the figures above mainly show the numbers in high and medium secure mental health services in NHS units. These figures also only show NHS beds and not those commissioned by the NHS and provided by independent sector providers.

Secure Psychiatric Units: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* NHS and *(b)* independent sector secure mental healthcare places for offenders in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) primary care trust and (ii) local health board; and if he will make a statement. [196069]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the form requested. Information on spending on low and medium secure services is not collected in this format, and is not broken down by establishment.

Information is available on the total spend on high secure services for the last five years, based on service level agreements between the high security hospitals and commissioners[1]. This is set out in the following table. The spending figures include offenders and non-offenders.

[1] The figures exclude Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder programme patients.

	Total spend on high secure services in £000
2002-03	178,967
2003-04	190,854
2004-05	201,574
2005-06	212,489
2006-07	218,817

Seroxat

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK) use in the UK of negative results from Seroxat trials; and who the *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK based professional registrants were who had (i) managerial and (ii) clinical responsibility for GSK's nine seroxat trials involving children between 1994 and 2002. [196847]

Dawn Primarolo: A detailed criminal investigation was undertaken by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), into whether GlaxoSmithKline withheld information from paediatric clinical trials of their drug Seroxat. The report on the outcome of the investigation has been published and is available in the Library and also on the MHRA website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/NewsCentre/Pressreleases/CON074152

The MHRA does not normally release personal data, supplied in an expectation of confidence, in accordance with Sections 38 and 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Seroxat: Children

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 8 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 121WS, on GlaxoSmithKline (MHRA investigation), what discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority on its investigation of the trials of Seroxat involving children between 1994 and 2002. [196777]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Departmental Ministers were briefed on a regular basis on the progress of the investigation into the compliance of GlaxoSmithKline with relevant legislation, and on the conclusion of the investigation, in advance of the written ministerial statement.

Suicide: Young People

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with appropriate agencies on suicides amongst young people; and if he will make a statement; [196525]

(2) whether the subject of assistance to suicide prevention amongst young people was on the agenda of recent Ministerial level meetings with the Welsh Assembly Government; whether any cross-border services are envisaged; and if he will make a statement. [196783]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no discussions with appropriate agencies nor have discussions taken place at ministerial level with the Welsh Assembly Government about suicides among young people. Officials responsible for implementing the National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England continue to engage with relevant agencies and organisations in considering appropriate measures to take to reduce the risk of suicide among the general population, including young people. In addition, the Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisory Group, chaired by Professor Louis Appleby, meets twice yearly and provides leadership, expert advice and guidance on implementation of the suicide prevention strategy. Membership of this group includes researchers and representatives of Samaritans and PAPYRUS, an organisation committed to the prevention of young suicide.

In addition, the five nations, representing England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Republic of Ireland, have established a suicide prevention strategies coordinating group to share information, research and evidence on suicide prevention actions among the five nations. This group meets on a regular basis.

West Hertfordshire NHS Acute Trust: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* medical consultants, *(b)* other medical staff, *(c)* nurses, *(d)* other professional health care staff, *(e)* administrative and clerical staff and *(f)* auxiliary staff were employed by West Herts NHS Acute Trust in each year since 1996-97. [193400]

Ann Keen: The information is set out in the following table. The most recent year for which data are available is 2006.

The numbers of full-time equivalent national health service staff in the West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust[1] as at 30 September in each year since 1996

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hospital and Community Health Services(HCHS) medical consultants	137	153	146	145	143	161	159	156	161	153	152
HCHS dental consultants	2	4	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3
Other HCHS medical staff	254	291	269	276	264	267	271	267	332	320	344
Other HCHS dental staff	5	6	7	8	6	1	1	1	2	5	5
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,362	1,326	1,377	1,184	1,091	1,259	1,176	1,301	1,321	1,208	1,237
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	498	493	483	483	462	475	495	467	483	384	382
Support to clinical staff	1,016	855	879	790	740	900	919	1,132	1,171	1,050	960
NHS infrastructure support	677	512	525	359	366	481	539	574	583	583	518
Other staff or those with unknown classification	8	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] In 2000, Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals and St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trusts merged to form the West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trusts. Figures prior to 2000 are an aggregate of these two predecessor organisations.

Note

Full-time equivalent figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Data for 2007 are released on 14 March.

Sources

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the re-offending rate of recipients of penalty notices for disorder in the latest period for which figures are available. [195648]

Mr. Hanson: Re-offending rates for recipients of penalty notices for disorder are not currently measured. Work is currently under way to assess the feasibility of reporting re-offending rates for recipients of penalty notices for disorder. The feasibility study is due to be complete in the summer.

Adult re-offending includes re-offending for offenders discharged from custody or commencing community sentences, while juvenile re-offending also includes offenders who received reprimands, final warnings and other court convictions.

Burglary: Sentencing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes were made to the sentencing guidelines for *(a)* magistrates and *(b)* Crown courts on burglary offences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196119]

Mr. Hanson: Magistrates Courts Sentencing Guidelines, produced by the Magistrates Association with the support of the Lord Chancellor, cover the main offences dealt with in those courts, including burglary. The guidelines were revised in September

2000 and January 2004 and are currently under review by the Sentencing Guidelines Council.

The Court of Appeal issued guidance on domestic burglary in the case of R v. McInerney and Keating (2003) 2 Cr App R (S) 39, which incorporated and added to the guidance in R v. Brewster (1998) 1 Cr App R (S) 181. On 10 March, the Sentencing Guidelines Council issued a draft consultation guideline on theft and burglary (non-dwelling) and will issue a definitive guideline in due course. In December 2004, the Council issued guidelines on seriousness, "Overarching principles: seriousness, and Reduction in sentence for a guilty plea", which apply in all cases. The latter guideline was revised in July 2007.

Courts: Security

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what minimum level of security staffing is required at *(a)* magistrates' courts and *(b)* other courts; and if he will make a statement. [197043]

Maria Eagle: There is no minimum level of security staffing required at any of the courts within HMCS. Security in courts is provided by designated court security officers (CSOs) appointed by the Lord Chancellor and the number of CSOs is arrived at by assessing the security needs of each court, taking into account the business of that court, existing vulnerabilities and the history of incidents.

Criminal Justice Information Technology

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projects the criminal justice information technology unit has managed which began after 2002; what the *(a)* originally estimated and *(b)* actual costs were for each project; and what the (i) estimated and (ii) actual completion dates were for each project. [195612]

Maria Eagle: CJIT managed two projects: Secure eMail and the CJS Exchange.

In the business case issued in March 2003, Secure eMail was estimated to cost £23 million (including operating costs to the end of 2007-08) and be fully deployed by April 2004. Secure eMail was delivered in May 2004 and to date has cost £22 million.

In the business case issued in March 2004, CJS Exchange was estimated to cost £175 million to the end of 2007-08 (including operating costs) and to have completed the roll-out of the scope (as defined at that time) by March 2006. To date, CJS Exchange has cost £162 million. Deployment of the remaining elements from the original scope will be completed by December 2008 at an additional cost of £5 million.

The CJS Exchange is an asset that is designed to be utilised, developed and expanded by Criminal Justice Organisations who want to join their systems with other CJS systems or who want to provide access to information within their systems to staff across the wider CJS. The scope of the programme has therefore changed since its inception in order to meet new demands and changing requirements.

Criminal Justice Information Technology: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people work in the criminal justice information technology unit; and what the unit's budget is for 2007-08. [195611]

Maria Eagle: As of April 2007, the number of staff working at Criminal Justice IT was:

	Staff on headcount	*Service contract staff*
Portfolio and Director's Office	15	3
Programme Unit	23	46
Technology Unit	18	12
Service Delivery	11	1
Total	67	62

The staff on Service Contract included resources working on CJS IT ring fence funded projects. This figure fluctuated monthly, dependent on business demand, and significantly reduced in number over 2007-08.

The CJIT 2007-08 financial delegation from the CJS IT ring fence budget was £72.51 million.

Driving Under Influence: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions for drink-driving there were in (i) Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency, (ii) Barnsley Metropolitan Borough and (iii) Doncaster Metropolitan Borough in each year since 2002. [195757]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection held by my Department covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by main offence group (e.g. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, theft and handling stolen goods, etc) and police force area within England and Wales. Information on summary motoring offences including those of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

Available information held on prosecutions and findings of guilt for offences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the years 2002 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2006 data will be available later this year. The data provided cover both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of prosecutions and convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established.

Information is available at police force area level only.

Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], within South Yorkshire police force area, 2002-05

	Number of offences	
	Proceedings	*Findings of guilt*
2002	2,165	1,945
2003	2,397	2,089
2004	2,474	2,224

Proceedings at magistrates courts and findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], within South Yorkshire police force area, 2002-05

	Number of offences	
	Proceedings	*Findings of guilt*
2005	2,430	2,220

[1] Data provided cover summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Sentencing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes were made to the sentencing guidelines for *(a)* magistrates and *(b)* Crown courts on drug offences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196120]

Mr. Hanson: Magistrates Courts Sentencing Guidelines, produced by the Magistrates Association with the support of the Lord Chancellor, cover the main offences dealt with in those courts, including drugs offences. The guidelines were revised in September 2000 and January 2004 and are currently under review by the Sentencing Guidelines Council.

The Court of Appeal provided guidelines on: supply and dealing in Class A drugs in the cases of R *v.* Diahit (1999) 2 Cr App R (S) 142, R *v.* Twisse (2001) 2 Cr App R (S) 37, and R *v.* Afonso and others (2004) EWCA Crim 2342; the importation of controlled drugs in the case of R *v.* Mashootlahi (2001) 1 Cr App R (S) 330; Class B drugs—amphetamine in the case of R *v.* Wijs and others (1999) 1 Cr App R (S) 181; cannabis (prior to its classification as a Class C drug) in the case of R *v.* Ronchetti (1998) 2 Cr App R (S) 100; possession with intent to supply—LSD in the case of R *v.* Hurley (1998) 1 Cr App R (S) 29; purity analysis of Class A drugs in the case of R *v.* Morris (2001) 1 Cr App R (S) 297; and cultivating cannabis in the case of R *v.* Herridge (2005) EWCA Crim 1410. In December 2004, the Council issued guidelines on seriousness, "Overarching principles: seriousness, and Reduction in sentence for a guilty plea", which apply in all cases. The latter guideline was revised in July 2007. The Sentencing Advisory Panel is currently undertaking research and background work on drug offences, which is the first stage in the process of producing sentencing guidelines.

Email

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* webmail users and *(b)* server users in the criminal justice system use Secure eMail; and how many emails were sent across the system in each month since February 2004. [195609]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows.

Web mail users

There are 5,070 web mail users (as of February 2008).

Server users

There are 9,731 server users known to the CJSM Directory (as of February 2008).

Emails sent in each month since February 2004

Figures for the number of messages sent across the service since February 2004 are not available. However, the figures from November 2004 to February 2008 are as follows:

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
January		34,441	133,308	264,557	466,102
February		27,972	194,532	273,838	488,577
March		31,806	229,088	365,198	
April		38,130	189,311	285,628	
May		34,115	223,441	315,779	
June		48,184	246,448	350,629	
July		30,404	261,010	353,964	
August		44,042	243,846	374,764	
September		60,898	251,408	357,493	
October		78,524	255,386	424,841	
November	20,100	115,529	262,626	431,158	
December	21,452	118,465	218,003	371,335	

The number of emails sent across the service has steadily increased over the period since 2004. The same is true for the web mail users and server users.

Judges: Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent between April and November 2007 on vehicles contracted by the Government Car and Despatch Agency to transfer high court judges between their official residences and the courts. [195936]

Mr. Straw: The amount spent between April and November 2007 on vehicles contracted by the Government Car and Despatch Agency for use in the transfer of high court judges between their official residences and the courts was £289,000. This figure contains a small element of costs associated with other official visits related to the high court judges' time out on circuit, including inspection visits to prisons, sites of crime and some official public functions and not just those between the lodgings and courts.

Legal Aid: Northern Ireland

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to increase access to criminal legal aid in Northern Ireland. [195498]

Mr. Hanson: In Northern Ireland the judiciary are responsible for determining applications for criminal legal aid applying the statutory tests of whether the applicant has insufficient means and the interests of justice.

In 2005, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 97 per cent. of defendants who applied were granted criminal legal aid. There is therefore no

evidence to suggest that there is a need to increase access to criminal legal aid.

Legal Services Commission: Recovery of Costs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Legal Services Commission received by way of (a) recovered costs and (b) interest on statutory charges in each year since 1997. [195956]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2206W.

National Offender Management Service: Expenditure

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of the National Offender Management Service was in 2006-07. [196147]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of the National Offender Management Service in 2006-07 was £4.3 billion resource and £0.4 billion capital expenditure. This includes expenditure on public and private prisons, 42 probation boards and the Youth Justice Board, as well as central policy and administrative functions. The capital expenditure was mainly on the prisons estate.

National Offender Management Service: Probation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders are directly managed or supervised by staff of the National Offender Management Service. [196146]

Mr. Hanson: At 30 June 2007 there were a total of 254,762 offenders in prison or being supervised in the community by the Probation Service in England and Wales. The number of offenders supervised by the Probation Service in the community (either under court orders or under post release licence) was 175,028. The number detained in prison was 79,734.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

National Offender Management Service: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the National Offender Management Service management board received box A markings in their latest performance and development reviews; who was responsible for the award of these markings; and if he will make a statement. [196097]

Mr. Hanson: The members of the National Offender Management Service management board are all Senior Civil Servants (SCS). As such, they do not receive box markings. Under current arrangements, members of the SCS are assessed by their line manager and a judgment is made of how well individuals have performed relative to their peers. All SCS are ranked in tranches. Three members of the NOMS management board received the highest tranche marking in the latest performance and development review.

Prison Service: Public Appointments

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recruitment process was used to fill the post of Deputy Director General of HM Prison Service following the retirement of Peter Atherton; where the post was advertised; how many applications were received; what selection criteria were used; and who comprised the selection panel. [195957]

Maria Eagle: The role of Deputy to the Director General of the Prison Service was re-introduced following the publication of the Prison Service Review in October 1997. The functions of this role are carried out by an existing member of the Prison Service Management Board. It is not, therefore, a separately advertised post.

Prisoners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in prisons over 50 miles from their homes in the last 12 months. [195549]

Mr. Straw: As of September 2007, the latest date for which information is available, there were approximately 33,150 prisoners held over 50 miles from their home address.

Where no home address is listed for a prisoner the committal court has been used as a proxy address.

In the previous five years the level of prisoners in this circumstance is in the following table.

	Snapshot of prisoners held over 50 miles from their homes (to nearest 100)
2002	25,700
2003	26,800
2004	27,300
2005	27,600
2006	27,800

The increase by September 2007 reflects increased pressure of numbers on the prison estate. Everyone involved is working hard to bring the level down.

Prisoners Transfers

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much his Department spent on prison transfers in each of the last 10 financial years; and if he will make a statement; [196135]

(2) how many prisoners have been transferred between prisons during their sentence since April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [196136]

Mr. Hanson: Details of expenditure on inter-prison transfer services by the inter-prison transfer contractor for each financial year since 2001-02 are set out in the following table. Data are not available for financial years 1997-98 to 2000-01.

Financial year	Cost (£)
2001-02	5,390,061
2002-03	5,390,061
2003-04	5,147,078
2004-05	5,798,057
2005-06	5,786,057
2006-07	7,906,739
2007-08 (to February)	7,006,886

The following table shows the number of inter-prison transfers under the inter-prison transfer contract in each month since April 2007. A breakdown of the number of transfers of sentenced and unsentenced prisoners under the inter-prison transfer contract is not held separately.

	Inter-prison Transfers
April 2007	5,302
May 2007	6,183
June 2007	6,028
July 2007	7,253
August 2007	6,341
September 2007	6,185
October 2007	6,504
November 2007	6,428
December 2007	5,297
January 2008	6,838
February 2008	6,256

In addition to this there are prisoner transfers that are managed locally. These are not recorded centrally.

Prisoners: Compensation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many claims for compensation were made by inmates of each (*a*) prison and (*b*) young offenders institution in each year between 2000 and 2007; and how much was paid in compensation. [195547]

Mr. Straw: The following table details the number of compensation claims received from prisoners over the last three financial years and the total amount paid in compensation, whether by way of out of court settlement or by a court award. The figures exclude private establishments. Compensation figures prior to 2004-05 were not collated centrally and those for 2007-08 have not been finalised.

The claims received each year may not be the same as those that are settled in the same period, as litigation often takes several years to resolve.

Prisoner claims - excluding private establishments and judicial reviews

Prison	Prisoner compensation claims received			Total compensation paid (£)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Acklington	8	7	10	0	8,130	9,057
Albany	7	46	69	3,500	8,626	1,400
Ashwell	5	5	5	14,500	0	727
Askham Grange	0	2	0	0	0	0
Bedford	5	3	10	0	2,300	17,114
Belmarsh	11	19	11	0	20,000	28,140
Birmingham	13	11	22	11,000	6,500	23,713
Blakenhurst	22	10	16	4,659	2,500	32,956
Blantyre House	1	0	0	0	250	0
Blundeston	1	3	3	800	0	3,907
Brinsford	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bristol	13	10	7	4,545	13,520	115,400
Brixton	14	9	13	23,433	12,360	20,000
Brockhill	0	1	2	0	0	6,000
Buckley Hall	1	3	6	375	0	0
Bullingdon	17	10	12	18,859	500	8,392
Bullwood Hall	1	0	0	0	0	0
Camp Hill	2	4	4	750	150	8,500
Canterbury	0	1	0	1,100	0	0
Cardiff	8	4	6	0	3,000	46,614
Castington	4	1	1	3,000	700	1,350
Channings Wood	8	2	7	1,350	0	2,750
Chelmsford	6	2	9	1,145,005	0	12,421
Coldingley	3	2	0	5,000	0	0
Cookham Wood	1	1	1	0	0	0
Danesbury Approved School	0	0	1	0	0	0
Dartmoor	3	7	6	0	10,000	4,757
Deerbolt	3	3	2	300	500	2,500
Dorchester	3	1	1	825	20,000	3,807
Dover	1	0	0	0	0	0
Downview	0	2	0	1,800	1,000	0
Drake Hall	1	1	2	500	7,000	8,750
Durham	17	12	14	0	6,603	29,921
East Sutton Park	1	0	2	9,000	0	0

Prisoner claims - excluding private establishments and judicial reviews

Prison	Prisoner compensation claims received			Total compensation paid (£)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Eastwood Park	2	1	3	0	340,750	0
Edmunds Hill	0	2	2	0	0	6,750
Elmley	17	16	7	58,275	13,650	47,345
Erlestoke	7	4	4	0	0	5,500
Everthorpe	4	2	13	0	1,800	0
Exeter	15	6	5	0	5,000	37,014
Featherstone	3	6	4	0	0	0
Feltham	4	5	1	900	400	12,600
Ford	9	13	9	6,250	1,500	1,639
Foston Hall	2	0	5	0	0	0
Frankland	19	33	19	0	1,695	12,579
Full Sutton	17	29	22	0	1,383	10,282
Garth	8	14	10	0	30,250	7,657
Gartree	5	9	8	200	375	1,200
Glen Parva	1	3	1	97,500	0	0
Gloucester	4	1	5	0	6,600	1,500
Grendon/Spring Hill	3	4	6	600	7,894	1,000
Guys Marsh	5	5	4	0	200	5,660
Haverigg	4	4	12	2,000	0	8,400
Hewell Grange	3	2	2	0	0	1,000
High Down	8	6	10	4,300	400	0
Highpoint	6	5	6	7,000	850	14,727
Hindley	2	4	1	64,250	0	0
Hollesley Bay	2	2	3	5,000	0	24,250
Holloway	2	3	7	150	5,000	1,500
Holme House	13	5	7	14,935	150	11,421
Hull	19	11	12	8,509	2,800	46,051
Huntercombe	2	0	0	1,500	0	0
Kingston	2	2	3	0	2,225	0
Kirkham	8	17	15	5,850	5,000	27,550
Kirklevington Grange	1	1	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	11	4	4	0	625	6,557
Lancaster Farms	3	4	6	170	0	0
Latchmere House	1	1	2	0	2,500	0
Leeds	28	37	29	96,527	14,700	149,556
Leicester	16	3	6	0	1,750	17,087
Lewes	8	13	12	1,000	16,060	13,056
Leyhill	6	3	0	9,926	16,750	3,000
Lincoln	10	22	7	14,450	1,900	10,149
Lindholme	13	29	9	4,700	10,500	6,830
Littlehey	2	21	11	40	10,920	0
Liverpool	40	16	35	41,000	2,808,025	44,314
Long Lartin	35	30	30	25	6,898	11,317
Low Newton	3	4	2	0	2,000	12,614
Maidstone	8	14	9	12,150	40	5,177
Manchester	20	13	20	0	260,000	61,464
Medomsley	0	6	1	0	0	0
Moorland	7	10	12	0	3,500	6,157
Morton Hall	0	3	3	0	0	0
New Hall	4	2	6	0	2,925	15,228
North Sea Camp	6	5	2	5,750	0	1,750
Northallerton	2	1	1	0	575,000	7,614
Northendon Road Approved School	0	0	1	0	0	0
Norwich	14	3	8	1,650	10,000	23,028
Nottingham	7	13	9	0	652	33,771
Onley	2	2	2	2,000	0	70,000
Parkhurst	18	15	27	405	350	3,725
Pentonville	14	14	24	7,000	6,595	14,745
Portland	3	4	2	0	0	31,250
Preston	16	10	12	3,500	8,300	12,986
Ranby	10	10	11	0	200	1,300
Reading	0	1	0	0	0	2,100
Risley	32	9	6	325	1,350	14,064

Prisoner claims excluding private establishments and judicial reviews

Prison	Prisoner compensation claims received			Total compensation paid (£)		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Rochester	1	3	0	0	3,000	2,250
Send	3	1	2	0	850	2,200
Shepton Mallet	0	2	5	3,825	0	1,425
Shrewsbury	13	2	3	1,715	0	38,071
Stafford	4	1	8	1,350	0	8,714
Standford Hill	7	5	6	10,000	8,300	18,400
Stocken	6	8	3	17,000	0	1,180
Stoke Heath	2	1	5	0	0	0
Styal	8	3	6	0	4,700	12,021
Sudbury	5	2	1	200	0	3,807
Swaleside	14	12	4	264,550	2,300	10,462
Swansea	4	0	2	13,500	3,500	0
Swinfen Hall	1	2	0	0	0	0
The Mount	4	8	7	8,000	5,840	729
The Verne	8	9	6	23,015	16,500	22,847
Thorn Cross	1	0	1	0	0	0
Usk/Prescoed	2	1	4	0	0	0
Wakefield	12	27	35	8,000	28,342	11,840
Wandsworth	38	24	20	44,067	8,053	16,705
Warren Hill	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wayland	7	8	12	1,500	3,310	17,014
Wealstun	6	4	9	3,750	0	4,700
Weare	4	7	1	5,359	6,005	7,250
Wellingborough	10	2	10	1,774	10,600	6,000
Werrington	0	1	0	0	0	0
Wetherby	1	2	5	0	0	0
Whatton	3	4	11	2,000	0	0
Whitemoor	18	55	65	0	1,699	3,532
Winchester	17	6	8	425	500	46,294
Woodhill	10	17	10	0	10,721	8,364
Wormwood Scrubs	13	9	13	123,435	4,500	522,541
Wymott	19	27	14	29,683	525	17,315
Grand total	958	973	1034	2,291,277	4,432,046	2,036,271

Prisoners: Foreigners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign prisoners from each country of origin there were in prisons in England and Wales on 1st March 2008. [195548]

Mr. Straw: The following table gives a breakdown by nationality of all foreign national prisoners in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 31 December 2007. It is available quarterly as table 5 within the Population in custody monthly published tables at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The latest edition containing table 5 is given at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/population-in-custody-dec07.pdf

The following is the link to the publication schedule for RDS-NOMS publications:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/stats-pub-schedule.htm

The next bulletin on foreign nationals will be for March 2008, published at the end of April.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Information on the country of origin of individual prisoners is not available, and may not be the same as their nationality.

Population in prison by nationality and sex: England and Wales 31 December 2007

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
All nationalities	75,275	4,330	79,605
UK nationals	64,099	3,264	67,363
Foreign nationals	10,337	974	11,310
Not recorded	840	92	932
Total Africa	2,961	436	3,397
Algeria	161	1	162
Angola	76	4	80
Benin	5	0	5
Botswana	1	1	2
Burundi	8	0	8
Cameroon, United Republic	48	2	49
Cape Verde	1	0	1
Central African Republic	11	3	14
Chad	2	0	2
Congo	123	5	128
Congo, Democratic Republic	33	1	34
Djibouti	1	0	1
Egypt	16	0	16
Ethiopia	54	1	55
Gambia	48	4	52
Ghana	195	34	229
Guinea	18	1	19
Guinea/Bissau	2	0	2

Population in prison by nationality and sex: England and Wales 31 December 2007

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
Ivory Coast	35	1	36
Kenya	61	10	71
Liberia	26	9	35
Libya	16	0	16
Madagascar	0	1	1
Malawi	14	3	17
Mali	1	0	1
Mauritania	4	0	4
Mauritius	19	1	20
Morocco	45	1	46
Mozambique	4	1	5
Namibia	4	1	5
Niger	1	0	1
Nigeria	917	229	1,146
Rwanda	17	0	17
Senegal	7	1	8
Sierra Leone	84	6	91
Somalia	382	12	394
South Africa	167	49	216
Sudan	44	3	47
Swaziland	1	0	1
Tanzania	18	2	20
Togo	5	3	8
Congo	1	0	1
Tunisia	22	2	24
Uganda	77	8	85
Western Sahara	2	0	2
Zambia	14	2	16
Zimbabwe	168	33	201
Total Asia	1,971	131	2,104
Afghanistan	109	1	110
Bangladesh	154	3	157
Burma	5	0	5
Cambodia	1	0	1
China	337	49	386
Hong Kong	4	0	4
India	318	5	323
Indonesia	4	0	4
Japan	0	1	1
Korea, Dem Peoples Rep (Nth)	1	1	2
Korea, Republic of (Sth)	6	0	6
Malaysia	38	7	45
Mongolia	8	0	8
Nepal	3	0	3
Pakistan	397	9	406
Philippines	18	3	21
Singapore	3	3	6
Sri Lanka	143	2	145
Thailand	4	7	11
Vietnam	420	40	460
Total Europe	2,957	207	3,164
Albania	147	2	149
Armenia	5	0	5
Austria	14	3	17
Azerbaijan	3	0	3
Belgium	33	1	34
Bosnia-Herzegovina	7	3	10
Bulgaria	26	15	41
Croatia	6	0	6
Cyprus	43	2	45
Czech Republic	56	3	59

Population in prison by nationality and sex: England and Wales 31 December 2007

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
Denmark	8	0	8
Estonia	17	2	19
Finland	3	1	4
France	153	14	167
Georgia	19	0	19
Germany	108	11	119
Gibraltar	3	0	3
Greece	15	3	18
Hungary	20	4	24
Irish Republic	689	61	750
Italy	88	6	94
Kazakhstan	2	0	2
Kyrgyzstan	2	0	2
Latvia	45	2	47
Lithuania	191	12	203
Macedonia	1	0	1
Malta	8	0	8
Moldova	18	3	21
Netherlands	105	11	116
Norway	4	0	4
Poland	339	20	359
Portugal	175	7	182
Romania	151	21	172
Russia	98	11	109
San Marino	1	0	1
Serbia and Montenegro	100	1	101
Slovakia	24	2	26
Slovenia	5	1	6
Spain	54	7	61
Sweden	10	5	15
Switzerland	6	1	7
Turkey	270	4	274
Turkmenistan	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	3	0	3
Total Middle East	884	5	889
Iran	205	2	207
Iraq	267	1	268
Israel	24	0	24
Jordan	9	0	9
Kuwait	9	0	9
Lebanon	27	1	28
Oman	1	0	1
Qatar	1	0	1
Saudi Arabia	14	1	15
Syrian Arab Republic	6	0	6
United Arab Emirates	8	0	8
Yemen, Republic of	12	0	12
Total North America	121	10	131
Canada	20	6	26
United States of America	101	4	105
		0	0
Total Oceania	44	4	48
Australia	23	3	26
Canton and Enderbury Island	1	0	1
Fiji	9	0	9
French Southern Territories	2	0	2
Kiribati	1	0	1
New Zealand	8	1	9

Population in prison by nationality and sex: England and Wales 31 December 2007

Nationality	Male	Female	Total
Total Central and South America	294	42	335
Argentina	3	1	4
Belize	2	0	2
Bolivia	6	0	6
Brazil	57	7	64
Chile	10	0	10
Columbia	104	8	112
Costa Rica	2	1	3
Ecuador	12	1	13
El Salvador	0	1	1
French Guyana	3	2	5
Guatemala	4	0	4
Guyana	30	8	38
Honduras	1	0	1
Mexico	25	8	33
Panama	4	0	4
Paraguay	0	1	1
Peru	6	1	7
Surinam	8	1	9
Uruguay	1	0	1
Venezuela	15	2	17
Total West Indies	1,399	140	1,539
Anguilla	1	0	1
Bahamas	4	0	4
Barbados	34	2	36
Bermuda	3	0	3
Cayman Islands	1	0	1
Cuba	5	0	5
Dominica	10	2	12
Dominican Republic	8	2	10
Federation of St Christopher and Nevis	2	0	2
Grenada	13	4	17
Haiti	3	0	3
Jamaica	1,185	93	1,278
Montserrat	20	1	21
Netherlands Antilles	7	5	12
St Lucia	25	8	32
St Vincent and The Grenadines	9	2	11
Trinidad and Tobago	69	21	90
		0	0
Total other	4	0	4

Data Sources and Quality

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system and so although shown to the last individual, the figure may not be accurate to that level.

Probation: Community Orders

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on Probation Service resources of an increase in the use of community penalties by magistrates' courts. [195665]

Maria Eagle: There is no simple relationship between the number of community penalties passed and their resource impact upon the probation service. The cost of community penalties is related to the number of such sentences, the risk profile of the offenders made subject to them, the number and nature of requirements included in them and their length. The impact of any rise varies with other changes in the mix of probation workload, such as the number of reports to be prepared and the number of offenders to be supervised on release from custody.

New community penalties to be supervised by the probation service rose by 5 per cent. between September 2006 and September 2007. The caseload of such cases under supervision at any one time rose by 3 per cent. over the same period.

An additional £40 million has recently been made available to the probation service for the specific purpose of supporting local plans to promote confidence in the use of community penalties.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (*a*) arrests, (*b*) prosecutions and (*c*) convictions there were for offences under (i) the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and (ii) the Malicious Communications Act 1988 in each of the last 10 years. [195647]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, etc. It is not possible to separately identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and the Malicious Communications Act 1988 in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 can in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 be viewed in the following table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and the Malicious Communications Act 1988 in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1]

	Statute			
	Protection from Harassment Act 1997		*Malicious Communications Act 1988 S.1 (a) & (b)*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
1997	780	344	0	0
1998	6,189	3,031	0	0
1999	7,758	3,671	0	0
2000[2]	8,162	3,940	0	0
2001	7,936	3,792	0	0
2002	7,955	3,976	66	38
2003	8,084	4,234	78	47

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and the Malicious Communications Act 1988 in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006

	Statute			
	Protection from Harassment Act 1997		*Malicious Communications Act 1988 S.1 (1) (a) or (1) (b)*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
2004	8,148	4,675	99	64
2005	8,308	5,188	122	73
2006	7,805	5,333	182	121

These data are on the principal offence basis.
The data relates to the following Statutes and offence descriptions:
Malicious Communications Act S1(1)(a) and (c) only:
Sending letter or other article conveying indecent or grossly offensive message
Sending letter or other article conveying threat
Sending letter or other article conveying false information
Sending article which is in whole or in part indecent or grossly offensive
Protection from Harassment Act 1997 S.2(1) and (2), S.4(1), S.4(3) and S.5(1):
Infringing the terms of an injunction which restrains the offender from harassment
Putting a person in fear of violence
Breach of a restraining order under the Act
Harassment of another
The data excludes racially and/or religiously aggravated harassment offences as covered by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000.
N/A:
Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
Note:
Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Reoffenders: Secure Accommodation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of (*a*) juveniles and (*b*) young adult offenders were reconvicted within two years of release from secure children's homes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [196132]

(2) what proportion of (*a*) juvenile and (*b*) young adult offenders were reconvicted within two years of release from secure training centres in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [196133]

(3) what proportion of (*a*) juvenile and (*b*) young adult offenders were reconvicted within two years of release from young offenders institutions in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [196134]

Mr. Hanson: Young adult offenders are not placed in secure training centres or secure children's homes. The Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin 'Re-offending of Juveniles: results from the 2005 cohort' (July 2007) found that 76 per cent. of young people aged under 18 discharged from custody in the first quarter of 2005 re-offended within a year. It analysed the figures in various ways: for example by age, by ethnicity and by offence sanctioned. However, there would be difficulty in attempting such an analysis by type of custodial establishment, because transfers occur between different types of establishment and the number of offenders given custodial sentences is very small compared to other disposals.

Robbery: Sentencing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what changes were made to the sentencing guidelines for (*a*) magistrates and (*b*) Crown courts on robbery offences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196122]

Mr. Hanson: Robbery is an indictable only offence and therefore is not dealt with in the magistrates courts.

In July 2006, the Sentencing Guidelines Council issued a guideline on robbery. In December 2004, the Council issued guidelines on seriousness,

"overarching principles: seriousness; and reduction in sentence for a guilty plea",

which apply in all cases, including robbery. The latter guideline was revised in July 2007.

Segregation of Prisoners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were housed in segregation units in each of the last (*a*) five years and (*b*) 12 months. [195804]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, by surveying every establishment in England and Wales.

Vandalism: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many (*a*) arrests, (*b*) prosecutions and (*c*) convictions there were for vandalism in (i) Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency, (ii) Barnsley Metropolitan borough and (iii) Doncaster metropolitan borough in each year since 2002. [195760]

Maria Eagle: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group. Information is given in table 1 for South Yorkshire police force area for the number of persons arrested for offences within the main offence group 'criminal damage'.

Table 1: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime—notifiable offences—of criminal damage[1] in South Yorkshire police force area, by period

Period	Total
2001-02	3,523
2002-03	3,937
2003-04	4,138
2004-05	4,882
2005-06	4,936

[1] Includes indictable offences for criminal damage and summary offences of criminal damage, £5,000 or less.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Data for the same area showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of criminal damage, which includes cases involving vandalism, are given in the following table.

Data are not available at parliamentary constituency or metropolitan borough level and cases involving vandalism cannot be separately identified from the arrests and court proceedings data held by my Department.

Data for the same area showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of criminal damage, which includes cases involving vandalism, are given in the following table.

Data are not available at parliamentary constituency or metropolitan borough level and cases involving vandalism cannot be separately identified from the arrests and court proceedings data held by my Department.

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of criminal damage[1] in South Yorkshire police force area, 2002-06

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2002	1,765	1,121
2003	1,876	1,164
2004	1,800	1,242
2005	1,831	1,353
2006	1,700	1,251

[1] Includes indictable offences for criminal damage and summary offences of criminal damage, £5,000 or less, and in addition offences under section 19 of the Allotments Act 1922.
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Young Offenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders are registered; and how many and what proportion of total offences there were in which the offender was a persistent young offender in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [195605]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics on Persistent Young Offenders (PYOs) are available from 1997 to 2007. These figures are derived from police national computer data, and monitor the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days.

The following table shows the number of PYOs in England and Wales in each year since 1997. It also shows the number of cases involving such offenders and the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with them. Data in this table are published as national statistics by the Ministry of Justice.

Arrest statistics on persistent young offenders—PYO—1997 to 2007

	Number of PYOs	Number of PYO convictions	Arrest to sentence interval—days
1997	9,868	16,010	142
1998	11,079	18,605	125
1999	12,014	21,151	105
2000	13,094	23,130	93
2001	13,854	25,393	76
2002	14,244	26,116	68
2003	14,242	26,083	66
2004	14,403	26,363	69
2005	14,725	27,037	68
2006	15,528	28,252	72
2007	16,512	30,683	65

It should be noted that the increase in the number of people who meet the definition of a PYO is partly a consequence of the large improvements in the timeliness of dealing with such offenders. The definition of a PYO relies on counting successive sentencing occasions for a single offender during a limited time period. Speedier operation of the youth justice system has markedly reduced the average time taken from arrest to sentence, and as a result the number of young offenders who fall within the scope of this definition has increased. This was a particular issue from 1997 to 2002, the period during which these timeliness improvements were taking effect.

Information is not available on the total number offences committed by PYOs. However, information is available on the number of convictions handed down to these offenders, and the following table therefore shows the proportion of total notifiable offences brought to justice that is attributable to court convictions of PYOs. Please note that data on the numbers of offences brought to justice are only currently available for the years 2000 to 2006 inclusive.

Persistent young offender—PYO—convictions as a proportion of notifiable offences brought to justice, 2000-06

	Offences brought to justice	Court convictions of PYOs	
		Number	Percentage
2000	1,012,722	23,130	2.28
2001	1,001,301	25,393	2.54
2002	1,031,214	26,116	2.53
2003	1,059,663	26,083	2.46
2004	1,124,574	26,363	2.34
2005	1,276,969	27,037	2.12
2006	1,408,547	28,252	2.01

The Criminal Justice System area breakdowns are in the following table.

Persistent Young Offender (PYO) convictions as a proportion of notifiable offences brought to justice, 2000-06

	CJS area name	Number of convictions of persistent young offenders						
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0	England and Wales[1]	23,130	25,393	26,116	26,083	26,863	27,037	28,252
1	Metropolitan	2,009	2,291	2,236	2,069	2,205	2,133	2,549
3	Cumbria	305	300	318	337	321	352	415
4	Lancashire	830	843	1,089	1,026	945	1,078	1,216
5	Merseyside	820	966	999	1,015	1,042	835	797
6	Greater Manchester	1,875	2,290	2,165	1,866	1,885	2,101	2,251
7	Cheshire	378	389	449	438	495	579	483
10	Northumbria	1,539	1,612	1,498	1,620	1,518	1,619	1,730
11	Durham	545	464	506	414	328	382	457
12	North Yorkshire	282	280	282	305	333	333	380
13	West Yorkshire	1,367	1,327	1,309	1,432	1,623	1,676	1,575
14	South Yorkshire	696	645	717	713	738	701	646
16	Humberside	412	494	419	501	626	647	653
17	Cleveland	496	506	557	389	346	382	419
20	West Midlands	1,663	1,839	1,759	1,807	1,743	1,456	1,401
21	Staffordshire	480	464	419	516	511	517	515
22	West Mercia	392	414	458	446	501	508	628
23	Warwickshire	145	193	172	145	142	177	225
30	Derbyshire	322	411	403	392	414	416	433
31	Nottinghamshire	669	689	687	671	581	703	709
32	Lincolnshire	228	242	229	260	221	171	199
33	Leicestershire	374	421	459	448	315	466	439
34	Northamptonshire	298	288	282	254	239	243	235
35	Cambridgeshire	267	245	283	342	273	315	310
36	Norfolk	268	278	256	294	258	220	271
37	Suffolk	213	285	363	380	446	491	423
40	Bedfordshire	160	142	127	160	225	189	172
41	Hertfordshire	199	209	246	276	339	362	356
42	Essex	455	479	470	451	514	654	736
43	Thames Valley	455	559	659	561	580	636	721
44	Hampshire	1,079	1,052	1,236	1,184	1,207	1,128	1,116
45	Surrey	175	235	219	194	239	249	258
46	Kent	480	614	619	715	654	673	686
47	Sussex	242	335	414	465	615	762	828
50	Devon and Cornwall	299	418	434	504	576	518	485
52	Avon and Somerset	314	449	496	482	456	564	612
53	Gloucestershire	135	183	188	194	199	215	285
54	Wiltshire	151	166	192	203	222	206	202
55	Dorset	109	141	183	219	215	243	274
60	North Wales	273	346	426	451	438	386	402
61	Gwent	341	336	325	372	420	396	409
62	South Wales	1,082	1,111	1,109	1,018	980	869	719
63	Dyfed Powys	158	212	225	242	199	228	264

	CJS area name	Proportion of convictions of persistent young offenders from all notifiable offences brought to justice						Percentage
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
0	England and Wales[1]	2.28	2.54	2.53	2.46	2.34	2.12	2.01
1	Metropolitan	1.60	1.92	1.70	1.60	1.61	1.27	1.26
3	Cumbria	2.99	3.15	3.15	3.11	2.73	2.79	3.23
4	Lancashire	2.76	2.82	3.47	3.32	2.74	2.75	2.48
5	Merseyside	2.70	3.31	3.45	3.19	3.08	2.02	1.82
6	Greater Manchester	3.12	4.00	3.86	3.25	2.79	2.89	2.73
7	Cheshire	2.23	2.58	2.86	2.64	2.89	2.36	1.94

Percentage

Proportion of convictions of persistent young offenders from all notifiable offences brought to justice

	CJS area name	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
10	Northumbria	3.81	3.97	3.68	3.80	3.94	3.96	3.57
11	Durham	3.28	3.56	3.70	3.24	2.71	2.84	2.94
12	North Yorkshire	2.25	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.23	2.14	2.51
13	West Yorkshire	2.61	2.83	2.76	2.98	2.63	2.33	2.38
14	South Yorkshire	2.68	2.62	2.92	2.69	2.52	1.93	1.56
16	Humberside	2.23	2.82	2.47	2.66	2.87	2.69	2.51
17	Cleveland	3.39	3.45	3.67	2.62	2.67	2.32	2.03
20	West Midlands	2.31	2.43	2.21	2.25	2.48	2.06	1.84
21	Staffordshire	1.78	2.23	1.89	2.21	2.23	2.00	1.84
22	West Mercia	1.91	1.91	2.08	2.01	2.08	1.84	2.13
23	Warwickshire	2.10	2.38	2.23	1.68	1.55	1.69	1.82
30	Derbyshire	2.01	2.40	2.19	2.19	2.23	1.97	2.04
31	Nottinghamshire	2.54	2.76	2.97	2.72	2.35	2.56	2.36
32	Lincolnshire	2.63	2.35	2.11	2.44	1.97	1.19	1.31
33	Leicestershire	2.11	2.21	2.56	2.33	1.43	1.86	1.61
34	Northamptonshire	2.13	2.18	2.25	1.97	1.78	2.01	1.57
35	Cambridgeshire	2.24	2.25	2.32	2.64	2.20	2.02	1.77
36	Norfolk	1.93	2.19	1.45	2.15	1.70	1.38	1.46
37	Suffolk	1.82	2.47	3.03	2.93	2.97	3.21	2.44
40	Bedfordshire	1.55	1.24	1.10	1.45	1.89	1.43	1.26
41	Hertfordshire	1.29	1.53	1.65	1.70	1.76	1.93	1.32
42	Essex	2.28	2.27	2.14	2.02	2.03	1.97	1.95
43	Thames Valley	1.91	1.81	1.93	1.73	1.38	1.18	1.40
44	Hampshire	3.34	3.32	3.85	3.58	3.23	2.95	2.80
45	Surrey	1.67	1.93	1.91	1.51	1.35	1.58	1.47
46	Kent	1.80	2.44	2.53	2.53	2.24	1.99	1.87
47	Sussex	1.21	1.53	1.83	1.97	2.26	2.37	2.44
50	Devon and Cornwall	1.18	1.67	1.60	1.84	2.06	1.68	1.47
52	Avon and Somerset	1.21	1.73	1.83	1.80	1.74	1.64	1.60
53	Gloucestershire	1.00	1.40	1.45	1.46	1.65	1.51	1.76
54	Wiltshire	1.42	1.53	1.92	1.80	1.93	1.70	1.67
55	Dorset	0.97	1.26	1.63	2.02	1.37	1.50	1.63
60	North Wales	2.08	2.75	3.22	3.34	2.97	2.45	2.19
61	Gwent	2.01	1.92	2.01	2.21	2.05	2.64	2.30
62	South Wales	3.56	3.76	3.61	3.22	2.87	2.58	2.43
63	Dyfed Powys	1.44	1.87	1.91	1.93	1.83	1.75	1.92

[1] The England and Wales totals include cases dealt with by the British Transport Police or else are not assigned to a local constabulary.

Further information on persistent young offenders can be found on the dedicated page of the Ministry of Justice website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he will place in the Library a copy of the manual for control and restraint in young offenders institutions. [194876]

Mr. Hanson: Control and restraint (C and R) techniques are used in all Prison Service establishments, including young offender institutions, as a last resort when all other de-escalation techniques have failed. The restraint methods involve a variety of defensive and disarming techniques ranging from simple breakaway techniques through to defensive strikes and defence against improvised weapons and firearms. For reasons of security the prison service does not disclose details of the individual techniques used in C and R.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Access to Justice Act 1999

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under section 94 of the Access to Justice Act 1999 in each year since 2002, and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196021]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result,

information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Adoption and Children Act 2002

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196000]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2001

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2001 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [195999]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Asylum

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects a decision to be made on Yousef Ahmedali's application for asylum (Reference A1142900). [194887]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 March 2008]*: The Border and Immigration Agency will make a decision in line with usual procedures, this is expected to be in the next four weeks.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1297W, on asylum, how many grants of indefinite leave to remain (ILR) under the 2003 family ILR exercise were for families in the categories (*a*) Africa other, (*b*) Middle East other and (*c*) Asia other, broken down by nationality. [196028]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Grants of ILR issued under the family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007, excluding dependants, for specified nationalities[1,2]

Country of nationality	Total
Africa Other	
Benin	5
Botswana	*
Burkina Faso	5
Central African Republic	*
Chad	10
Gabon	5
Guinea	15
Guinea-Bissau	10
Malawi	10
Mali	5
Mauritania	*
Mauritius	15
Mozambique	*
Niger	5
Senegal	*
Seychelles	10
South Africa	40
Togo	40
Western Sahara	*
Zambia	25
Total Africa Other	200
Asia Other	
Bhutan	*
Cambodia	*
Fiji	*
Indonesia	10
Malaysia	5
Mongolia	30
Myanmar (Burma)	10
Nauru	*
Nepal	50
North Korea	*
Philippines	15
Singapore	*
South Korea	5
Taiwan	*
Thailand	5
Total Asia Other	130
Middle East	
Bahrain	*
Egypt	20
Israel	40
Jordan	10
Kuwait	10
Lebanon	100
Morocco	15
Oman	*
Palestine	155
Saudi Arabia	5
Tunisia	10
United Arab Emirates	*

Grants of ILR issued under the family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007, excluding dependants, for specified nationalities[1, 2, 3]

Country of nationality	*Total*
Yemen	65
Total Middle East Other	440

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 (* = 1 or 2).
[2] Main asylum applicants (this is how the Family ILR exercise records those more often referred to as "principal asylum applicants").
[3] This information is based on internal management information.
[4] Nationality recorded as at 7 December 2007 is not necessarily the applicant's nationality at the time of grant of ILR.

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195996]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Immigration Acts' offence classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Border and Immigration Agency

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the titles are of the Case Resolution Teams in the Border and Immigration Agency; how many full-time equivalent staff are allocated to each team; how many outstanding cases are allocated to each team; and how many older, unresolved asylum cases are assigned to each team. [195170]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* Case Resolution Teams are identified serially by number and are abbreviated with a suffix CRT(S), CRT(M) or CRT(L) depending upon whether they are located in Croydon (S stands for South), Manchester or Liverpool.

There are currently around 60 case owner teams with a full time equivalent staff complement, ranging from seven to 15 per team.

In December 2007 we allocated 330,000 principal applicant cases to around 60 case owner teams so that each team has about 5,500 cases to conclude.

Border and Immigration Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* letters, *(b)* emails and *(c)* telephone calls were received by the Border and Immigration Agency from hon. Members and their staff in each year since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [195436]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency have received the numbers noted in the following table of telephone calls, e-mails and letters from hon. Members and their staff since 2003. (The e-mail service did not start until 2005).

	Number
Letters	
2003	[1]26,577
2004	38,015
2005	41,075
2006	41,534
2007	46,180
Total	193,381
E-mails	
2005 (last four months)	98
2006	899
2007	2,325
2008 (to 29 February 2008)	567
Total	3,889
Phone calls	
2003 (seven month total)	15,728
2004	31,393
2005	34,338
2006	31,749
2007	24,429
2008 (to date)	3,877
Total	110,121

[1] Ministerial performance for 2003 does not include January-March figures.
Notes:
1. Figures for letters received do not include OGD transfers
2. These statistics come from local management figures not from any published source and may be subject to amendment.

Border and Immigration Agency: Visits

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many personnel from the Border and Immigration Agency made official overseas visits in each of the last five years; what the purpose and destination of each visit was; and what the cost of the visits was. [193211]

Mr. Byrne: The agency does not hold a central record of the number, purpose and destination of overseas visits made by personnel from the Border and Immigration Agency.

Border and Immigration Agency: Expenditure

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on enforcement action by the Border and Immigration Agency and its predecessor in each of the last five years; and what proportion was attributed to activity against individuals involved in identity theft or identity fraud involving document abuse. [195093]

Mr. Byrne: Enforcement action consists of many stages in the end-to-end process of resolving a case. It can include policy work, caseworking, inquiries abroad, intelligence work, legal advice, support costs, operations, detention, escorts the cost of charters and

other flights used to effect removal, and ministerial and senior officials' time. Such costs are spread across a number of cost centres within the Agency and its predecessor and are not functionally recorded on a case-by-case basis. The information requested could therefore be provided only by the detailed analysis of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

The Border and Immigration Agency's budget allocations are not made or recorded on a detailed activity basis and therefore it is not possible to give a definitive figure for the proportion of budget attributed to activity against individuals involved in identity theft or identity fraud involving document abuse. However, action against such theft or fraud is an important part of our Enforcement Strategy, published in March 2007.

Copies of the document are placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It is available to view at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementstrategy/

Latest published statistics on the total spend in the Home Office are set out in the Home Office report a copy of which has also been placed in both Houses. It is also available to view at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ho-annual-report-07?view=Binary

Borders: Personal Records

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the FBI terrorist screening database will be among the multi-agency watchlists used as part of the e-borders programme to check persons flying into the UK. [195151]

Mr. Byrne: The e-Borders system will contain a number of agency owned watchlists against which traveiler's details will be checked to identify those of interest to UK authorities, including subjects linked to terrorism. It is a matter for the responsible agencies to identify individuals suitable for inclusion in their watchlists; this may include those identified through international liaison.

British Amusement Catering Trade Association

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations her Department has received from the British Amusement Catering Trade Association; and if she will make a statement. [186201]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 February 2008]*: The Department has received no recent representations from the British Amusement Catering Trade Association.

BSE Monitoring (England) Regulations 2001

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the BSE Monitoring (England) Regulations 2001 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195995]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Care Act 2000

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under section 89 of the Care Act 2000 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195994]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Civil Partnership Act 2004

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of those offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196009]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in either the 'disclosure, obstruction, false or misleading statements' classification or in the 'other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192564]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the number of appeals heard during the last 10 financial years can be found in Appendix 2 of the Civil Service Appeal Board's Annual Reports.

These are available on the board's website at:

www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk/publications.aspx

The further information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196012]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Communications Act 2003

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Communications Act 2003 in each year since its entry into force; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196007]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Compensation Act 2006

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Compensation Act 2006 in each year since its entry into force; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196010]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Corruption: Juries

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of embracery were recorded in each year since 1997; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195988]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences of 'embracery' are recorded in the 'attempting to pervert the course of justice' offence classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that offence classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Crimes Against Public Morality

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of committing an act outraging public decency have been recorded in each year since 1997; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195990]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences of 'committing an act outraging public decency' are recorded in the 'other offences against the state and public order' offence classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of incidents of violence against the person resulted in the victim suffering *(a)* no injuries, *(b)* a minor bruise or black eye, *(c)* severe bruising, *(d)* scratches, *(e)* cuts, *(f)* broken bones, *(g)* a broken nose, *(h)* broken or lost teeth, *(i)* concussion and *(j)* facial or head injuries in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [195599]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to determine the nature of the injury from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of incidents of violence against the person resulted in the victim needing *(a)* medical attention from a doctor, *(b)* another form of medical attention and *(c)* a hospital stay in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [195600]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available.

While the British Crime Survey asks victims of violent incidents whether or not they required medical attention or a hospital stay, it is not possible to provide robust estimates by police force area.

Criminal Proceedings

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any criminal proceedings have been brought against *(a)* her Department's employees and *(b)* contractors' employees including immigration removal centre staff and immigration escort staff; and if she will make a statement. [195181]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally and to search through all records would incur a disproportionate cost. However CRB checks are carried out on all prospective employees of both the BIA and its contractors prior to offers of employment being made.

Departmental Complaints

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any complaints investigated by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration resulted in findings of wrong-doing by Home Office employees or its contractors' employees, including immigration removal centre and immigration escort staff in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [195039]

Mr. Byrne: BIA does not currently hold these data, and the cost of extracting them from records would be disproportionate. However, of the 52 serious complaints investigated since 1 October 2006 in relation to escorting contractors, only one has been substantiated and seven have been partially substantiated.

Departmental Hearing Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by her Department through call centres. [194948]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office provides textphone facilities in all of its contact centres. The numbers are:

Central Home Office: Textphone 020 7035 4742.

Border Immigration Agency: Textphone 0800 389 8289.

Identity and Passport Service: Textphone 0870 240 8090. Typetalk is also available through the 24-hour Passport Adviceline 0870 521 0410

Criminal Records Bureau: Textphone 0870 909 0811.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will break down her Department's *(a)* main estimate, *(b)* winter supplementary estimate and *(c)* spring supplementary estimate by subhead in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms for the 2007-08 financial year. [190757]

Mr. Byrne: Near cash/non cash splits relate to departmental expenditure limit resource budget controls and are not compatible with supply estimates which relate to voted resource expenditure. Voted expenditure for the Home Department at the spring supplementary estimate 2007-08 is some £1,082,543,000 higher than the resource budget departmental expenditure limit. A high level reconciliation between the different bases is provided within the estimate.

The following table assigns non-cash within resource DEL budgets to the related subhead at the main estimate 2007-08, winter supplementary estimate 2007-08 and spring supplementary estimate 2007-08. All other DEL provision is near cash.

Subhead		As at main estimate	As at winter supplementary estimate	£000 As at spring supplementary estimate
	Total DEL	13,524,956	8,662,912	8,659,454
o/w	Non cash:			
C	Criminal Records Bureau	717	717	717
D	Counter Terrorism and Intelligence	21,319	16,719	9,046
F	Criminal justice reform	16,338	0	0
G	National Offender Management Service HQ	383,983	0	0
H	Prisons—private sector	23,720	0	0
I	Prisons—public sector	(4,900)	0	0
J	Probation HQ	457	0	0
K	Border and Immigration Agency	72,136	72,446	72,446
L	Identity and passport Service	22,563	44,563	44,563
M	Central services	3,439	(15,528)	(15,830)
W	Independent Police Complaints Commission	2,626	2,626	2,626
X	Security Industry Authority	2,583	2,583	2,583
Y	Serious and Organised Crime Agency	16,016	16,016	16,016
AA	National Policing Improvement Agency	29,780	29,780	37,453
AB	Youth Justice Board	3,000	0	0
AC	Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	(3,740)	0	0
AD	Criminal Cases Review Commission	513	0	0
AE	Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner	110	0	0
		590,660	169,922	169,620

Departmental Temporary Employment

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average number of agency workers employed in her Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [194726]

Mr. Byrne: The actual numbers of agency staff on 31 December 2007 were:

	Total FTE staff	*Agency staff*
HO headquarters	3,622	368
Border and Immigration Agency (BIA)	19,554	779
Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)	458	0
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)	3,513	222
Total	27,147	1,369

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in her Department in the last year for which records are available. [195813]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not held centrally.

Detention Centres: Complaints

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means her Department monitors trends in allegations of assault by its staff and its contractors, with particular reference to immigration removal centre and immigration escort staff; and if she will make a statement. [195040]

Mr. Byrne: Allegations of assault are recorded and monitored by the Border and Immigration Agency's Detention Services. All such allegations are investigated by an independent, trained investigator from the Agency's Professional Standards Unit and are additionally referred to the police for their own investigation.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what penalties have been imposed on her Department's contractors in relation to upheld complaints regarding assaults on detainees by their staff in immigration removal centres and in transit in the last four years; and if she will make a statement. [195041]

Mr. Byrne: In the last four years, there have been two instances of performance measures being imposed against contractors in relation to complaints of assaults on detainees by staff in immigration removal centres or in transit being upheld. Financial penalties are considered to be commercial in confidence and it is not BIA policy to release this information.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of alleged assault of immigrants by her Department's staff or its contractors' staff have been reported by *(a)* the alleged victims, *(b)* their befrienders, *(c)* witnesses, *(d)* solicitors, *(e)* independent monitoring boards and *(f)* immigration removal centres over the last four years; and if she will make a statement. [195180]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available in the categories requested.

Driving Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motoring offences were dealt with by police in each police force area in each year since 1997. [195601]

Mr. Coaker: Available information on the number of motoring offences dealt with by official police action in England and Wales from 1997 to 2005 (latest available) is given in the following table.

2006 data will be available later this year.

Motoring offences[1] dealt with, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005

Number of offences

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	167,200	185,600	192,000	166,700	147,100	170,500	229,700	219,500	183,900
Bedfordshire	79,400	76,100	47,400	56,400	54,900	75,900	103,500	90,500	90,600
Cambridgeshire	78,300	69,800	69,300	61,800	58,000	66,500	72,700	53,900	75,000
Cheshire	80,000	90,600	81,100	74,300	72,400	70,400	87,100	109,500	82,800
Cleveland	80,400	92,200	81,100	85,300	76,800	84,100	74,600	65,200	59,300
Cumbria	58,200	57,400	44,600	34,000	32,500	30,400	52,300	59,000	53,700
Derbyshire	97,700	107,100	105,800	98,200	96,600	139,900	154,300	108,500	80,800
Devon and Cornwall	198,900	192,200	185,500	187,700	166,100	182,000	234,700	231,700	172,800
Dorset	93,300	84,800	88,400	97,400	87,200	71,600	112,300	116,000	125,700
Durham	43,700	50,500	54,200	58,400	58,000	52,800	42,200	36,400	31,200
Essex	193,800	157,600	191,200	219,200	268,000	299,800	138,400	150,500	173,300
Gloucestershire	73,800	79,600	72,100	72,700	70,800	65,500	64,800	57,500	54,100
Greater Manchester	449,200	426,000	373,800	366,400	338,000	308,000	316,000	309,800	298,500
Hampshire	205,800	207,300	202,800	150,100	159,200	145,800	150,200	150,000	143,200
Hertfordshire	115,600	94,900	113,500	102,500s	102,200	93,100	88,600	125,900	112,900
Humberside	75,700	78,100	78,600	89,400	80,300	73,900	91,600	122,400	119,500
Kent	149,300	140,700	113,200	80,600	80,300	97,400	126,300	147,600	128,200
Lancashire	227,700	223,300	211,300	195,000	173,200	294,200	324,600	170,100	151,500

Motoring offences[1] dealt with, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
									Number of offences
Leicestershire	125,000	132,400	132,800	115,300	116,700	131,200	157,200	112,200	49,600
Lincolnshire	78,700	85,500	79,500	85,400	87,700	82,500	95,600	105,200	98,400
London, City of	34,300	34,400	30,600	29,200	24,600	28,500	29,200	33,100	33,000
Merseyside	196,600	197,700	179,000	127,400	108,800	98,700	98,200	99,300	111,700
Metropolitan Police	583,800	549,300	476,600	503,600	436,100	428,500	574,300	574,800	437,400
Norfolk	75,700	67,500	69,200	57,900	61,800	61,300	75,500	65,300	61,700
Northamptonshire	65,400	69,100	63,300	118,500	106,500	78,400	87,000	92,900	85,700
Northumbria	202,900	202,200	214,400	203,500	227,900	214,800	216,800	244,300	176,200
North Yorkshire	70,100	65,700	61,000	50,200	48,600	39,700	37,800	43,200	38,300
Nottinghamshire	106,900	106,200	90,100	101,400	90,600	89,200	108,500	110,600	103,700
South Yorkshire	144,000	137,000	124,700	120,100	130,200	115,200	148,000	134,600	147,000
Staffordshire	140,300	124,100	105,500	88,900	64,600	75,600	99,600	105,300	112,200
Suffolk	61,300	69,400	76,400	66,400	65,700	66,900	79,600	109,100	94,800
Surrey	62,200	65,000	63,800	66,800	68,200	61,000	53,000	44,300	59,800
Sussex	220,800	206,500	177,900	196,900	138,100	112,000	146,900	118,800	142,600
Thames Valley	210,400	225,900	196,800	205,600	269,200	231,300	233,700	217,900	213,600
Warwickshire	61,800	63,800	62,400	52,400	55,400	75,600	103,100	91,300	84,400
West Mercia	104,300	107,600	105,400	99,900	101,000	97,400	141,200	114,400	120,400
West Midlands	376,700	364,500	300,800	256,300	228,100	257,500	304,900	320,600	273,100
West Yorkshire	250,800	249,600	237,200	227,600	204,100	205,000	266,900	316,400	269,100
Wiltshire	66,200	76,700	70,200	72,300	67,100	80,100	92,800	97,000	101,500
Dyfed-Powys	56,800	59,000	61,800	60,000	53,300	64,100	50,500	39,200	43,000
Gwent	67,600	67,800	58,900	71,900	63,200	51,500	53,600	49,900	44,800
North Wales	68,200	63,100	62,500	68,300	65,400	95,000	168,300	111,100	126,100
South Wales	237,400	250,400	228,400	251,300	254,900	251,300	256,500	240,600	224,400
England and Wales	6,136,100	6,054,200	5,635,100	5,493,200	5,259,400	5,414,100	6,142,600	5,915,400	5,389,500

[1] Includes written warnings, VDRS notices, fixed penalty notices, court proceedings.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of fines for motoring offences were issued after *(a)* an offence was recorded on a traffic camera and *(b)* a fixed penalty notice was issued by a police officer in each year since 1997. [195602]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Data for 2006 will be available later this year.

Number and proportion of motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued where (a) the offence was detected by camera[1,2], and (b) the fixed penalty notice was issued by a police officer[3]. England and Wales 1997 to 2005

	Fixed penalty notices issued		
	Following detection by camera[1,2]	*Directly by police officer[3,4]*	*Total*
1997			
Number	323,200	3,104,600	3,427,800
Percentage	9	91	100
1998			
Number	370,500	3,069,400	3,439,900
Percentage	11	89	100
1999			
Number	460,100	2,673,600	3,133,700
Percentage	15	85	100
2000			
Number	642,400	2,355,900	2,998,300
Percentage	21	79	100
2001			
Number	923,000	1,995,000	2,918,000
Percentage	32	68	100
2002			
Number	1,206,300	1,791,100	2,997,400
Percentage	40	60	100
2003			
Number	1,784,500	1,672,200	3,456,700
Percentage	52	48	100
2004			
Number	1,899,800	1,534,900	3,434,700

Number and proportion of motoring offences fixed penalty notices issued where (a) the offence was detected by camera[1,2], and (b) the fixed penalty notice was issued by a police officer[3]. England and Wales 1997 to 2005

	Fixed penalty notices issued		
	Following detection by camera[1,2]	*Directly by police officer[3,4]*	*Total*
Percentage	55	45	100
2005			
Number	1,886,700	1,316,300	3,203,000
Percentage	59	41	100

[1] Automatic cameras until 1998, all camera types from 1999.
[2] Covers speeding and traffic light offences only.
[3] Including traffic wardens.
[4] Covers all motoring offences where a fixed penalty notice can be given.

Note

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Driving: Insurance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* successful prosecutions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* issues of fixed penalty notices there were relating to uninsured drivers in each police force area in each of the last 10 years; and what the average penalty was. [195603]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to the offence of 'use of a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks'. Tables A and B provide data on successful prosecutions (findings of guilt) and cover court imposed fines from 1997 to 2005 (latest available). Table C covers fixed penalty notices issued as from 1 June 2003, when a fixed penalty became available for the offence, to 2005.

The written warnings (including formal cautions) collection, held by the Ministry of Justice, is unable to identify this offence from others within the offence group "vehicle insurance offences". None of the Ministry's collections separately identify uninsured drivers involved in other motoring offences.

2006 data will be available later this year.

Table A. Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1] by police force area. England and Wales 1997 to 2005

Number and percentage

	1997			*1998*			*1999*		
		Total findings of guilt			*Total findings of guilt*			*Total findings of guilt*	
Police force area	*Total proceedings [=100%]*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total proceedings [=100%]*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total proceedings [=100%]*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Avon and Somerset	15,354	9,424	61	16,892	9,875	58	15,098	9,357	62
Bedfordshire	4,724	2,951	62	4,449	2,992	67	3,479	2,328	67
Cambridgeshire	3,440	2,395	70	3,425	2,507	73	3,058	2,233	73
Cheshire	4,838	3,499	72	4,961	3,658	74	5,463	3,872	71
Cleveland	3,925	2,798	71	4,204	2,908	69	4,331	3,027	70
Cumbria	4,223	3,089	73	3,781	2,866	76	3,597	2,772	77
Derbyshire	5,565	3,830	69	5,137	3,522	69	5,120	3,613	71
Devon and Cornwall	8,422	4,967	59	7,232	4,263	59	7,493	4,681	62
Dorset	5,271	3,458	66	4,198	2,777	66	4,776	3,013	63
Durham	3,992	2,912	73	4,261	3,086	72	5,899	4,475	76
Essex	7,161	4,507	63	7,025	4,635	66	7,336	5,035	69
Gloucestershire	3,577	2,115	59	4,465	2,885	65	4,443	2,867	65
Greater Manchester	30,655	20,548	67	30,836	21,430	69	33,228	23,697	71
Hampshire	11,768	7,844	67	11,557	8,028	69	11,553	8,123	70
Hertfordshire	4,580	2,573	56	5,799	3,056	53	4,748	2,789	59
Humberside	4,408	3,479	79	4,279	3,501	82	4,894	3,920	80
Kent	6,935	4,755	69	6,958	4,808	69	6,151	4,232	69
Lancashire	20,334	11,577	57	18,794	11,198	60	18,111	10,800	60
Leicestershire	9,706	5,990	62	9,481	6,265	66	11,054	7,281	66
Lincolnshire	4,589	3,001	65	5,000	3,466	69	5,345	3,744	70
London, City of	2,671	1,382	52	3,127	1,431	46	2,521	1,141	45
Merseyside	10,896	8,435	77	9,747	7,694	79	8,932	6,920	77
Metropolitan Police	42,283	25,873	61	35,064	22,874	65	31,285	20,893	67
Norfolk	3,932	3,456	88	3,434	3,060	89	3,468	3,000	87
Northamptonshire	4,999	3,083	62	4,849	3,271	67	5,571	4,151	75
Northumbria	12,470	8,064	65	11,837	8,079	68	13,296	9,299	70
North Yorkshire	3,926	2,778	71	3,744	2,538	68	4,003	2,656	66
Nottinghamshire	8,078	6,149	76	8,726	6,658	76	7,957	6,156	77
South Yorkshire	11,228	7,346	65	11,553	7,831	68	11,763	8,424	72
Staffordshire	8,180	5,251	64	8,210	5,379	66	8,021	5,725	71

Table A: Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1] by police force area England and Wales, 1997 to 2005

Number and percentage

Police force area	1997			1998			1999		
	Total proceedings [=100%]	Total findings of guilt		Total proceedings [=100%]	Total findings of guilt		Total proceedings [=100%]	Total findings of guilt	
		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Suffolk	3,258	2,202	68	3,743	2,283	61	4,189	2,547	61
Surrey	4,942	2,438	49	3,908	2,051	52	4,436	2,278	51
Sussex	9,333	4,726	51	8,202	4,150	51	7,415	4,198	57
Thames Valley	11,887	6,258	53	11,948	6,311	53	13,543	7,291	54
Warwickshire	4,316	2,595	60	3,769	2,394	64	3,523	2,192	62
West Mercia	7,082	4,848	68	8,207	5,624	69	7,450	5,224	70
West Midlands	29,878	18,484	62	30,928	18,969	61	27,409	16,407	60
West Yorkshire	23,980	15,042	63	23,549	14,682	62	25,776	15,903	62
Wiltshire	3,463	2,311	67	4,820	2,712	56	4,708	2,558	54
Dyfed-Powys	3,079	1,953	63	2,852	1,952	68	3,017	2,044	68
Gwent	4,097	2,899	71	4,478	3,344	75	4,451	3,452	78
North Wales	4,859	3,280	68	4,452	3,301	74	4,102	3,097	75
South Wales	14,829	9,936	67	16,187	10,629	66	15,406	10,467	68
England and Wales	367,133	254,502	64	390,074	254,951	65	387,419	257,882	67

Number and percentage

Police force area	2000			2001			2002		
	Total proceedings [=100%]	Total findings of guilt		Total proceedings [=100%]	Total findings of guilt		Total proceedings [=100%]	Total findings of guilt	
		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Avon and Somerset	14,669	9,515	65	13,022	8,393	64	15,124	9,700	64
Bedfordshire	3,594	2,307	64	4,651	2,895	62	4,731	3,147	67
Cambridgeshire	2,929	2,216	76	2,508	1,967	78	2,875	2,266	79
Cheshire	5,729	4,075	71	4,975	3,885	78	5,765	4,540	79
Cleveland	4,793	3,571	75	4,789	3,686	77	5,994	4,282	71
Cumbria	3,507	2,654	76	3,595	2,887	80	3,540	2,876	81
Derbyshire	5,318	3,914	74	5,429	4,218	78	5,614	4,670	83
Devon and Cornwall	9,234	5,872	64	8,648	5,723	66	9,598	6,354	66
Dorset	6,035	3,540	59	5,262	2,965	56	6,176	3,371	55
Durham	5,470	4,328	79	5,394	4,343	81	5,840	4,614	79
Essex	7,898	5,328	67	7,708	5,388	70	7,811	5,359	69
Gloucestershire	4,174	2,539	61	4,683	2,677	57	4,417	2,286	52
Greater Manchester	33,783	23,865	71	37,088	26,399	71	36,337	27,527	76
Hampshire	10,559	7,535	71	10,349	7,614	74	10,915	8,063	74
Hertfordshire	5,258	3,310	63	5,816	3,672	63	6,612	4,191	63
Humberside	5,024	4,043	80	4,730	3,641	77	4,464	3,551	80
Kent	9,033	6,408	71	9,592	7,042	73	10,059	7,697	77
Lancashire	18,354	10,981	60	16,260	9,748	60	17,555	11,020	63
Leicestershire	10,263	6,713	65	10,475	6,792	65	10,689	7,372	69
Lincolnshire	4,500	3,307	73	4,083	2,956	72	4,242	3,057	72
London, City of	1,738	776	45	1,826	1,020	56	2,353	1,330	57
Merseyside	10,054	7,708	77	9,467	7,693	81	10,360	8,551	83
Metropolitan Police	29,649	20,117	68	32,032	22,566	70	36,485	27,116	74
Norfolk	3,951	2,844	72	4,744	3,033	64	5,563	3,590	65
Northamptonshire	3,949	2,971	75	2,028	1,626	80	1,211	885	73
Northumbria	13,195	9,385	71	12,504	9,184	73	12,309	9,286	75
North Yorkshire	3,905	2,548	65	3,545	2,171	61	3,340	2,096	63
Nottinghamshire	7,748	6,034	78	7,856	6,181	79	7,460	5,922	79
South Yorkshire	12,690	8,871	70	14,623	10,079	69	13,859	9,975	72
Staffordshire	8,777	6,740	77	6,027	4,678	78	7,056	5,723	81
Suffolk	3,923	2,319	59	4,323	2,373	55	4,759	2,845	60
Surrey	4,941	2,571	52	5,101	2,804	55	5,554	3,145	57
Sussex	6,796	3,777	56	6,814	3,995	59	6,413	3,698	58
Thames Valley	12,816	7,426	58	11,728	7,092	60	12,842	8,283	64

Number and percentage

Police force area	2000 Total proceedings [=100]	2000 Total findings of guilt: Number	2000 Total findings of guilt: Percentage	2001 Total proceedings [=100]	2001 Total findings of guilt: Number	2001 Total findings of guilt: Percentage	2002 Total proceedings [=100]	2002 Total findings of guilt: Number	2002 Total findings of guilt: Percentage
Warwickshire	4,135	2,309	56	4,204	2,665	63	3,711	2,389	64
West Mercia	7,686	5,512	72	7,787	5,731	74	7,849	5,812	74
West Midlands	28,148	17,896	64	27,010	18,066	67	32,339	22,010	68
West Yorkshire	26,529	15,476	58	27,618	15,842	57	24,873	13,952	56
Wiltshire	4,901	2,620	53	5,292	3,264	62	5,326	3,162	59
Dyfed-Powys	3,072	2,073	67	2,953	1,906	65	3,316	2,275	69
Gwent	4,680	3,777	81	4,758	3,817	80	4,508	3,660	81
North Wales	3,697	2,839	77	3,376	2,551	76	4,048	2,987	74
South Wales	14,615	10,273	70	13,805	9,721	70	16,499	11,488	70
England and Wales	391,659	262,915	67	388,298	264,869	68	410,398	286,123	70

Number and percentage

Police force area	2003 Total proceedings [=100]	2003 Total findings of guilt: Number	2003 Total findings of guilt: Percentage	2004 Total proceedings [=100]	2004 Total findings of guilt: Number	2004 Total findings of guilt: Percentage	2005 Total proceedings [=100]	2005 Total findings of guilt: Number	2005 Total findings of guilt: Percentage
Avon and Somerset	17,163	10,558	62	17,489	10,862	62	14,625	8,688	59
Bedfordshire	5,041	3,490	69	4,534	3,190	70	4,776	3,334	70
Cambridgeshire	3,301	2,694	82	3,120	2,654	85	3,371	2,827	84
Cheshire	6,385	5,354	84	6,515	5,372	82	4,592	3,871	84
Cleveland	5,575	3,980	71	6,597	5,080	77	4,611	3,819	83
Cumbria	3,488	2,849	82	3,446	2,753	80	2,855	2,199	77
Derbyshire	5,793	4,888	84	6,326	5,505	87	5,869	5,190	88
Devon and Cornwall	9,676	6,608	68	8,943	6,178	69	7,464	5,241	71
Dorset	7,034	4,263	61	6,075	3,618	60	5,752	3,584	62
Durham	5,802	4,518	78	5,300	4,029	76	4,454	3,186	72
Essex	7,489	5,440	73	7,132	5,323	75	7,035	5,413	77
Gloucestershire	4,412	2,579	58	3,695	2,438	66	3,500	2,042	58
Greater Manchester	38,208	29,559	77	34,942	26,722	76	30,280	22,869	76
Hampshire	10,619	8,095	76	9,790	7,467	77	7,882	6,251	79
Hertfordshire	7,216	5,078	70	7,463	5,382	72	7,763	5,716	74
Humberside	5,509	4,411	80	5,170	4,298	83	4,840	4,136	85
Kent	9,788	7,452	76	10,673	8,347	78	8,535	7,050	83
Lancashire	21,229	13,689	64	16,065	9,948	62	17,960	10,945	61
Leicestershire	11,304	8,066	71	10,833	7,790	72	7,306	5,340	73
Lincolnshire	5,883	4,269	73	6,621	4,766	72	5,644	3,907	69
London, City of	2,563	1,605	63	2,812	1,122	40	1,499	1,068	71
Merseyside	12,776	10,627	83	13,023	10,385	80	10,728	8,757	82
Metropolitan Police	43,100	31,463	73	47,806	36,465	76	47,223	36,033	76
Norfolk	6,322	4,461	71	5,084	3,734	73	4,442	3,436	77
Northamptonshire	4,157	3,242	78	5,804	4,641	80	4,441	3,606	81
Northumbria	12,951	9,826	76	11,685	9,106	78	11,728	9,348	80
North Yorkshire	3,774	2,353	62	4,065	2,508	62	3,865	2,569	66
Nottinghamshire	9,224	7,609	82	9,224	7,755	84	7,358	6,299	86
South Yorkshire	13,745	9,882	72	11,416	8,497	74	11,246	8,484	75
Staffordshire	7,214	6,072	84	7,439	6,317	85	7,224	5,959	82
Suffolk	5,808	3,579	62	5,718	3,541	62	4,279	2,738	64
Surrey	4,657	2,880	62	3,927	2,581	66	4,491	2,874	64
Sussex	5,808	3,665	63	4,371	3,068	70	4,569	3,370	74
Thames Valley	14,516	9,718	67	12,920	9,144	71	11,255	7,887	70
Warwickshire	3,756	2,899	77	4,160	3,433	83	3,469	2,958	85
West Mercia	7,735	6,014	78	7,249	5,498	76	7,144	5,604	78
West Midlands	36,409	25,370	70	39,696	27,453	69	34,786	24,890	72
West Yorkshire	26,966	16,967	63	32,404	20,175	62	26,667	16,220	61
Wiltshire	4,794	3,006	63	4,641	2,778	60	4,599	2,814	61
Dyfed-Powys	3,094	2,236	72	2,244	1,645	73	2,639	1,890	72

Number and percentage

	2003			2004			2005		
		Total findings of guilt			Total findings of guilt			Total findings of guilt	
Police force area	Total proceedings [=100]	Number	Percentage	Total proceedings [=100]	Number	Percentage	Total proceedings [=100]	Number	Percentage
Gwent	4,083	3,448	84	3,474	2,961	85	3,241	2,761	85
North Wales	5,968	4,523	76	6,022	4,773	79	4,211	3,336	79
South Wales	16,932	11,650	69	15,946	11,143	70	12,605	8,694	69
England and Wales	447,267	320,935	72	441,819	320,445	73	392,763	287,198	73

An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143(2).
As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Average fine imposed at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005

£

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Avon and Somerset	259	204	165	182	130	133	138	154	154
Bedfordshire	314	293	274	226	164	169	137	143	156
Cambridgeshire	221	209	215	182	139	118	131	152	171
Cheshire	254	248	237	211	149	153	167	179	190
Cleveland	162	167	170	179	167	173	171	189	202
Cumbria	150	171	220	265	152	151	159	169	171
Derbyshire	270	279	283	296	337	355	367	367	376
Devon and Cornwall	184	185	178	179	133	132	127	134	145
Dorset	295	302	301	261	121	114	125	158	171
Durham	181	177	194	160	118	122	121	116	123
Essex	174	149	140	123	101	104	112	164	182
Gloucestershire	154	202	247	240	91	86	133	147	143
Greater Manchester	245	226	236	232	152	151	157	167	176
Hampshire	132	135	138	136	119	122	124	131	138
Hertfordshire	193	164	173	204	155	166	181	198	208
Humberside	159	148	143	137	122	132	137	150	180
Kent	246	241	227	271	209	192	191	197	204
Lancashire	332	296	237	219	111	113	141	156	169
Leicestershire	318	318	276	254	134	135	138	150	145
Lincolnshire	159	197	209	188	133	134	148	179	185
London, City of	332	314	346	375	369	368	334	230	198
Merseyside	200	203	200	207	163	167	148	137	141
Metropolitan Police	202	185	184	169	139	140	143	147	165
Norfolk	242	256	265	210	99	107	139	152	152
Northamptonshire	243	286	310	280	280	339	245	183	156
Northumbria	136	146	148	144	130	135	135	137	142
North Yorkshire	249	236	230	211	130	136	141	166	167
Nottinghamshire	164	165	153	150	152	156	152	188	138
South Yorkshire	194	206	191	170	128	137	146	125	147
Staffordshire	251	228	234	198	152	163	166	186	230
Suffolk	193	192	192	183	128	138	133	136	156
Surrey	243	242	215	218	201	215	221	197	195
Sussex	218	186	181	167	118	117	138	162	170
Thames Valley	292	257	268	250	134	135	158	198	206
Warwickshire	228	175	177	188	156	168	164	210	200
West Mercia	268	282	282	263	176	180	165	193	208
West Midlands	207	190	189	201	169	192	200	206	207
West Yorkshire	255	242	242	209	120	123	134	144	144
Wiltshire	152	182	186	204	283	286	280	200	208
Dyfed-Powys	183	182	175	169	155	166	172	187	184

Table B: Average fine imposed[1] at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[2] by police force area: England and Wales: 1997 to 2005

£

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[3]	2004	2005
Gwent	253	225	225	208	148	154	171	157	171
North Wales	210	226	252	230	144	150	149	154	163
South Wales	190	180	183	188	159	173	158	154	149
England and Wales	224	214	212	203	150	155	160	169	177

[1] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[2] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).
[3] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table C: Fixed Penalty Notices issued for the endorsable offence of: driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks[1] by police force area: England and Wales: 2003[2] to 2005

Police force area	2003	2004	2005
Avon and Somerset	5	47	63
Bedfordshire			62
Cambridgeshire		63	53
Cheshire		40	101
Cleveland	48	70	159
Cumbria			
Derbyshire			
Devon and Cornwall			42
Dorset			
Durham			7
Essex			6
Gloucestershire			
Greater Manchester	9	44	13
Hampshire		111	125
Hertfordshire	11	177	189
Humberside			
Kent	10	12	31
Lancashire	42	91	174
Leicestershire	34	62	19
Lincolnshire			
London, City of	2	21	9
Merseyside			
Metropolitan Police	43	147	490
Norfolk			
Northamptonshire	5	40	93
Northumbria	38	7	4
North Yorkshire	33	95	92
Nottinghamshire	21	42	101
South Yorkshire			
Staffordshire	36	122	152
Suffolk			
Surrey		0	
Sussex			
Thames Valley			
Warwickshire	31	50	70
West Mercia			32
West Midlands		37	
West Yorkshire	3	46	104
Wiltshire			
Dyfed-Powys			
Gwent			
North Wales	87	139	297
South Wales			
England and Wales	458	1,463	2,688

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).
[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes
1. Offenders are subject to a £200 fixed penalty. However this can be increased to a maximum of £5,000 if the matter goes to court.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Education Act 2005

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Education Act 2005 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196013]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in either the 'Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements' classification or in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196008]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'other indictable or triable either way offences'

classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total costs were of running and maintaining the National DNA Database in each year since it began operation; and if she will make a statement. [182622]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 584W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations and companies analyse DNA samples in order to produce profiles for the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement. [188145]

Meg Hillier: The organisations that are at present accredited to provide DNA profiling services to the police forces of England and Wales are:

Forensic Science Service Ltd.

LGC Forensics,

Orchid Cellmark, and

Forensic DNA Services Ltd.

The Channel Islands use the same suppliers as England and Wales. Northern Ireland samples are processed by Forensic Service Northern Ireland (FSNI). The forensic DNA analysis service for Scottish police forces is provided by four forensic science laboratories within the Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA). The SPSA and FSNI laboratories are accredited to NDNAD Custodian standards, so that DNA profiles from Scotland and Northern Ireland can be loaded to the NDNAD as well as to the Scotland and Northern Ireland databases.

Grave Robbing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of removing corpses from graves have been recorded in each year since 1997; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195992]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences of 'removing corpses from graves' are recorded in the 'other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Heathrow Airport: Customs Officers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Border and Immigration Agency staff were allocated to the EU channel at Heathrow airport on average each day *(a)* in 2003-04, *(b)* in 2006-07 and *(c)* in 2007-08. [194541]

Mr. Byrne: Immigration Officers are not allocated a duty at a particular channel of the Primary Arrivals Control at Heathrow airport; they serve the Border Control as a whole. Shift managers decide how many of the available staff should work in the EU or non-EU channels at any particular time in order to deal with approaching passengers as quickly and effectively as possible. The only constraint is that one officer must be on duty in each channel at all times when flights are landing. This flexibility makes the best use of available resources.

Immigration

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted *(a)* limited and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [195251]

Mr. Byrne: The latest available information on grants of limited leave and indefinite leave to remain in the UK can be found in the 2006 Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". This publication, and previous years, may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 799-800W, on immigration, in how many of the 9,500 cases closed because of error the individual concerned had *(a)* been granted status, *(b)* been removed or *(c)* died. [196209]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration Officers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department permits immigration officers to work *(a)* six-day weeks and *(b)* double shifts. [193129]

Mr. Byrne: Immigration Officers do work double night shifts where necessary to meet operational demands. Six day weeks are performed on an exceptional basis.

Note:

"Immigration Officers" are purely those who held that particular grade during the period.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the average number of hours worked per week by immigration officers in each year since 1997. [193131]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual pay records only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration Officers: Conditions of Employment

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to monitor the views of (*a*) immigration officers and (*b*) other Border and Immigration Agency staff on their working practices and conditions; and if she will make a statement. [193121]

Mr. Byrne: All Border and Immigration staff are currently being invited to participate in the Home Office staff survey. This is an attitudinal survey covering a range of issues including working practices and conditions. A random cross section of staff from the Border and Immigration Agency are asked to participate monthly in a pulse check survey that covers issues related to reform and working practices.

Immigration Officers: Heathrow Airport

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers were in post at (*a*) Heathrow and (*b*) Gatwick airport on 31 December (i) 2007, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2004, (v) 2003, (vi) 2002 and (vii) 2001; and if she will make a statement. [180677]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 14 March 2008.

Immigration Officers: Sick Leave

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers were granted sick leave for stress in each of the last five years. [193118]

Mr. Byrne: The numbers of Immigration Officers[1] who have taken sick leave for stress in each of the last three calendar years, recorded on our personnel system (Adelphi) are shown in the following table.

We are unable to provide accurate data previous to 2005 as these were not recorded centrally.

[1] "Immigration Officers" are purely those who held that particular grade during the period.

Immigration Officers taking sick leave

	Number
2005	109
2006	91
2007	141

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will permit the fee for applying for indefinite leave to remain to be paid in instalments in exceptional circumstances. [195557]

Mr. Byrne: Under the Fees Regulations, there are no circumstances in which the fee for a valid application for indefinite leave can be paid for in instalments.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will waive the requirement to pay the fee to apply for indefinite leave to remain in (*a*) cases where someone was brought to the UK from a Commonwealth country as a child prior to 1981 but whose parents omitted to apply on their behalf for nationality and (*b*) other exceptional cases. [195558]

Mr. Byrne: We currently have no plans to waive the fee for application for indefinite leave to remain in cases where someone was brought to the UK from a commonwealth country as a child prior to 1981 or in other exceptional circumstances.

Immigration: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 806W, on immigration: housing, what the cost of providing assistance to local authorities through the transitional costs fund was; which local authorities have received such assistance; and how much was received in each case. [196268]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* A 'transitional costs fund' has been made available where unavoidable, additional expenses have occurred. Local authorities need to submit claims to this fund. Claims will then be assessed on an individual basis and local authorities will be reimbursed appropriately. As yet, this work is not complete.

Medicines (Homoeopathic Medicinal Products for Human Use) Amendment Regulations 2005

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Medicines (Homoeopathic Medicinal Products for Human Use) Amendment Regulations 2005 in each year since their entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196601]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Medicines (Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products for Human Use) Regulations 2005

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Medicines (Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products for Human Use) Regulations 2005 in each year since their entry into force, broken down by

offence; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196002]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Members: Correspondence

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 175239, tabled by the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden on 13 December 2007. [186991]

Jacqui Smith: I replied to the right hon. Member on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 78W.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will ensure a response is provided urgently to the letters sent by the hon. Member for Castle Point to Mr. I. Teale of Managed Migration Liverpool, dated 18 February 2008 and 4 March 2008, regarding confirmation of right of abode. [194959]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 10 March 2008 in response to the letter of 18 February. The letter of 4 March has not been received.

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse has been of the ministerial residence in South Eaton Place since the property was unoccupied. [194995]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 807W.

Official Secrets Act 1911

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Official Secrets Act 1911 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196016]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Passports: Glasgow

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of post office deliveries have been diverted to other passport offices from the Glasgow office since January 2008. [187573]

Meg Hillier: The requested is shown in the following table.

Glasgow applications

	Number/percentage
Diverted	28,258
Total intake to Glasgow	73,462
Percentage of intake leaving Glasgow	38.5

Pensions Act 2005

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Pensions Act 2005 in each year since 2005, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196014]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Plant Protection Products Regulations 2005

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Plant Protection Products Regulations 2005 in each year since their entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196005]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Police

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (*a*) regulations and (*b*) guidance documents were issued to police forces by her Department in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [176102]

Mr. McNulty: Since 1997 the Government have enacted 12 pieces of police legislation which have effect in England and Wales, and several statutory instruments consequential to these, containing police regulations where appropriate. 65 Home Office circulars have also been issued in respect of these Acts.

A document has been prepared with a full list of these statutory instruments and Home Office circulars, and will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police: ICT

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces *(a)* have fully implemented and *(b)* are piloting ExISS r1; how much has been spent on the programme in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [195610]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

ExISS release 1 (which comprises both the police-CPS link and the police to magistrates court link) is currently being rolled out nationally and, as such, there are no pilot forces. As of the 19 March 2008, the police to CPS link had been rolled out to 13 police forces, while the police to magistrates court link had been rolled out to 17 police forces. The planned completion date for roll-out to all forces is December 2008.

The Exchange Links programme (which delivers a number of links including release 1) commenced in July 2007 and the expected costs to December 2008 are £15.54 million, exclusive of ongoing run costs and costs associated with capital charges and depreciation.

Ports: Industrial Health and Safety

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which UK ports of entry do not have local health and safety policies in place for immigration officers and other Border and Immigration Agency staff in circumstances where those staff are not permanently based at the ports. [194607]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) Health and Safety Unit provide a Health and Safety Policy for the whole of BIA, most recently published in September 2007. The large number of sites and the diverse activities within BIA necessitate directors to formulate local arrangements that ensure the requirements of the health and safety policy are met. Local arrangements are in place covering all UK ports and cover all staff as well as contactors and visitors.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded for rescuing a prisoner in custody in each year since 1997; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195989]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences of 'assisting prisoners to escape; are recorded in the 'other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Protection from Harassment Act 1997

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196026]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Harassment' or the 'Racially or religiously aggravated harassment' offence classifications and cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Representation of the People Act 1983

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Representation of the People Act 1983 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196018]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Tax Credits Act 2002

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under section 59 and Schedule 5 of the Tax Credits Act 2002 in each year since 2002; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196003]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements' offence classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Trade in Goods (Control) Order 2003

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Trade in Goods (Control) Order 2003 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196004]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in either the 'Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements' classification or in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which wind farm proposals her Department lodged objection in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191118]

Mr. Byrne: My Department holds no central records of objections that have been lodged by the Home Office with regard to wind farms. My Department is fully committed to meeting all the Government's targets on renewable energy.

Written Questions: Government Responses

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 184044, on binge drinking, tabled by the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden on 30 January 2008. [193696]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* I replied to the right hon. Member on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 70-71W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Coal Fired Power Stations: Combined Heat and Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what recent representations he has received from industry bodies on the effect of combined heat and power technology on the fuel efficiency of coal-fired power plants; [189637]

(2) what representations he has received from environmental non-governmental organisations on the effects of combined heat and power on the fuel efficiency of coal-fired power plants. [189698]

Malcolm Wicks: I am not aware of any such representations regarding coal-fired stations in general.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide likely to be emitted per annum from the proposed Kingsnorth power station and associated operational activities; what discussions he has had on such estimates with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues and *(b)* other Government offices and agencies; what representations he has received on this matter and from whom; what estimate he has made of the effect of such emissions on performance against Government targets for greenhouse gas emissions; and on what evidential basis such estimates of potential carbon dioxide emissions from Kingsnorth were founded. [190187]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made no such formal estimate. We remain committed to meeting the UK's emissions targets. The EU Emissions Trading Scheme ensures that total carbon emissions across EU industry and power generation sectors are restricted by a cap. Any new coal plant in the UK would have to buy allowances to emit, ensuring that equivalent carbon savings are made elsewhere, which count under the Government's approach to carbon budgeting.

No such discussions of the kind described have taken place. The Department has received many representations from a range of various groups and individuals on the issue of emissions to the atmosphere.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects that the proposed power station at Kingsnorth in Kent to become operational in terms of *(a)* power generation and *(b)* carbon capture and storage; and what representations he has received on this matter, and from whom. [190232]

Malcolm Wicks: The Environmental Impact Assessment which accompanied the application estimates that it would take approximately four years from the granting of any consents and licences before the proposed station started operating.

It is not possible to say if or when carbon capture technology would be operational at the proposed station. Numerous representations from a range of various groups and individuals have been received on this matter.

Companies: Billing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission an investigation into the policy of some major companies of extending their standard payment terms and its possible impact upon small business. [196326]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The Department published research, commissioned from the Credit Management Research Centre, on payment trends in the UK earlier this month. The research suggested uncertainty about the timing of payments from trade debtors is more damaging for small firms than situations where the payment delay is long but certain. The Enterprise Strategy published on 12 March announced that the Department will, over the next six months, explore non-legislative approaches to tackling late payment issues.

Companies: Data Protection

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of UK businesses which have transferred data centres offshore in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [185512]

Mr. Thomas: The Government do not collect data about the extent of offshoring and have not made any estimate of the extent of offshoring of data centres. However, research that has been conducted and data about the relocation of businesses, such as the European Reconstruction Monitor, suggests that offshoring has been relatively limited in recent years and has not had an adverse impact on overall UK employment.

It is, of course, important that companies carefully consider the business case for relocating activities, including all the costs and risks of offshoring. This includes ensuring that data is kept secure; companies that offshore activities remain bound by the requirements of the UK's Data Protection Act. Companies also have a responsibility to engage in a transparent dialogue with employees affected by relocation decisions. But, companies must be allowed to decide the best course of action to remain competitive.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which external consultancy received the largest number of contracts from his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what the value of those contracts was. [185209]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate the external consultancies receiving the highest payments by value in each financial year are:

	Consultancy	£ *Payment*
2003-04	Fujitsu Services Ltd	241,380
2004-05	Fujitsu Services Ltd	2,081,201
2005-06	Deloitte and Touche LLP	4,606,297
2006-07	Deloitte and Touche LLP	3,424,964
2007-08	Serco Ltd	[1]5,006,857

[1] To date

Further information prior to 2003-04 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's personal digital assistants were *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years; and what the value of those items was. [185284]

Mr. Thomas: A breakdown of lost/stolen PDAs is provided in the following table for the past five years.

My Department's records do not readily differentiate between items reported as lost or stolen.

	PDAs reported missing	£ *Approximate cumulative value*[1]
2007		
2006	1	270.00
2005	3	900.00
2004	1	300.00
2003	1	300.00

[1] January to December

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect his Department's recruitment policy. [179877]

Mr. Thomas: The Department will apply the civil service nationality rules in respect of eligibility for employment in all recruitment and appointment procedures. These rules are statutorily based and supported by the Civil Service Commissioners' Rules.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade of traveller. [187530]

Mr. Thomas: The amount spent on first class travel by BERR, and previously by DTI in the period February 2007 to January 2008 was £1,376,675.

Travel undertaken by BERR staff is not recorded separately by grade. To obtain the requested information would entail disproportionate costs.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code, and is made in the most efficient and cost effective way.

Digital Broadcasting

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of *(a)* the impact of the digital dividend review on (i) wireless microphones and (ii) in-ear monitors on completion of digital switchover and *(b)* the potential to encourage licensed usage. [193912]

Malcolm Wicks: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Energy: Meters

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what his most recent assessment is of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* benefits of a national delivery plan for smart metering; [195582]

(2) what conclusions were made following the review of smart metering conducted for his Department by Mott MacDonald; and if he will publish the outcomes of the review. [195583]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: My Department is finalising its impact assessment of smart metering, including costs and benefits. We are testing our assessment and the assumptions underpinning it with interested parties, and will publish our assessment when that process has been completed. We will also publish the analysis undertaken by Mott MacDonald.

Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* first class and *(b)* other travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187669]

Mr. Thomas: The amount spent on travel by Eurostar by BERR, and previously by DTI in the last 12 months was:

February 2007 to January 2008 - £528,329

The proportion of this expenditure on first class travel was 77 per cent. (£407, 276).

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Fuel Poverty: Elderly

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many pensioners aged *(a)* 60 to 70, *(b)* 71 to 80, *(c)* 81 to 90 and *(d)* 90 and over were classified as living in fuel poverty in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) nationally in each of the last five years. [194963]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 March 2008]*: Splits of the level of fuel poverty by the age of the Household Reference Person (HRP) or age of the youngest/oldest member of the household are not available at a sub-national level. The detailed tables which accompany the "Fuel Poverty Strategy Report" hold information on household composition split by HRP and age of the youngest/oldest member of the household on national level only. These data are published annually with the earliest figures covering 2003, the latest figures cover 2005. It is available online through http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/fuel-poverty/index.html. The following table holds extracted details:

	Fuel poor households in group		*Thousand*
	2003	*2004*	*2005*
Household composition (of primary benefit unit)			
Couple, no dependent child(ren), aged 60 or over	138	134	210
One person aged 60 or over	463	450	551
Age of youngest person in household			
60-74	287	278	390
75 or over	302	292	357
Age of oldest person in household			
60-74	306	286	383
75-84	245	223	307
85 or more	83	95	104

Fuel Poverty: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* households including at least one child and *(b)* households were classified as living in fuel poverty in (i) Ribble Valley constituency, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) nationally in each of the last five years. [194964]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 17 March 2008]*: Splits of the level of fuel poverty by the household composition of the primary benefit unit or age of the youngest/oldest member of the household are not available at a sub-national level. The detailed tables which accompany the "Fuel Poverty Strategy Report" hold information on household composition of the primary benefit unit and age of the youngest/oldest member of the household on national level only. These data are published annually with the earliest figures covering 2003, the latest figures cover 2005. They are available online through http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/fuel-poverty/index.html. The following table holds extracted details:

	Fuel poor households in group		*Thousand*
	2003	*2004*	*2005*
Household Composition (of primary benefit unit)			
Couple with dependent child(ren)	53	54	88
Lone parent with dependent child(ren)	98	91	116

Regional estimates of fuel poverty are available only for England in 2003 and are taken from the Fuel Poverty Indicator (FPI) dataset available online at http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/. This estimates that there were 2,400 fuel poor households in Ribble Valley and 39,300 in Lancashire.

National fuel poverty rates are published annually and are again available online through the BERR website at http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/fuel-poverty/index.html.

The report shows the following table outlining national level of fuel poverty since 1996:

Number of households in fuel poverty (million)

	1996	1998[1]	2001	2002[1]	2003	2004	2005
England	5.1 (5.5)	3.4 (4.0)	1.7 (2.3)	1.4 (2.0)	1.2 (1.5)	1.2 (1.5)	1.5 (1.8)
Scotland	0.7			0.3	0.4	0.4	
Wales		0.4				0.1	
Northern Ireland			0.2			0.2	
UK estimate (approx.)	6½	4¾	2½	2¼	2	2	2½
	(7½)	(5¾)	(3½)	(2¾)	(2½)	(2½)	(3)

[1] Figures for England in 1998 and 2002 are estimates based on movements in energy prices, incomes and energy efficiency.
Figures in brackets do not include housing benefit/ISMI as part of income.

Internet: Fraud

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the cost to business of (*a*) internet fraud and (*b*) malicious computer security breaches. [193806]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR does not collect information in this way. The Department works with business to produce a biennial Information Security Breaches Survey. The Survey is intended to raise awareness of the importance of effective information security management. The Surveys do not set out to survey or measure the costs of internet fraud or malicious computer security breaches but to research the costs of all information security breaches. Based on information gathered for the 2006 Survey, the figures indicated that serious security incidents cost on average between £8,000 and £17,000 per incident in 2005.

Work is almost complete on the 2008 Information Security Breaches Survey and the results will be announced at Infosecurity Europe on 22 April. The Survey will present up to date information on the costs of information security breaches.

Joint Frequency Management Group: Conditions of Employment

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements will be made for the handling of employment contracts of employees of the Joint Frequency Management Group following the introduction of a commercial bank manager; and if he will make a statement. [194151]

Malcolm Wicks: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 5 February on premium rate SMS services. [194161]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member. A letter was sent to the hon. Member on 17 March 2008.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the announcement of 6 March on market engagement of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, what discussions he has had with the Authority on the assets to be included in the list of assets and activities in which interested parties are invited to express an interest. [195075]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) about potential market interest in its assets and activities.

As stated in the announcement on 6 March, the NDA is trying to gauge the market interest in its assets, consistent with its requirement to ensure maximum value to the taxpayer. Interested parties should respond to the NDA by 3 April, but no final decision has been taken on whether any assets will be sold.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has held with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on the inclusion of the (*a*) thermal oxide reprocessing plant and (*b*) Sellafield MOX plant in the list of assets to be offered for sale by the Authority. [195078]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) about the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (THORP) and the Sellafield MOX Plant (SMP) in relation to the market engagement announcement.

As stated in the announcement on 6 March, the NDA is trying to gauge the market interest in its assets, consistent with its requirement to ensure maximum value to the taxpayer. Interested parties should respond to the NDA by 3 April, but no final decision has been taken on whether any assets will be sold. THORP and SMP are not included in the list of assets for sale.

Nuclear Power Stations: Security

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely security of future generation of nuclear power stations against accident or deliberate attack. [195743]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of the consultation on the Future of Nuclear Power, the Government carefully considered the security and safety of new nuclear power stations. Having reviewed the arguments and evidence put forward and based on the advice on independent regulators, and the advances in the designs of power stations that might be proposed by energy companies, the Government set out in their White Paper that they continues to believe that nuclear power stations pose very small risks to safety and security.

We also believe that the UK has an effective regulatory framework that ensures these risks are minimised and sensibly managed by industry. The White Paper said that we will work with the independent regulators to explore ways of further enhancing the transparency and efficiency of the regulatory regime, without diminishing its effectiveness in dealing with the challenges of new build.

Offshore Drilling: Nature Conservation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to prevent oil and gas extraction from affecting the Moray Firth Dolphin Sanctuary; and if he will make a statement. [195796]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Ceredigion (Mark Williams) on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2236W.

Offshore Industry: Natural Gas

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the Government's policy is on the reduction of offshore gas flaring. [195734]

Malcolm Wicks: BERR restricts flaring of UK offshore gas where it is technically possible and economically sensible to do so. All offshore flaring is tightly controlled by the issue of flaring consents and, since the start of this year, flaring is also included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. We continue to look for ways to keep offshore flaring to a minimum.

Through the European Union, the UK supports the World Bank-led Global Gas Flaring Reduction partnership which, by sharing global best practices and implementing country specific programmes, facilitates and supports national efforts to use currently flared gas by promoting effective regulatory frameworks and tackling the constraints on gas utilisation, such as insufficient infrastructure and poor access to local and international energy markets, particularly in developing countries.

Radio: Illegal Broadcasting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were in 2006 in relation to pirate radio stations and illegal radio broadcasts. [193807]

Malcolm Wicks: I am informed by the Office of Communications (Ofcom) that in 2006 they brought forward 62 prosecutions and secured 62 convictions under the Wireless Telegraphy Acts 1949 and 2006 for illegal broadcasting.

Statistics on prosecution cases concluded in the courts may be found on the Ofcom website at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/enforcement/

Radioactive Materials: Shipping

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what minimum safety and security requirements apply to vessels carrying nuclear material by sea for a distance of *(a)* less and *(b)* more than 500 miles. [195858]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* The security of nuclear material on board a UK-flagged vessel is regulated by the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) in accordance with the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 (NISR). These regulations, which ensure that the UK's obligations under the Convention on the Physical Protection on Nuclear Material (CPPNM) are met and which take full account of international recommendations in this area, are supplemented by a Technical Requirements Document which details minimum security standards. This document is protectively marked; it is not Government policy to release precise details of security measures since this information could be of use to those with malicious intent.

In terms of security arrangements for the transport of nuclear material, distance is not the factor which sets the level of security. The overall security posture will be dictated by the category of the material being carried and the threat pertaining. The mode(s) of transport, packages to be used and other physical, procedural and administrative measures based on the principles of defence-in-depth and graded approach will also be relevant in designing a security system combining deterrence, detection, delay and response measures, complemented by other measures for mitigating the consequences of malicious acts, including recovery and for minimizing the radiological consequences of any theft, sabotage or other malicious act.

Vessels transporting nuclear material by sea are required to operate in compliance with the requirements of prevailing international law on the safety of ships, most notably the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS, found at http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?topic_id=257&doc_id=647). Additionally they are required to comply with supplementary measures contained in the International Code for the Safe Carriage of Packaged Irradiated Fuel, Plutonium and High Level Radioactive Wastes on board ships (the INF code, found at http://www.imo.org/Safety/mainframe.asp?topic_id=354) which deal specifically with the carriage of nuclear material.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

what guidance he has issued to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on the arrangements for the transportation of plutonium dioxide powder by (*a*) land and (*b*) sea; and if he will make a statement. [195859]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: It is a regulatory requirement that any transport of category I civil nuclear material is conducted in accordance with a Transport Security Plan (TSP) to be submitted by the approved carrier in accordance with the requirements of the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003. The TSP must be approved by the regulator, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS). These plans take full account of all relevant national regulations, international standards and obligations regarding the carriage of nuclear material and OCNS approval will not be given until it is satisfied that all security measures are adequately robust.

Packages for transporting plutonium oxide powder are approved by the Department for Transport to a standard that is set by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Vessels for transporting plutonium oxide are approved to a standard set by the International Maritime Organisation.

Renewable Energy: Rural Areas

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Ofgem on connection charges for green energy projects in remote areas; and if he will make a statement. [188764]

Malcolm Wicks: My officials met with Ofgem on 3 October 2007 and 29 January 2008 to discuss connection charges for renewable energy projects in the Scottish Islands these discussions covered Ofgem's consultation on delivering island connection infrastructure, National grid's review of security standards (the SQSS review) and the power to adjust transmission charges for renewable projects in remote areas provided in section 185 of the Energy Act 2004.

Sellafield

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the consortiums bidding for the Sellafield nuclear clean-up on the timetable for selecting the preferred bidder and awarding the contract; and if he will make a statement. [195168]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with the bidders on any aspect of the competition for the Sellafield Parent Body Organisation (PBO). To do so would be completely inappropriate.

On 21 December 2007, as planned, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) announced that invitations to submit final tenders had been issued for the Sellafield PBO. This followed the completion of eight months of competitive dialogue with the four bidders. Responses are scheduled to be returned to the NDA in spring 2008, and an announcement of the winning PBO bidder is expected to be made in summer 2008.

Sexual Harassment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints of (*a*) sexual harassment and (*b*) sexual discrimination have been made by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in the most recent year for which figures are available. [184694]

Mr. Thomas: In the calendar year 2007, the most recent for which figures are available, there have been less than five sexual harassment and sexual discrimination complaints made by staff. Further information cannot be provided on grounds of confidentiality.

Supermarkets

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to implement the recommendation of the Competition Commission to establish a supermarket ombudsman. [196404]

Mr. Thomas: The Competition Commission has not yet published its final findings and remedies in regard to its inquiry into the UK grocery market. A supermarket ombudsman is just one proposal currently under consideration. The Government will reflect on and respond to the Competition Commission's final report which is expected in May.

Telephone Numbering: Data Protection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which public authorities, other than police forces and the ambulance service, have access to the ex-directory telephone database. [192408]

Malcolm Wicks: Ex-directory telephone information is available on the databases that are maintained on behalf of the emergency services namely the police, fire and ambulance services and the maritime and coastguard services. Such information may also be accessed using the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) by a variety of public authorities and through the Social Security Fraud Act 2000 (SSFA) by the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies.

Utilities: Prices

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to regulate utility bill price increases for low income households over the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [194832]

Malcolm Wicks: Neither the Government nor Ofgem regulate overall prices in the energy supply markets, which are competitive markets.

In the Energy White Paper, we called for suppliers to increase their help to vulnerable customers. The level of help has now increased from £40 million to £56 million during winter 2007-08 with around 700,000 households benefiting.

However, the Government believe that, given recent rises in energy prices coupled with a growing global demand for fossil fuels, vulnerable households need further help. We will continue discussions with the energy companies and Ofgem with the aim of delivering a fair programme of assistance for vulnerable households. Our aim is to increase the level of assistance from £56 million a year to £150 million a year. The Government are prepared to introduce legislation, if necessary, designed to enable it to require energy companies to make a fair contribution.

Waste Management

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to investigate the dumping of Chinese air compressors in the EU. [189528]

Mr. Thomas: On 17 March the Council of Ministers agreed a proposal from the European Commission to impose anti-dumping duties on imports of certain types of air compressor originating in the People's Republic of China. The measures will come into force on 20 March and last for two years.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adults are currently enrolled in *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time level 3 courses. [195313]

Bill Rammell: There were 242,100 adults on LSC-funded full level 3 courses in 2006/07, the latest year available. The following table provides breakdowns by further education, work-based learning and Train to Gain. Full-time and part-time breakdowns are only relevant to learning in further education.

Learners aged 19+ in 2006/07

	Number
Total	242,100
Further education	
Total	155,600
Full-time	60,300
Part-time	95,200
Work-based learning	73,600
Train to Gain	12,800

Source:
Learning and Skills Council Statistical First Release ILR/SFR14, December 2007

Apprentices: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department has taken in Staffordshire and the West Midlands to increase the number of apprenticeships. [193607]

Bill Rammell: West Midlands Learning and Skills Council works with employers across the region to increase the number of people starting and completing Apprenticeships. It plans to increase Apprenticeships by around 4 per cent. in 2008/09. Projections are for 12,550 Apprenticeship starts with 8,415 completions and a further 5,620 Advanced Apprenticeship starts with 3,385 completions in 2008/09. The overall completion rate will be 65 per cent. which represents a rise of 3 per cent. on the projected 2007/08 level.

The increase in Apprenticeships in the West Midlands will be achieved by re-directing funding to high performing providers, introducing the Apprenticeship matching service, developing closer employer engagement, removing support for poorly performing provision and introducing new opportunities for young people to prepare to undertake an Apprenticeship.

Aviation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* business and *(b)* first class air travel in the last 12 months. [171256]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on travel expenditure to this detail is not collected centrally in the Department. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, year to date, the Department has spent £276,455 on air travel.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192510]

Bill Rammell: It is not possible to provide the response for the period prior to the creation of this Department as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. However, since then there have been no instances of appeals by employees being lodged with the Civil Service Appeal Board for decision.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what items of his Department's (a) revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179937]

Bill Rammell: The Department uses a range of indices in order to uprate payments. Decisions on the appropriate indices to use are devolved to the individual business units within the Department and this information can be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191487]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Annex pertaining to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227).

Further detail on the "Value for Money" gains described in the Annex were published on the Department's web site in December 2007 in the "Value for Money Delivery Agreement".

Departmental Empty Property

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the sums to be paid by his Department in unoccupied property rates in (*a*) 2007-08 and (*b*) 2008-09. [193767]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills does not expect to pay anything in respect of unoccupied property rates for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if his Department will (*a*) follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and (*b*) display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191773]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to safety online for all users, including children. The Central Office for Information is preparing a new set of guidance for many aspects of the Government web estate and we will implement what they mandate.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when his Department's whistleblowing procedures were reviewed to reflect the provisions in the revised civil service code. [162458]

Bill Rammell: DIUS have not yet established their own whistleblowing procedures. Ex DfES staff in DIUS raise whistleblowing concerns with DCSF. Ex DTI staff raise concerns with BERR.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on pot plants since it was established. [192060]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Since its establishment the Department has not spent any money on pot plants.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what changes have been made to his Department's budget since the publication of the comprehensive spending review conclusions on 9th October. [173161]

Bill Rammell: Since the publication of the comprehensive spending review conclusions on 9 October there has been no change in the Department's budget.

Departmental Public Participation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on (*a*) citizens' juries, (*b*) focus groups and (*c*) other deliberative forms of public opinion research in each month since January 2006. [166588]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created at the end of June 2007. Since then, the Department has paid to Sciencewise projects (Sciencewise is a programme funded by the Government to help policy makers find out people's views on emerging areas of science and technology so that they can take these into account when making national policy decisions) the following amounts, broken down by month:

	£
Month	*Spend*
July 2007	98,652.19
August 2007	6,378.22
September 2007	60,000.00
October 2007	36,067.93
November 2007	3,177.92
December 2007	19,847.47
January 2008	0
February 2008	22,437.64

The Department has also held five student juries as preliminary work to the National Student Forum which took place on the following dates and locations:

Date	*Location*
30 November 2007	London
28 January 2008	Manchester
31 January 2008	London
1 February 2008	Bristol
4 February 2008	Sheffield

The costs for these juries totalled just over £30,600.

Departmental Publicity

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much (*a*) has been spent and (*b*) is planned to be spent on establishing his Department and its corporate identity. [164204]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The cost of creating the Department and its corporate identity has been met from the existing baseline. From this baseline, a budget of £60,000 was earmarked for the task, of which £33,557 has been spent.

Departmental Recycling

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what weight of paper his Department recycled in each of the last five years. [179455]

Bill Rammell: As the Department was only formed on 28 June 2007 we do not have five years of waste recycling to report on.

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the cost was of redundancies in his Department in the 12 months preceding (*a*) 30 June 2004, (*b*) 30 June 2005 and (*c*) 30th June 2006; [175332]

(2) when he will answer Question 175332 on the cost of redundancies in his Department tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham on 13 December 2007. [193352]

Bill Rammell: The Department was created as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. In the period since it was formed there have been no redundancies affecting employees of the Department.

Departmental Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department (*a*) were disciplined and (*b*) had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last five years. [163699]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is as follows:

	Staff disciplined	*Employment terminated*
2006	1	1
2005	1	1
2004	2	1
2003	0	0
2002	0	0

Departmental Temporary Employment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what average hourly rate his Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187796]

Bill Rammell: It is not possible to provide this information without incurring disproportionate costs of collection. Since the Department was formed by machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007 it has continued to make use of the services of temporary staff from agencies. Preferential rates of pay and terms of engagement have been negotiated with certain selected agencies under an over-arching framework agreement. This procurement process has the purpose of achieving best value for money and is used across Government.

Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on (*a*) first and (*b*) other class travel by Eurostar since establishment. [187747]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on travel expenditure to this detail is not collected centrally in the Department. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, since establishment, the Department has spent £117,940 on rail travel.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will take steps to promote Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 amongst staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189494]

Bill Rammell: This Department's accommodation, facilities management, catering and events hospitality are provided on our behalf as a shared service by the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The answers given by those Departments will therefore cover this Department also.

Foundation Degrees: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have applied to join foundation degree courses in each year since 2001; and how many such applications were successful in each such year. [194398]

Bill Rammell: The latest available published figures from UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) are shown in the table. The figures relate to numbers of applications rather than applicants and numbers of accepted applicants to full-time foundation

degree courses and exclude applications to part-time courses and direct to institutions. Each applicant can apply to up to six courses.

Number of UK and overseas domiciled applications and accepted applicants to foundation degree courses in the UK: years of entry 2002 to 2007

Year of entry	Applications[1]	Accepted applicants
2002[2]	n/a	2,699
2003	12,391	5,586
2004	17,246	8,853
2005	30,812	12,511
2006	40,818	14,673
2007	48,366	18,194

n/a = Not available

[1] As each applicant may apply to up to six different courses/institutions, these applications figures will be larger than those for applicants.

[2] Figures for the number of applications to foundation degree courses in the 2002 year of entry have not been published by UCAS.

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Currently, there are almost 71,000 people studying foundation degrees. We are therefore making good progress towards achieving our target participation rate of 100,000 by 2010. We are committed to foundation degrees as a key vehicle for HE expansion as they are precisely the type of business-facing, demand-led provision which is helping employers to address higher level skill needs.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2434W, on high education: admissions, if he will provide a break down of the information in the Answer by (*a*) full-time undergraduate students taking a first degree, (*b*) part-time undergraduate students taking a first degree, (*c*) full-time undergraduate students taking a second degree, (*d*) part-time undergraduate students taking a second degree, (*e*) full-time students taking a postgraduate degree and (*f*) part-time students taking a postgraduate degree. [194390]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 17 March 2008]*: The latest available information is given in the following tables. Table 1 covers full-time entrants and table 2 covers part-time entrants. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Table 1: full-time entrants[1] to higher education courses at English higher education institutions[2] by age[3] and level of study: academic years 2001/02 to 2006/07

	17 to 21					Over 21				
	First Degree					First Degree				
Academic year	On 1st Degree[4]	On 2nd Degree[5]	Other UG	Post graduate	Total	On 1st Degree[4]	On 2nd Degree[5]	Other UG	Post graduate	Total
2001/02	223,515	1,740	28,080	13,305	266,565	47,460	4,305	23,645	89,685	164,890
2002/03	234,640	1,885	26,135	14,260	276,915	50,550	5,260	25,375	103,075	184,260
2003/04	238,230	2,150	25,410	14,385	280,175	51,585	6,405	26,190	111,715	195,895
2004/05	242,625	2,545	25,075	14,435	284,680	50,420	7,200	26,370	112,850	196,835
2005/06	259,250	2,720	24,965	14,815	301,745	50,365	7,880	27,200	114,490	199,850
2006/07	251,845	2,770	25,290	15,790	295,695	47,605	6,880	24,730	117,560	196,695

[1] Includes students from the UK and overseas.
[2] Excludes the Open university.
[3] Excludes a small number of students with an unknown age or an age less than 17 (this was less than 0.6 per cent. in 2006/07).
[4] Includes entrants to first degree courses who do not already have qualifications of first degree level or higher.
[5] Includes entrants to first degree courses who already have qualifications of first degree level or higher.
[6] Figures for entrants to other undergraduate courses (such as HMD, HNC) have been included for completeness.

Note:
Figures are given on a HESA Standard Registration Population and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Table 2: part-time entrants[1] to higher education courses at English higher education institutions[2] by age[3] and level of study: academic years 2001/02 to 2006/07

	17 to 21					Over 21				
	First Degree					First Degree				
Academic year	On 1st Degree[4]	On 2nd Degree[5]	Other UG	Post graduate	Total	On 1st Degree[4]	On 2nd Degree[5]	Other UG	Post graduate	Total
2001/02	2,825	50	13,165	1,320	17,360	24,370	2,860	152,860	82,480	262,570
2002/03	2,925	110	13,420	1,070	17,525	24,820	2,935	157,640	84,930	270,320
2003/04	2,770	185	13,490	1,315	17,765	23,345	3,455	159,985	86,330	273,115
2004/05	3,040	210	15,385	1,425	20,055	22,360	3,960	158,395	87,710	272,425
2005/06	3,310	160	16,175	1,395	21,045	22,645	4,330	158,865	87,880	273,720
2006/07	3,925	220	20,115	1,655	25,920	20,380	3,745	150,720	88,445	263,210

[1] Includes students from the UK and overseas.
[2] Excludes the Open university.
[3] Excludes a small number of students with an unknown age or an age less than 17 (this was less than 0.6 per cent. in 2006/07).
[4] Includes entrants to first degree courses who do not already have qualifications of first degree level or higher.
[5] Includes entrants to first degree courses who already have qualifications of first degree level or higher.

Note:
Figures are given on a HESA standard registration population and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of (*a*) part-time and (*b*) full-time students enrolled on full-time level 3 courses have their fees paid for by their employers. [195314]

Bill Rammell: Through the Train to Gain Programme, we are committed to ensuring that FE colleges are increasingly responsive to employers' needs and provide training in which employers will increasingly choose to invest. We do not currently routinely collect information on payment of fees by employers, but some information is available from surveys of learners. The last such survey was of learners who completed an FE course in 2003/04. It found that 30 per cent. of the learners doing full level 3 courses said their course fees were paid for by their employer, compared with 18 per cent. of non-full level 3 FE learners.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 11 December 2007 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding his constituent L. Flack of Cruden Bay. [183961]

Bill Rammell: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 8 February 2008.

Ministers: Official Residences

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether any ministerial residencies are allocated to Ministers in his Department. [194656]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 688W.

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what subscription payments to which organisations the Science and Technology Facilities Council is expected to make in financial year 2008-09. [191867]

Ian Pearson: The STFC informed me that they expect to make the following subscription payments in financial year 2008-09:

	£ million
European Southern Observatory (ESO)	24.3
European Incoherent Scatter Scientific Association (EISCAT)	0.3
European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)	81.6
Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT)	0.4
European Science Foundation (ESF)	0.1
European Space Agency (ESA)	72.4
European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)	7.3
Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL)	14.9
Gemini Observatory	3.6
Total	205.2

Sign Language: North East Region

Bill Etherington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to increase the availability of basic and advanced sign language training in the North East region for adults, children and young people. [183723]

Bill Rammell: The Department is working closely with the Learning and Skills Council to ensure that there are opportunities available to meet the needs of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. This is a priority identified in the Learning and Skills Council's Statement of Priorities for the funding period 2008/09 to 2010/11.

Building on this the Learning and Skills Council North East region indicate that there are 250 courses in Sign Language at various levels being delivered in the region. The region has given a commitment within its regional strategy for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities "Meeting Need: Raising Aspiration", to ensure that provision that equips learners, or people who support learners, to communicate or develop their specialised skills eg British Sign Language, is protected within the balance and mix of provision. In addition there are several projects being undertaken aimed at raising awareness of hearing impairment issues, to build capacity of staff in meeting the needs of learners with hearing impairments and to increase the support to learners.

Students: Disabled

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many equal and lower qualification students with disabilities were studying less than 50 per cent. of a full course in the latest period for which figures are available. [195099]

Bill Rammell: About 6,300 students recorded as having a disability were studying at less than 0.5 of a full-course for equivalent or lower level qualifications (ELQ) to ones they already hold in 2005/06—the latest year for which data are available. All existing ELQ students will continue to be supported but the progressive redistribution of funding away from ELQ students will enable us over time to support more of the 5 million people of working age with a disability but without a first higher education qualification than would otherwise be possible, especially the 900,000 or so with level 3 qualifications who have not progressed to level 4.

Students: Females

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of equal and lower qualification students were female in the most recent period for which figures are available. [195098]

Bill Rammell: About 70,000 women were studying for equivalent or lower level qualifications (ELQ) to ones they already hold in 2006/07, the latest year for which data are available. This represents a little under 60 per cent. of the total number of ELQ students, and that proportion is broadly the same as the overall male/female balance within higher education. The progressive redistribution of funding away from ELQ students will enable us to support more of the 10 million women without a first higher education qualification than would otherwise be possible, especially the two million women with level 3 qualifications who have not progressed to level 4.

Students: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students for equivalent and lower qualifications as an additional degree who will no longer receive funding in (*a*) 2008-09, (*b*) 2009-10 and (*c*) 2010-11. [175802]

Bill Rammell: All existing students doing equivalent and lower level qualifications will continue to receive funding during the years in question.

Students: Identity Cards

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the financial impact upon young people of requiring them to pay for identity cards prior to applying for a student loan, and if he will make a statement. [192729]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to require students to have an ID card to apply for a student loan or any other form of student support, therefore no estimates of the cost have been made.

The policy on the introduction of identity cards on a voluntary basis rests with the Home Office. Currently either a passport or a birth certificate (accompanied by an identity confirmation form signed by a person of good standing) is required as proof of identity for students applying for a Government student loan. We have no current plans to change this, although the process for verifying the identity of applicants is kept under review.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people who graduated in (*a*) 2001, (*b*) 2002, (*c*) 2003, (*d*) 2004, (*e*) 2005, (*f*) 2006 and (*g*) 2007 have repaid the whole of their student loan. [188038]

Bill Rammell: Available data are shown in the table.

English domiciled borrowers who have fully repaid their student loan[1] up to February 2008, by loan type[2]

Date repayments due to start	Mortgage-style loan	Income-contingent loan	All loans[3]
April 2002	25,800	3,900	29,700
April 2003	2,800	6,000	8,800
April 2004	600	6,300	6,900
April 2005	100	6,200	6,300
April 2006	-	6,200	6,300
April 2007	-	5,200	5,200
April 2008	-	2,500	2,500

1 Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Publicly-owned student loans.
2 Repayment begins from the April following the year of graduation, when income reaches the threshold.
3 Borrowers with both types of loan may be counted twice.
- Nil or less than 50.

Source:
Student Loans Company.

Borrowers who graduated in 2007 are not required to begin repaying their loans until April 2008; consequently the April 2008 figures in the table cover only those borrowers who have chosen to fully repay their loans before any repayments are due. The table reflects the change from mortgage-style to income-contingent loans. The figures relating to 2001 graduates, who started to repay their loans from April 2002, are significantly higher because the normal period for repaying mortgage-style loans is five to seven years.

Borrowers with up to four mortgage-style loans repay over five years when their income exceeds the repayment threshold; those with five or more loans repay over seven years. The threshold for borrowers with mortgage-style loans is 85 per cent. of national average earnings, currently £25,287 from 1 September 2007. Borrowers are able to apply for deferment of repayments if their income is below this. Income-contingent loans replaced mortgage-style loans from 1998. Borrowers with income contingent loans repay at a rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above £15,000 a year. Repayments are usually collected through the tax system by employers, in the same way as income tax and national insurance contributions. Self-employed borrowers make repayments through the self assessment system.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many cases of multiple applications from individuals for student loans were recorded in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [192338]

Bill Rammell: The responsibility for assessing student support applications in England rests with local authorities and therefore complete information is not centrally available about the number of multiple applications identified. From 2009-10 the SLC will assess all new applications for student support, and records will be held centrally.

Where local authorities suspect fraud at the application stage, they will not process the application until they are completely satisfied with the documentary evidence. Where payments have been made, the local authorities may prosecute the students, or report the matter to the police for prosecution, and recover any overpayments.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) run a range of checks using industry-standard software systems which pick up potential multiple applications. Payments are suspended by the SLC until students contact their local

authority and the case is thoroughly checked. Since 2004, 388 cases such cases have been identified, though not all are fraudulent applications.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make an estimate of the cost to the public purse of raising the student loan repayment income threshold to (*a*) £18,000, (*b*) £20,000, (*c*) £21,000, (*d*) £22,000, (*e*) £23,000, (*f*) £24,000 and (*g*) £25,000; and if he will make a statement. [196031]

Bill Rammell: The estimated additional resource cost for each £1,000 increase in the current £15,000 repayment threshold is an initial £200 million (for existing loans) plus an ongoing cost of £80 million per year (for new loans). Increasing the threshold to £25,000 would therefore cost an estimated £2 billion plus £800 million per year.

The income threshold is one of the main features of the income contingent loan scheme. This protects borrowers when they need it as they only pay their loan back once they earn over the threshold. Borrowers currently repay nothing until they earn over £15,000. This strikes the right balance, making payments affordable to the individual and student loans affordable to the public purse. We are committed to maintaining the repayment threshold at £15,000 until 2010 when we will review it.

Vocational Education: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the provision of technical and vocational training and education in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [179270]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council for Cambridgeshire have undertaken a review of their provision of technical and vocational training and education. As a result they have increased their apprenticeship contracted in-learning volume by 10 per cent. in 2007/08 and introduced apprenticeships for people aged 25 years plus. The LSC is already planning further increases in provision for 2008/09 based on the needs identified in their review. The Government have laid out their plans for improving the quality of technical and vocational education training for both young people and adults in apprenticeships in "World-class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All".

To support this challenging agenda the Government are increasing apprenticeship funding by a quarter to £1 billion by 2010/11.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to answer Question (*a*) 181532 and (*b*) 181601 on departmental travel, tabled on 21 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Taunton; and what the reason for the time taken to respond is. [191404]

Bill Rammell: The questions referred to were answered on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 855-56W.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. A consequence of these changes is that DIUS relies on management information supplied by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) to answer questions relating to departmental matters, which impacts on the speed of response.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what (*a*) capital, (*b*) revenue funding and (*c*) other support, including donation of land or buildings, (i) the Government and (ii) the European Union has provided for (A) the Scottish Exhibition Centre and Scottish Conference Centre in Glasgow, (B) the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh, (C) the Arena and Conference Centre, Liverpool, (D) the International Conference Centre and the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, (E) the Bournemouth International Conference Centre, Bournemouth, (F) the Brighton Centre, Brighton, (G) the Riviera Centre, Torquay, (H) the Excel Centre, the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, (I) the Manchester Central, Manchester and (J) the Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate; and if she will make a statement. [197139]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Councillors: Complaints

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which council had the highest number of complaints made to the Standards Board of England from its councillors about its councillors according to records held by the Standards Board in the latest period for which figures are available. [194342]

John Healey: In 2007-08, the council whose members had the largest number of misconduct allegations made against them by fellow councillors was Somerset county council, where there were 30 such allegations, 29 from a single councillor.

Eco-Towns: Pochin Group

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings (*a*) Ministers and (*b*) officials in her Department have had with representatives of Pochin Group plc on eco-towns. [194344]

Caroline Flint: Neither the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government or officials have held meetings with representatives of Pochin Group plc on eco-towns.

Electoral Register: Fraud

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2886W, on electoral register: fraud, to which local authorities the legal advice has been circulated; and if she will place a copy in the Library of the advice. [194837]

John Healey: Legal advice was offered to all local authorities who are council tax billing authorities.

I have placed a copy of the legal advice in the Library of the House.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008 to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), *Official Report*, column 2775W, on empty property, what the locations were of each of the properties for which public requests were received; and for what reasons each request was refused or accepted. [194826]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table lists the land or properties involved in the 24 public request to order disposal cases referred to in the answer of 6 March 2008; whether a direction was issued; and the reason why a direction was or was not issued.

2006

Site	*Direction to order disposal*	*Reason*
Edge Lane, Liverpool	Non direction	The council had intention to bring the properties into active use as part of their comprehensive regeneration of the Edge Lane Corridor
Land at Upper Campfield Market, Manchester	Non direction	Land is being used in accordance with the council's functions
70, Birtles Road, Macclesfield	Non direction	Council had firm intention to deal with the property
53 Lutterworth Road, Leicester	Non direction	Leicester city council intend to develop the site as part of a bypass scheme in 2009-10
Land off Manners Avenue, Ilkeston, Derbyshire	Non direction	Land in question is being sufficiently used for the purpose of recreation, walking and cycling
Property in Chinnor, Oxfordshire	Non direction	Property is still required for police operational purposes
Housing in Maidenhead	Invalid	Owned by MOD—not covered by PROD since owned by a Government Department
Farnham, Surrey	Non direction	Council had a firm intention to bring it back into use
Palace House Stables and Yard Palace Street Newmarket Suffolk	Non direction	Council had a firm intention to bring the land into active use as a working yard for the retraining of retired racehorses
61 Caernarvon Road Norwich Norfolk	Withdrawn	Council put the land up for auction
13 Lea Walk Harpenden Herts	Invalid	Land not owned by local authority
151-159 Wells Road, London	Invalid	National Health Trust land, not covered by Part 10 of the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980.

2007

Site	*Direction to order disposal*	*Reason*
Prescot Road, Liverpool	Non direction	Council proposes to deal with the land through a mixture of refurbishment and demolitions. Will review the situation late August 2008
Prescott Drive, Liverpool	Under review	
Maple Grove, Fern Grove, Liverpool	Maple Grove - SoS minded to make a direction, now within 42 days for representations	Maple Grove—local authority had no firm proposals to deal with these properties
	Fern Grove—non direction	Fern Grove—no direction as local authority had firm intentions to develop the sites
9 Pinfold Street, Darlaston Wednesbury West Midlands	Non direction	Satisfied that the Council intend to develop the land for housing
177 Weston Street Walsall West Midlands	Invalid	Immediate local authority does not hold an interest in the property
9 Marlborough Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0EH	Invalid	Immediate local authority does not hold an interest in the property
Empty property at Alfreton Park, Alfreton, Derby	Non direction	Derbyshire county council and Amber Valley borough council are reviewing use/access
Hythe and Lydd-on-Sea, Kent	Invalid	In private ownership and thus not covered by PROD
59 properties in Phoenix Street and Richard Cooper Street, Goole	Non direction	East Riding of Yorkshire Council (EROYC) and its Partners due to commence year three of the 10 year programme
35 Mitcham Park, Merton	Direction issued	No firm plans to sell/develop/bring into use within a reasonable timescale
240 Lordship Lane, London	Unable to pursue	Applicant did not disclose identity, despite correspondence from Government Office
12 Lord Holland Lane, London	Unable to pursue	Applicant did not disclose identity, despite correspondence from Government Office.

Fire Prevention: Construction Methods

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that the fire safety standards of composite panels are maintained; and what guidance she has issued to fire authorities on the topic. [196302]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Fire safety risk assessment undertaken under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 should take account of the type of construction used in any building. The Department has issued technical fire safety risk assessment guidance which includes reference to composite panels (also known as insulated core panels). This guidance is available on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/firesafety

Fire Services: ICT

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire and rescue services had taken delivery of information technology infrastructure specifically earmarked for use as part of the FiReControl project by 31 December 2007. [186432]

Mr. Dhanda: None. However, as part of the FiReControl project new mobilising equipment will be delivered to around 1,500 fire stations over the next 2.5 years. On receipt of a mobilisation message from a regional control centre, this new equipment will trigger station end components to effect a mobilisation. This includes sounding alarms, triggering retained alerters, switching on lights, opening doors and printing mobilisation messages.

In March this year new mobilising equipment has started to be installed in fire stations in Staffordshire and North Yorkshire. Infrastructure to enable FRA's to prepare data to support the FiReControl system will also start to be fitted in FRA buildings in April.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of her Department's programme budgets were administered by the Government Offices of the Regions in each of the last five years. [195172]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The Government offices have directly administered the European Regional Development Fund, the New Ventures Fund and the new deal for communities programme throughout the last five years.

Housing Low Incomes

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes were completed by registered social landlords in *(a)* Telford and Wrekin and *(b)* the West Midlands in each of the last 10 years. [193905]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the new build figures for registered social landlords in Telford and Wrekin district, West Midlands region and England from 1996-97 to 2005-06:

	Telford and Wrekin	*West Midlands*	*England*
1996-97	173	3,185	33,156
1997-98	71	2,457	27,887
1998-99	19	2,532	26,372
1999-2000	103	2,782	22,302
2000-01	84	2,212	20,760
2001-02	49	1,945	21,676
2002-03	118	2,453	20,897
2003-04	128	1,980	23,703
2004-05	81	2,759	26,670
2005-06	78	3,762	34,199

Source:
Housing Corporation and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return from local authorities

The table excludes acquisitions of existing stock and new build affordable housing provided by local authorities. For example, in 2005-06, total supply including acquisitions and local authority figures was 44,923 in England, 4,487 in West Midlands region, and 88 in Telford and the Wrekin district.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department will publish the findings of Brian Pomeroy's review of the shared equity market; and if she will make a statement. [196629]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The Government appointed Brian Pomeroy to help it follow up on the Shared Equity Task Force report and advise us on ways to develop the private sector shared equity market. This work is expected to finish shortly and we will make a statement when it is complete.

Housing: Thames Gateway

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to receive figures for the number of dwellings built on brownfield land in the Thames Gateway area in 2007. [189390]

Caroline Flint: The Government have a target that 80 per cent. of new housing in the Thames Gateway should be built on previously developed 'brownfield' land. The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan, published in November 2007, confirms that, since the inception of the Sustainable Communities Plan in 2003, that target has been exceeded and the Government are committed to keeping to the target over the next three years at least. Figures for the number of dwellings built on brownfield land in Thames Gateway for 2007 as a whole will not be available until later in 2008.

Intimidation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent assessment is of *(a)* levels of staff concern over and *(b)* the level of (i) bullying, (ii) harassment and (iii) discrimination in her Department. [193835]

Mr. Dhanda: We take this issue very seriously. Our most recent assessment is set out in the Government Response to the Select Committee's Report on the Department for Communities and Local Government's Annual Report 2007 (Cm 7335), a copy of which can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/responseannualreport2007

The results of the Department's 2007 staff survey are also on the website.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she issues to local authorities on best practice in *(a)* the management of public money and *(b)* the liabilities of elected councillors in respect of joint venture partnerships. [195955]

John Healey: Local authorities are independent bodies responsible for the proper administration of their financial affairs within the framework set by legislation and codes of practice issued by professional bodies, such as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Departments have issued guidance to authorities under statutory powers on specific aspects of financial management, including their power of investment and the new powers of trading and charging introduced in the Local Government Act 2003. These are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/lginvest2.pdf

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/133628

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/guidprop.pdf

Communities and Local Government has issued no guidance on the liabilities of elected councillors in respect of joint venture partnerships.

Mayor of London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answers to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 569W, and to the hon. Member for Meriden of 11 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 898W, on the Mayor of London, what the final cost to the public purse of the Standards Board case in relation to Mr Ken Livingstone was, including the costs to *(a)* the Standards Board, *(b)* the Adjudication Panel, *(c)* her Department and *(d)* the Government Office for London, including legal fees, advice, staff time and costs payable to the Mayor. [193915]

John Healey: The Standards Board's own costs in respect of the case against the London Mayor amount to £64,000. The costs payable by the board to the Mayor in connection with the case are £130,000. The cost to the adjudication panel in respect of the case is £14,000. Neither the Department nor the Government office for London were parties to the case, so that no costs were incurred by them on legal representation in respect of it.

Mobile Homes

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the legal status of mobile homes is; what legislation governs the occupying of such homes; what definition she uses of a mobile home; whether she plans to bring forward measures to change this status; and if she will make a statement. [196715]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The status of a mobile home is that of a personal moveable property. Occupation of mobile homes is governed by the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (as amended) and the Caravan Sites Act 1968. Such homes have by virtue of section 5 (1) of that Act the same definition as a caravan under Part 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. There are no plans to change the status of mobile homes.

Playing Fields: Planning

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 226W, on playing fields: planning, for what reason the consultation paper on the review of statutory consultees was not published in 2007; when it was *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* originally due for publication; and when it is expected to be published; [194944]

(2) with reference to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 226W, on playing fields: planning, how many members of staff in her Department are working on the consultation paper on the review of statutory consultees. [194943]

(3) what progress has been made in bringing forward the changes to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 announced in her Department's press release, "Planning to Safeguard Open Spaces and Playing Fields", of July 2002. [1] [194925]

Mr. Iain Wright: We announced in the Planning white paper "Planning for Sustainable Communities" that we would review arrangements for statutory consultees on planning applications and would consult on proposals in due course. This work is being taken forward, our aim is to publish a consultation paper shortly. Meanwhile, as I mentioned in the reply I gave to the hon. Member on 17 July, we are committed to reducing the threshold for statutory consultation on the sale of playing fields from 0.4 ha to 0.2 ha and we will seek an opportunity to make the necessary amendment to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189670]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 18 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 14W.

1. *[Official Report, 24 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 11MC.]*

Information on agencies and non-departmental bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sewage: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 48W, on sewage: energy, if she will make it her policy to make urine separation systems mandatory in all new developments where discrete sewerage infrastructure is possible. [195241]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government do not currently propose to make the use of urine separation systems mandatory in all new developments where discrete sewerage infrastructure is possible.

Part H (drainage and waste disposal) of the Building Regulations currently requires an adequate system of drainage to be provided to carry foul water from appliances within the building to a suitable sewer, septic tank, waste water treatment system or cesspool.

This means that where mains drainage cannot be provided and an applicant wishes to use an appliance such as a composting toilet there may be benefits in using urine separation as this can improve overall efficiency. However, there is a risk that urine separation and the subsequent discharge of a mixture of urine and water from washing appliances to the ground may cause pollution and damage water resources. People who plan to use urine separation and subsequently discharge direct to ground should undertake a robust site investigation and consult the appropriate authorities such as Building Control or the Environment Agency before finalising plans.

Guidance of the provision of toilets is contained in the Approved Document G (Hygiene) of the Building Regulations. This guidance is under review and we expect to consult on the proposals shortly. It will include improved guidance on the location and use of composting toilets.

Social Services: Inspections

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of Commission for Social Care inspection was in each of the last three years. [187329]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the information requested is not available in the form requested. CSCI is funded via a combination of registration fees charged to providers of care and grant in aid from the Department. It is not possible to specify the source of funds spent on inspection activities. The available information on CSCI funding is shown in the following table.

£ thousand

Source of funding	*Departmental revenue*	*Departmental capital charges*	*Other income*	*Total budget*	*Departmental capital*
2003-04	94,320	10,752	46,290	151,362	3,000
2004-05	98,005	10,000	44,402	152,407	2,000
2005-06	86,430	14,490	56,755	157,675	6,000
2006-07	80,984	15,840	64,500	161,324	19,978
2007-08	65,371	12,261	58,600	136,232	18,707

Notes.
1. CSCI was being set up in 2003-04. Its predecessor organisation was National Care Standards Commission.
2. Figures for revenue and capital are grant-in-aid issued by the Department and are the start of year figures. Figures for income are derived from CSCI annual accounts.
3. 'Other income' represents income largely from regulatory fees.
4. Figures for CSCI up to 2006-07 include the cost of children's social services functions transferred to Ofsted on 1 April 2007.

Source:
Department of Health

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Bookstart Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the cost of Bookstart has been since the programme began; and how many books have been purchased under the scheme to date; [196569]

(2) how many books purchased under the Bookstart programme have been *(a)* delivered to and *(b)* collected by parents; and how many are awaiting collection. [196570]

Beverley Hughes: Bookstart is a public/private partnership which is supported by publishers, sponsors, local and national government. Booktrust have informed me that, to date, the total cost of the Bookstart programme in England has been around £110 million: £74 million worth of books donated by publishers, sponsorship of £5 million and £30.7 million from local and national Government agencies including DCSF.

Since 1992 around 14.7 million books have been given to parents of children under three in England via health visitors, libraries and early years settings and it is estimated that a further 500,000 books are held by local authorities to maintain a continuous supply to eligible parents in England.

Children

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the cost of *(a)* production and *(b)* distribution of the Children's Plan Toolkit was; [196980]

(2) how many Children's Plan Toolkits were produced; and to whom they were distributed. [196979]

Beverley Hughes: The total cost of the packs was £30,534. This included the design, production and distribution of the packs. 1550 packs have been produced. The distribution was as follows (one each): 550 packs to English MPs, 150 packs to Directors of Children's Services, 500 packs to our stakeholders, 300 packs for the events held on 8 March with parents, young people and practitioners , 50 packs for internal use.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the findings from the 20 authorities involved in the flexible extended free entitlement pathfinder projects will be published. [196172]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Findings from an evaluation of the pathfinder authorities will be published in late 2008. Lessons learned from the pathfinder authorities will also form a key part of the new statutory guidance, which we will consult on in 2009. The guidance will come into force from September 2010 when all local authorities will be delivering the extended flexible entitlement to all their eligible children.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of private, voluntary and independent nurseries surveyed in each of the 20 authorities involved in the flexible extended free entitlement pathfinder projects reported that the nursery education grant they receive does not meet the costs of running their nursery. [196174]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* This information is not held centrally.

In June 2007 as part of the wider Schools Funding Reforms, we asked all local authorities to complete an analysis into the cost of delivering the free entitlement in private, voluntary and independent settings, in the run up to agreeing local budgets for April 2008 onwards. These reforms are designed to support the extension of the free entitlement and to address the inconsistencies in how the offer is currently funded across the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors. These reforms are part of the requirement for local authorities to use a single local formula for funding early years provision in both sectors from 2010.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare information kiosks were installed by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 2000. [196185]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has not installed any childcare information kiosks since 2000. However, some local authorities have installed kiosks in children's services locations, such as CIS and children's centres, and these have been paid for by the relevant authority (including using delegated funding such as the Sure Start grant).

Children: Depressive Illnesses

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children diagnosed with depression in each of the last 10 years. [195968]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for National Statistics 2004 survey Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain looked at the prevalence of mental health disorders. It found that 10 per cent. of young people aged five to 16 years had a clinically diagnosed mental disorder. This includes four per cent. with an emotional disorder (1 per cent. depression and 3 per cent. anxiety disorders). The results of the survey are only available in terms of percentages of children rather than numbers.

There were no differences in prevalence between 1999 and 2004 in overall proportions of children with a mental disorder. The 1999 figures were captured in the 2000 "Mental health of children and adolescents in Great Britain".

Information is not collected by this Department on the number of people diagnosed with a mental health disorder. Copies of both publications are available in the Library.

Children: Protection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he had with the Home Office on strengthening the law to protect children who have been groomed. [191442]

Beverley Hughes: There have been no specific discussions recently on this matter. However, Home Office is a key member of the new Child Safety PSA Board, which will monitor delivery of the PSA to improve children and young people's safety, for which the Department has lead responsibility. The PSA Board will consider all issues relating to children's safety. DCSF has also attended meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Group on Sexual and Domestic Violence, the group led by Home Office which co-ordinates the Government's joint action to tackle these issues.

In addition, the Byron review, which reports shortly, will make recommendations about how to support children to use the internet safely. This will help address a range of online risks to children, including the risk of grooming by online predators.

Children: Reading

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the number of children in schools with dyslexia-type reading difficulties in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [195536]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Information was collected from schools on pupils who are supported at "School Action Plus" and those pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) about their main or primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need for the first time in 2004.

Information on the number of pupils with dyslexia alone is not collected centrally. Figures relating to pupils with specific learning difficulties have been provided. Pupils with specific learning difficulties have a particular difficulty in learning to read, write, spell or manipulate numbers and this includes pupils with dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Tables showing the number of pupils by type of SEN in each local authority area have been placed in the Library. This information has not been analysed lower than local authority level because there are a number of sensitivities about categorising pupils by their type of SEN. It is important that anyone using the data should be aware of the concerns and also understand the limitations of the data's reliability and validity. There are a range of factors which may affect the data recorded, including:

Local interpretation of definitions

Classification of children with multiple needs

Statistics are based on school and local authority identification of need rather than a diagnosis by medical of psychological staff

Availability of special school provision in authorities.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much designing the Department's new logo cost; and who undertook the work. [196270]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Department's new logo cost £5,460 (excluding VAT) to design. This design work was undertaken by our framework supplier, The Team.

Employment: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to maximise job and training opportunities during the Olympics for those attending schools, colleges and youth services in the London borough of Havering. [168420]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

Further to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills, to the hon. Member's question 168417 on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 271W, the legacy of our investment for the games goes beyond more houses and better transport. It must strengthen London's skills base and boost job prospects for London's residents in a lasting way. To help young people to gain skills and improve their employment prospects, the ODA has publicly committed to get at least 2,000 people into trainee apprenticeships and work placements (up to 2012) at the Olympic park and other venues that the ODA is working on or building. The first phase is the training centre at Eton Manor fields based at the Olympic site.

In addition, the Major Contractors Group, which represents some of the UK's largest construction companies, has pledged:

to make available 1,000 job placements to young people enrolled on FE construction courses;

to work with the Construction Youth Trust to sponsor 50 undergraduates to obtain a construction-related degree;

make available 1,000 training placements for local people over 21 who do not qualify for apprenticeships.

London LSC is also signed up to a target of 4,000 public sector apprenticeships by 2012, and is working closely with the Mayor's office to increase the number of apprenticeships across the GLA family (police, fire service, TFL). The LSC is also funding a range of community engagement activities to inspire people about the games and raise their aspirations. This includes:

Funding a series of theatre tours to visit 130 schools across London to raise awareness of 'Olympic opportunities' for young people;

Building an Olympic/Paralympics element into the training of London teachers;

Providing skills advice and materials for a series of road-show events throughout 2007-08 to visit communities across all 33 London boroughs.

In total, London Learning and Skills Council is planning to spend a further £7 million in 2008/09, up from the previous years £5 million which will contribute to improving both the volume and quality of work based learning in the four key sectors: construction, sport; audio-visual and customer service. In addition, the LSC will provide a further £12.2 million for demand-led investment in training at the NSA centre on the Olympics site in the period between now and 2012.

English Language: Education

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children receive English as an additional language teaching; and what forecasts there are for the likely percentage in future years. [196262]

Jim Knight: The percentage of pupils whose first language is other than English (EAL pupils) is published in table 6 of the Statistical First Release number 30/2007 titled Schools and Pupils in England, January 2007. The SFR can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

A copy of this SFR is available in the House Libraries.

In January 2007, there were 13.5 per cent. of EAL pupils in maintained primary schools and 10.5 per cent. of EAL pupils in maintained secondary schools. Provisional figures based on the January 2008 School Census are expected to be published at the end of April 2008.

All EAL pupils receive classroom teaching appropriate to their status. Information on the percentage of EAL pupils receiving additional specialist language instruction is not collected centrally.

The Department has not made estimates for the percentage of EAL pupils in primary and secondary schools in forthcoming years.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils examination results were exempted from appearing in GCSE result tables in 2007. [195196]

Jim Knight: All pupils have their GCSE results reported in the national attainment figures although pupils who have arrived from overseas within the last two years do not have their results attributed to a particular school. In 2007, this affected 1,973 such pupils from 523 schools.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools did less than 30 per cent. of pupils obtain five A* to C GCSE grades including English, mathematics and science. [195214]

Jim Knight: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils achieved no grade higher than X at GCSE in 2007; [196321]

(2) how many pupils were awarded no grade higher than U at GCSE in 2007. [196322]

Jim Knight: 7,200 pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved no passes. This is 3 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. The figures include pupils achieving 'U', 'Q', or 'X' grades.

A 'U' is the last recognised grade at GCSE. 'X' and 'Q' are used to indicate why a grade has not been awarded. An 'X' means a pupil is absent or the exam paper has been lost. A 'Q' means result pending or late award. It is therefore not appropriate to rank these against other grades.

Independent Schools: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mainstream independent schools do not enter pupils for GCSEs. [196320]

Jim Knight: The information required is not readily available. The Secondary Schools Achievement and Attainment Tables give the percentage of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving at least one qualification. Looking at the number of mainstream independent schools with 0 per cent. of students achieving at least one qualification will provide the best estimate that is readily available. In 2006/07 there were three such schools published in the Achievement and Attainment Tables.

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils sat iGCSEs in each year for which figures are available. [196323]

Jim Knight: The DCSF does not hold the information required to answer this question.

Pupil Referral Units: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in pupil referral units taking GCSEs did not obtain a single GCSE at C grade or above in 2007. [196324]

Jim Knight: There were 5,543 15-year-old pupils in pupil referral units who did not gain a GCSE at grades A* to C in 2007. This is 88.3 per cent. of the total of 6,280 15-year-old pupils.

These figures include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.

Pupils: English Language

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on the school league table position of schools of a high proportion of pupils with English as second language; and if he will make a statement. [179956]

Jim Knight: The annual school Achievement and Attainment tables show actual performance of pupils, including a measure of the progress pupils have made based on their prior attainment and adjusting for other characteristics which are known to affect pupil performance. One of the factors used in this calculation of contextual value added is whether a pupil has English as an additional language. Thus this factor is already taken into account within the tables, for all pupils for whom there is a record of attainment at the previous key stage.

Pupils: Personal Records

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the relationship will be between the Unique Learner Number and the Unique Pupil Number. [193837]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

There is no direct interface between the Unique Learner Number and Unique Pupil Number, other than the fact that both numbers are held on the National Pupil Database.

The Unique Learner Number is designed to support better processing of data and improve services to individuals undertaking learning. The ULN will in time be used across the education sector, and will support much improved data sharing between third parties, for example school to college, school to awarding body, school to careers service, school/college to university. It will directly enable the aggregation of

qualification awards and the creation of a learner record showing participation and achievement, which the individual will control.

The Unique Learner Number is assigned to learners over the age of 14, using an on-line learner registration service, which is accessible to learners and those who are supporting them, for example, education providers and careers advisers. This service also confirms how individuals want their information shared.

The Unique Pupil Number was designed specifically for the school sector to facilitate a smoother movement of pupil information between schools, local authorities and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), and lapses when a pupil leaves the maintained school sector. When designed it was agreed with the Data Protection Registrar that the Unique Pupil Number should be held by schools on the pupil's electronic record, and only used when required to provide information to the local authority, to the DCSF or National Assessment Agency (NAA), or to another school to which the pupil is transferring.

Schools

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Reading, East of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 406W, on schools, how many maintained schools there were in each local education authority at the end of each year since 1997; what the capacity in terms of pupil numbers was in each case; and what the actual number of pupils was in each year. [190752]

Jim Knight: The available information on the number of schools and pupils in each local authority is derived from data collected via the School Census and is published annually by the Department. From 2005 the figures can be found in the Statistical First Release 'DCSF; Schools and Pupils in England', the latest of which can be accessed at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml. Figures for 2004 and earlier were published in the Statistical Volume 'Statistics of Education, Schools in England' which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/gateway/DB/VOL/v000459/index.shtml

Equivalent publications are available for earlier years.

Copies of school and pupil numbers are shown in tables which will be placed in the House Library. I will write to the hon. Member, and place in the House Library, information on school capacity.

Schools: Community Relations

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have applied for departmental funding to allow them to open their facilities to community groups. [187725]

Jim Knight: Opening school facilities to the community is one of the elements of the extended schools core offer. We are committed to all schools providing access to the core offer of extended services by 2010 with at least half of all primary and a third of secondary schools doing so by September 2008.

The Department has committed significant investment in extended schools, and will make available more than £1 billion over the next three years to support the establishment of inclusive and sustainable extended schools. This funding is passed to local authorities to distribute directly to schools to help them deliver the core offer. The Department centrally does not hold extended schools funding to which schools can apply.

Schools: Playing Fields

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school playing fields were sold in England in each of the last five years. [196184]

Jim Knight: In each of the last five years the numbers of applications approved to sell a school playing field in England are as follows:

	Number approved
2003-04	18
2004-05	10
2005-06	13
2006-07	7
2007-08	15
Total	63

Secondary Education: Admissions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children living in the Furtherwick school catchment area of Canvey Island have not secured a place at their first option for a secondary school in 2008; [196933]

(2) how many children did not secure a place at their first option for a secondary school on Canvey Island in each of the last five years; [196934]

(3) how many children living in the Furtherwick secondary school catchment area of Canvey Island have not secured their second choice of school for September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [196962]

Jim Knight: This is the first year that local authorities have been required to provide data to the Secretary of State on secondary school offers made to parents on national offer day. These data were published on the DCSF research gateway (www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway) on 11 March 2008 at local authority, regional and national levels. Data have not been collected at constituency or school levels. Figures for Essex local authority, in which Canvey Island is situated, show that 80.8 per cent. (12,986) of children resident in that authority who are eligible to transfer to secondary school in September 2008 were offered a place at their parents' first choice of school and a further 10 per cent. (1,601) were offered a place at their parents' second choice of school.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* academies, *(b)* comprehensive schools and *(c)* independent schools he expects to be offering the new diplomas in September (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [188396]

Jim Knight: From September 2008, 25 per cent. of maintained mainstream secondary schools will be offering diplomas, along with 41 per cent. of colleges, and 54 per cent. of academies. From September 2009, we anticipate that 72 per cent. of mainstreamed maintained secondary schools will be offering diplomas, along with 88 per cent. of colleges, and 75 per cent. of academies. We do not expect any independent schools to be delivering diplomas from 2008, and expect two independent schools to be delivering diplomas from 2009. Complete figures for 2010 will not be available until the completion of the next Diploma Gateway process next spring.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 27 March 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average duration of bankruptcy restrictions orders has been. [196220]

Mr. McFadden: Bankruptcies can result in either a bankruptcy restrictions order (BRO) or a bankruptcy restrictions undertaking (BRU). A BRU has the same effect in law as a BRO but does not involve a court hearing. The period of a BRU is slightly discounted to take account of early settlement of the matter, hence the lower duration average in respect of BRUs as opposed to BROs.

In the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 the average duration of BROs was 5.25 years and of BRUs was 5.81 years.

In the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 the average duration of BROs was 6.33 years and of BRUs was 5.09 years.

In the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 the average duration of BROs was 5.71 years and of BRUs was 4.67 years.

In the period 1 April 2007 to 17 March 2008 the average duration of BROs was 5.78 years and of BRUs was 4.37 years.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bankruptcies have been declared by the official receivers to be the result of dishonest, reckless or otherwise culpable behaviour under the bankruptcy restrictions orders process contained in the Enterprise Act 2002. [196222]

Mr. McFadden: When the Secretary of State considers that a bankrupt has been guilty of dishonest, reckless or culpable behaviour he may seek to obtain a bankruptcy restrictions order (BRO) or bankruptcy restrictions undertaking (BRU).

In the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 there were four BROs and 16 BRUs.

In the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 there were 190 BROs and 653 BRUs.

In the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 there were 264 BROs and 1,603 BRUs.

In the period 1 April 2007 to 18 March 2008 there were 171 BROs and 1,598 BRUs.

This amounts to a total of 4,499 bankrupts subject to bankruptcy restrictions since the Enterprise Act came into force.

Common Sugar Regime: ACP Countries

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has made to the European Commission on the prompt and efficient payment of transitional funds allocated to Caribbean sugar protocol countries as part of the measures accompanying the reform of the EU sugar regime. [192476]

Mr. Thomas: In November 2007 the Secretary of State for International Development wrote to the European Commissioner for Development expressing concern about delays in disbursement of funds allocated under the measures accompanying reform of the sugar regime. He also stressed the importance of making timely predictable disbursement of funds under multi-annual programmes. On 7 March officials from DFID met Koos Richelle (Director-General for European Aid) in Brussels, and they will also be raising this issue. We will continue to monitor the timing and effectiveness of disbursements under the accompanying measures for sugar protocol countries and make representations to the Commission for improvement when needed.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has made to the European Commission to ensure that transitional funding promised to Caribbean signatory countries of the sugar protocol as part of the accompanying measures to the reform of the EU sugar regime will be disbursed according to the timetable set out in the Multi-Annual Indicative programme (2007-10). [192477]

Mr. Thomas: In November 2007 the Secretary of State for International Development wrote to the European Commissioner for Development expressing concern about delays in disbursement of allocated funds under the measures accompanying reform of the sugar regime. He also stressed the importance of making timely predictable disbursement of funds under multi-annual programmes. On 7 March officials from DFID met Koos Richelle (Director-General for European Aid) in Brussels and they will also be raising this issue.

As part of the Multi-Annual Indicative programme under the accompanying measures for sugar protocol (AMSP), the Commission agrees an annual action plan (AAP) with member states. The 2007 action plan was approved in October 2007 and funds are now being disbursed. We expect the 2008 action plan to be presented to member states for approval in September 2008. DFID-Caribbean is working closely with the Commission Delegation in the region to ensure that all disbursed funds are spent effectively.

We will continue to monitor the timing and effectiveness of disbursements under the AMSP and make representations to the Commission for improvement when needed.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the European Commission disbursed under the Multi-Annual Indicative programme (2007-10) for Caribbean signatory countries of the sugar protocol as part of the accompanying measures to the reform of the EU sugar regime in the period 1 January 2007 to 1 January 2008; and if he will make representations to the European Commission on the disbursement before 31 March 2008 of the remaining funds allocated for 2007 to Caribbean signatory countries. [192478]

Mr. Thomas: Disbursement of funds to countries benefiting from support under the measures accompanying the reform of the EU sugar regime are governed by two multi-annual programmes (2007-10 and 2011-13). Each year the Commission agrees an annual action plan (AAP) with member states which identifies levels of support and how funding in that year will be spent. The 2007 AAP was approved in October 2007. According to the latest information received from the Commission, no funds were disbursed between 1 January 2007 and 1 January 2008. However, disbursement of funds has now begun.

In November 2007 the Secretary of State for International Development wrote to the European Commissioner for Development expressing concern about delays in disbursement of allocated funds under the accompanying measures to reform of the sugar regime. He also stressed the importance of making timely predictable disbursement of funds under multi-annual programmes. On the 7 of March officials from DFID met Koos Richelle (Director-General for European Aid) in Brussels and they will also be raising this issue. We will of course continue to monitor the timing and effectiveness of disbursements under the sugar protocol and make representations to the Commission for improvement when needed.

Departmental Contracts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* value was of all contracts, consultancies and other services placed with (i) Deloitte and Touche, (ii) Ernst and Young, (iii) KPMG, (iv) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (v) PA Consulting in each year since 2004-05 by his Department, its predecessor Department and its agencies. [179034]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that the following amounts have been paid in total by BERR, and its predecessor DTI, to each of the companies in the following financial years:

£

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (to date)
Deloitte and Touche	9,844,267	8,471,533	5,979,860	4,456,895
Ernst and Young	1,926,463	2,988,557	2,221,127	1,048,151
KPMG	2,985,984	3,035,393	609,247	528,614
PWC	2,530,816	3,487,680	5,001,767	2,767,627
PA Consulting	844,989	939,936	775,361	292,081

I have asked the chief executives of the executive agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's *(a)* computers and *(b)* laptops have been stolen in 2007; and what the value of those items was. [168593]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

(a) No computers have been stolen during 2007 to date.

(b) A total of eight BERR laptops have been stolen in 2007 based on our records to end of October. Their total value is £8,000.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* mobile telephones, *(b)* personal digital assistants and *(c)* laptop computers issued to staff in his Department or its predecessor were reported (i) lost, (ii) missing and (iii) stolen in each year since 2001. [184348]

Mr. Thomas: A breakdown of the lost, stolen or missing items is provided in the following table for each of the years requested. It should be noted that some of the laptops and mobile telephones listed may have been personal items belonging to members of staff, which have been lost or stolen in the office.

	Mobile phones	Laptops	PDAs
2007	2	8	
2006	14	8	1
2005	11	14	3
2004	26	12	1
2003	22	22	1
2002	22	25	3
2001	7	7	

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any of his Department's special advisers have outside also work for organisations outside his Department. [178489]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's special advisers do not have any appointments outside their departmental roles.

Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [167313]

Mr. Thomas: BERR's strategic marketing team has overall responsibility for departmental marketing and branding. Based on figures for November 2007, the paybill for this team over 12 months would be approximately £670,000. A more detailed breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Insolvency Service estimates its costs for staff working on marketing and branding in the last 12 months to be £5,000.

Companies House estimates that in the last 12 months it has spent £700,635 on staff working on marketing and £32,000 on branding.

UK Trade and Investment's pay costs for strategic marketing by its marketing group were approximately £590,000 for the period December 2006 to November 2007.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many awards have been received by former miners or their widows under the Coal Industry Pneumoconiosis Scheme 1974 since 2004; and how many of them have also received an award under the Pneumoconiosis Etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979. [196956]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 27 March 2004, when the British Coal Corporation was wound up, 3,021 awards have been made to former miners or their widows under the Coal Industry Pneumoconiosis Scheme.

In the same period 397 payments have been made to these claimants under the 1979 Act administered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Members: Correspondence

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter dated 7 September 2007 from the hon. Member for Dundee, East, regarding a constituent, Mr. Lee Sexton, of Dundee. [196875]

Mr. Thomas: The hon. Member's letter was answered on 12 November 2007. I have arranged for a copy of the letter to be sent to his office.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Finance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the recent increase in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's current costs is related to dealing with the problems associated with high level waste management, as identified by the nuclear installations inspectorate in its June 2007 Quarterly Report on Sellafield. [193570]

Malcolm Wicks: In response to concerns raised by the nuclear installations inspectorate, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) requested the Site Licence Company to review the high-level waste management strategy. This review has resulted in additional scope of work valued in the region of £334 million. These additional costs were included in the £72.7 billion future cost estimates reported in the NDA annual report and accounts 2006-07 (page 103) and formed part of the £8 billion increase on the previous estimate of £64.8 billion.

Nuclear Power Stations: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value is of the contract his Department has signed with UBS AG Bank for advice on the commercial and financial aspects of new nuclear power plants; when the contract was signed; and what its duration is. [196208]

Malcolm Wicks: UBS AG has been appointed to advise the Government on the realisation of their policy on new nuclear build, and started work in early March 2008. The terms of the appointment are confidential.

Nuclear Power: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the security implications of developing new nuclear facilities in the United Kingdom, with reference to paragraph 4.89 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291. [196827]

Malcolm Wicks: Paragraphs 2.83 to 2.109 of our White Paper on Nuclear Power set out the assessment we have made and our reasons for concluding that the UK has an effective regulatory framework that ensures that safety, security, health and proliferation risks are minimised and sensibly managed by industry.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether vulnerabilities of (*a*) nuclear installations and (*b*) nuclear materials in transit were evaluated in drawing up the new National Security Strategy. [196830]

Malcolm Wicks: Our evaluation of these vulnerabilities, set out in paragraphs 2.83 to 2.115 of our White Paper on Nuclear Power, was taken into account in the preparation of the National Security Strategy.

Overseas Trade: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 840W, on Overseas trade: Finance, how many overseas offices each agency maintains; and in which countries. [196156]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1290W.

Parliament: Postal Services

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to Post Office Ltd is of operating the Crown post offices on the Parliamentary Estate. [196627]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in the European Union on subsidising post offices to minimise closures; and if he will make a statement. [190497]

Mr. McFadden: The European Commission has given state aid clearance for the Government's funding package for the post office network. This includes subsidy payments to support the non-commercial part of the network.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what account Post Office Ltd will take of the cost of individual sub-postmasters' contracts in deciding whether a post office should be closed. [193863]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply to the hon. Member.

Copies of this letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what process will be followed by Post Office Ltd and his Department in determining a final list of post offices for closure. [193895]

Mr. McFadden: Final decisions on post office closures rest with Post Office Ltd. However, there is a four stage review process in place for Post Office Ltd and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by a bilateral review of individual closures. The review process is instigated by Postwatch if it appears that the company has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or where evidence emerges from consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure that Post Office Ltd investigates alternative courses of action, including renegotiation of contracts with sub-postmasters, in relation to post offices earmarked for closure. [193898]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure that Post Office Ltd will take account of planned housing development in areas where post offices are earmarked for closure; and if he will make a statement. [193899]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Post Office Ltd's economic model in identifying post offices for (*a*) potential and (*b*) final closure. [193902]

Mr. McFadden: Following the national consultation on the future of the post office network, the Government have set a framework of access criteria and other factors to be considered by Post Office Ltd in developing its proposals for post office closures at area plan level and subsequently reaching final decisions on them. Postwatch acts as the consumer voice in this area and it assesses whether, for an individual branch, Post Office Ltd has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision, or evidence has emerged from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements. In these circumstances, Postwatch can trigger a review process to enable it and Post Office Ltd to reach an agreed way forward on the relevant branch.

Postcomm

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to alter the (*a*) status and (*b*) remit of Postcomm. [194218]

Mr. McFadden: Under the Postal Services Act 2000, Parliament established Postcomm as the independent regulator for postal services. Postcomm's primary statutory duty is to ensure provision of a universal postal service. Subject to this, Postcomm will exercise its functions in the manner which it considers is best calculated to further the interests of users of postal services, wherever appropriate by promoting effective competition between postal operators.

The Government have commissioned Richard Hooper to lead an independent review of the postal services sector and how best to maintain the universal service. We will give careful consideration to all the panel's recommendations when it reports later this year.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what Government funding streams are available to regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [188970]

Mr. McFadden: The main sources of Government funding in 2007-08 for the nine English Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are listed as follows:

Single Programme Budget

Since April 2002 the RDAs have been financed through a Single Programme budget (the "Single Pot"). Money from the six contributing Departments (BERR, CLG, IUS, EFRA, CMS and UKTI) is pooled into one single budget. The funding, once allocated, is available to the RDAs in order to achieve the regional priorities identified in their regional economic strategies and the challenging targets set by them in their Corporate Plans. In 2007-08, the Single Pot allocated funding of £2.3 billion to the nine English RDAs.

European Regional Development Fund

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was set up in 1975 to stimulate economic development in less prosperous regions of the European Union (EU). As EU membership has grown, ERDF has developed into a major instrument for helping to redress regional imbalances. Between 2007 and 2013, England will benefit from an investment of a further €3.2 billion (approximately £2.5 billion) of ERDF. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) manages ERDF in England and provides programme funding directly to the RDAs.

Rural Development Programme for England

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) is a 7-year (2007-2013) EU programme that aims to safeguard and enhance the rural environment, improve the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors and foster competitive and sustainable rural businesses and thriving rural communities.

The overall budget for the programme is approximately £3.9 billion. Some £600 million of this will be made available for socio-economic schemes aimed at making agriculture and forestry more competitive and sustainable, enhancing opportunity and the quality of life in rural areas, and diversifying the rural economy. This part of the RDPE is being delivered primarily by the RDAs.

Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme (BREW)

In line with the landfill tax back to business commitment, the Spending Review 2004 (SR2004) announced that the additional revenues will be used to fund programmes to support business in improving its resource efficiency, including waste minimisation and diversion from landfill. The RDAs have been given the responsibility of co-ordinating the programme at regional level. In 2007-08, DEFRA has provided funding of £10.9m through the Single Pot to the RDAs in respect of their programme.

Northern Way Growth Fund

The Northern Way is collaboration, formed in 2004, between the three Northern RDAs of England (North West RDA, Yorkshire Forward and One NorthEast). Its aim was to work together to improve the sustainable economic development of the North towards the level of more prosperous regions in the UK. In 2007-08, CLG provided funding of £25.8 million to the RDAs, this being the remaining contribution from Government toward the £100 million Northern Way Growth Fund. BERR is now the lead Government Department for the Northern Way Growth Fund.

Social Enterprise Business Support

In the Social Enterprise Action Plan the Office of the Third Sector announced it would provide £5.9 million to RDAs to improve Business Link's capacity to broker business support for social enterprises.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department received from the transfer of funds from the England and Wales fossil fuel levy for the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources in (*a*) 2004-05, (*b*) 2005-06, (*c*) 2006-07 and (*d*) 2007-08. [195712]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Department has received no transfer of funds from the England and Wales fossil fuel levy for these purposes. However, the Sustainable Energy Act 2003 provides a power for the Secretary of State to direct Ofgem to pay into the Consolidated Fund up to £60 million from funds paid to Ofgem and arising from the auctioning of renewable obligation certificates and electricity generated under non-fossil fuel obligation contracts. There is also a corresponding duty on the Secretary of State to spend a matching sum to promote the use of energy from renewable sources.

£60 million was transferred to the Consolidated Fund in 2004-05 and formed part of the £500 million which Government have announced they would spend from 2002 on R and D and capital grants for emerging renewable and low carbon technologies.

Sales Methods

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government have taken to protect consumers from aggressive selling techniques. [195731]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 will prohibit traders from engaging in unfair commercial practices, including aggressive selling techniques, towards consumers. A practice is considered aggressive if, through the use of harassment, coercion or undue influence, the average consumer's freedom of choice or conduct is significantly impaired, and this causes or is likely to cause him to take a different purchasing decision.

The Regulations contain an illustrative list of factors to help determine whether a commercial practice uses harassment, coercion or undue influence.

Draft Regulations, which implement the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (2005/29/EC), were laid before Parliament on 3 March. If approved in debate they will come into force on 26 May.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department, its predecessor and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191097]

Mr. Thomas: Over the past 24 months, my Department and its agencies have purchased one plasma television screen at a cost of £4,497.24.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Asylum

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children sought asylum in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [195959]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Information on asylum applications from principal applicants (since 2001) and dependants (since 2002) is available by age at time of application from the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom. Information prior to these dates is not available. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Any children, under the age of 18, recorded as being principal asylum applicants may not necessarily be unaccompanied; they could for example be living with a relative who, in turn, may or may not have status in the UK.

Children: Mental Health

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the purpose of the Counterpoint Childhood Wellbeing research paper was; how much it cost; and what account will be taken of it during his Department's policy formulation process. [196928]

Beverley Hughes: The Department commissioned Counterpoint (UK) Limited to undertake research into Childhood Wellbeing in order to increase our understanding of parents' and children's perceptions of wellbeing and happiness, the factors that are significant to them, and their main sources of anxiety and of confidence. This work followed extensive public debate about the state of childhood today and provided insights into the attitudes of parents and children themselves, including their views on appropriate roles for Government, councils, schools and families in creating the right conditions for happy childhoods. The research cost £80,840 (including VAT). The outcomes have informed the Children's Plan, published in December 2007, and particularly the proposals for a new focus on improved opportunities for outdoor play.

We will continue to draw on the research as we develop policies for implementing the Children's Plan to create better futures for children and families.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people received education maintenance allowance in *(a)* South Tyneside and *(b)* England in each year since its inception. [195342]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) operates the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and holds information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Jarrow with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1159-60W, on pupil exclusions, how many of the individuals recorded under the column *(a)* number of fixed period exclusions, had previously been awarded a fixed period exclusion (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three, (iv) four and (v) five times and *(b)* number of permanent exclusions, had previously been excluded for a fixed period. [197026]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Summary findings on permanent and fixed period exclusions during the 2005/06 school year were published in a Statistical First Release on 26 June at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

Schools: Nurses

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* constituency have the services of a qualified school nurse in line with the 2004 National Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services; what steps he is taking to ensure that all schools have such services; and when he expects all schools to have the services of a qualified school nurse. [196173]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Information is not collected centrally on how many and what proportion of schools in each primary care trust (PCT) and constituency have the services of a qualified school nurse.

It is for PCTs in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of school nursing services.

Schools: Swimming

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* St Albans, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England offered swimming lessons to pupils in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [196194]

Kevin Brennan: Swimming activities and water safety are a compulsory element of the National Curriculum for physical education in primary schools. Swimming lessons should be provided for all pupils as part of this. Schools can choose swimming activities and water safety as a programme of study in secondary schools.

The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003/04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and school sport from schools in a School Sport Partnership. The proportion of primary, secondary and special schools that offered swimming during the academic year over the last four years is as follows:

	England	*Hertfordshire*	*Percentage St Albans*
2003/04	84		
2004/05	83		
2005/06	84	87	
2006/07	85	87	85

Further analysis could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many alcohol licences have been revoked on the grounds of sale of alcohol to children since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [196410]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally.

Statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not indicate the reason for revocation. Licences may be revoked on review for one or more reasons relating to the four licensing objectives, including sales of alcohol to children.

The first DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, was published on 8 November 2007. This shows that, between April 2006 and March 2007, there were 695 reviews which resulted in 92 licences being revoked and 91 being suspended (based upon a 85 per cent. response rate from licensing authorities).

There were also 37 personal licences suspended or declared forfeit by the courts in 2006-07 (80 per cent. response rate). The loss of personal licence could relate to conviction for any one of a number of relevant offences, including the sale of alcohol to children.

Broadcasting: Technology

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes from the Emerging Technologies Group's meetings. [195785]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* I am arranging for copies of the minutes from the Emerging Technologies Group's meetings to be placed in the House Libraries, with the commercially sensitive information removed.

Digital Broadcasting: Swansea

Mr. Alan Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that advice about the Digital Switchover Help Scheme is given at an early stage of the conversion from analogue to digital television transmission in Swansea. [194690]

Andy Burnham: Digital UK is already actively raising awareness about digital switchover in Wales, through advertising and publicity, which lets people know there will be a help scheme for eligible people nearer the time of switchover.

Specific regional help scheme advertising and publicity is planned for the period of eligibility, from about eight months before switchover, and will include advertising, local press articles, public awareness events and targeted communications for local third sector organisations for eligible people.

Using DWP data and data provided by local authorities, the help scheme will write to every eligible person directly at least twice in the run-up to switchover, to invite them to take up the help offered through the scheme. Information about eligibility and what help is available through the scheme is also accessible on the Digital UK website and from its national helpline, and will shortly also be available from the switchover help scheme website and helpline which are being launched at the beginning of April.

Digital Broadcasting: Visually Impaired

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many blind and partially sighted people were helped as part of the digital changeover in Cumbria. [195719]

Andy Burnham: The BBC is responsible for operating the digital switchover help scheme. The help scheme is given access to data on people who are registered as blind and partially sighted from local authorities so as to be able to contact them directly. The help scheme also commissioned the West Cumbria Society for the Blind to contact its members to ensure their awareness of the help scheme.

Respondents who take up the help scheme are not required to inform the scheme of the reason they are eligible or the nature of their disability, unless they wish to do so to aid it in delivering the service.

I am therefore not able to supply the number of blind and partially sighted people who took up the help scheme in Cumbria.

European Broadcasting Union

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department contributes *(a)* funding and *(b)* personnel to (i) the European Broadcasting Union and (ii) the Eurovision Song Contest; and if he will make a statement. [196095]

Andy Burnham: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport contributes no funding or personnel to the European Broadcasting Union or the Eurovision Song Contest.

Listed Buildings: Essex

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's role in conserving the Grade II listed building known as the State Cinema in Grays, Essex is; and if he will make a statement. [196312]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 26 March 2008]*: The role of my Department is to designate buildings of special architectural or historic interest by listing. Decisions about changes which affect their special interest are for the local planning authority, in consultation with English Heritage.

This building, which is listed at grade II*, is included in the Buildings at Risk register maintained by English Heritage. English Heritage monitors its condition and had, in recent years, met its owners who were considering converting this former cinema to a new use. English Heritage has also been approached by the Cinema Theatre Association, which is interested in the possibility of reviving its use as a venue for performance.

Performing Arts

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department and its agencies give to competitive cheerleading. [196193]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Increasing inter and intra-school sporting opportunities is a key component of the National PE and Sport Strategy for Young People, which is delivered jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Since January 2008, the UK Cheerleading Association (UKCA) has been working in partnership with British Gymnastics to transfer their activities and become a new discipline of British Gymnastics.

The UKCA is working with a number of School Sports Partnerships across the UK to develop cheerleading and 'street cheer' within school sport and dance. Together with other national governing bodies, the UKCA is helping to deliver the Government's PE and school sport strategy nationally, both by encouraging sustained participation and by providing leadership opportunities in schools and FE facilities.

Public Lending Right: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of the public lending right was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what it is projected to be in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [196154]

Margaret Hodge: The public lending right (PLR) uses grant in aid funding from the DCMS to make compensatory payments to authors for the financial impact of free book loans provided through the public library system.

Provision for the running costs of the organisation is included within this grant in aid settlement, and is allocated by the PLR before the remaining sum is distributed annually to authors.

Over the next three years, the DCMS is committed to generating value for money (VFM) savings by delivering efficiencies in partnership with its sponsored bodies: the PLR has therefore agreed to deliver a 3 per cent. reduction in its administration costs in each of the years 2008-11, ensuring that the maximum possible percentage of the public funding received by the PLR is used to provide valuable financial support to authors.

Costs to the Exchequer, in the form of total grant in aid allocated per annum; PLR administration spending for the period 1998-2008; and administration spending limits agreed with the PLR for the next three years are set out in the following table.

£

	Total grant allocation	*Administration spending*	*PLR to authors*
1997-98	4,921,000	673,000	4,248,116
1998-99	5,000,000	841,000	4,158,527
1999-2000	5,051,000	845,000	4,206,345
2000-01	5,150,000	673,000	4,477,110
2001-02	5,201,000	695,000	4,505,758
2002-03	7,001,000	806,000	6,194,517
2003-04	7,201,000	812,000	6,411,616
2004-05	7,381,000	812,000	6,536,539
2005-06	7,471,000	822,000	6,543,164
2006-07	7,702,000	813,000	6,809,018
2007-08	7,682,000	828,000	6,657,585
2008-09	7,432,000	803,000	6,629,000
2009-10	7,582,000	779,000	6,803,000
2010-11	7,682,000	756,000	6,926,000

Tourism: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what initiatives his Department has to promote Yorkshire to international visitors. [196720]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* My Department has provided VisitBritain with funding of £49.9 million in 2007-08 to promote Britain as a whole as an attractive place to visit. Destinations and attractions in Yorkshire are included within VisitBritain's themed campaigns and are also featured on VisitBritain's websites, which contain detailed destination guides.

The Department's funding agreement with VisitBritain requires them to achieve a specified proportion of additional expenditure by inbound visitors outside London. For 2005-06, the target was 55 per cent., and VisitBritain achieved 61 per cent. For 2006-07, the target was 54 per cent. and VisitBritain achieved 57 per cent.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the return on investment of spending by *(a)* VisitBritain and *(b)* VisitEngland in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [195038]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* VisitBritain's method of calculating the return on its marketing investments was considered and approved by the National Audit Office in 2004. Since then, VisitBritain has moved increasingly from print-based promotion of the tourist industry to electronic marketing. This meant that new ways of measuring the return on investment were necessary, as the old methodology had begun to produce unrealistic results by 2005-06. With the agreement of DCMS, VisitBritain brought in new methodology for the start of 2006-07.

VisitBritain's performance against its Funding Agreement targets was as follows:

International marketing of Britain

	Target	*Achieved*	*Estimated tourist expenditure generated (£ billion)*
2005-06	30:1	54:1	1.906
2006-07	30:1	31:1	1.095

Domestic England marketing within Britain (advised by VisitEngland)

	Target	*Achieved*	*Expenditure generated (£ million)*
2005-06	12:1	20:1	243.2
2006-07	13:1	17:1	225.3

England marketing in established European markets (advised by VisitEngland)

	Target	*Achieved*	*Expenditure generated (£ million)*
2005-06	15:1	32:1	32.3
2006-07	30:1	19:1	19.4

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by whom each soldier killed during the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment/2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment's recent operational tour in Helmand Province was replaced in the order of battle. [175622]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Patrick Mercer:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 20W, about replacements for soldiers killed during the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment/2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment's recent operational tour in Helmand Province.

As you are aware, I set out the Army's policy on battle casualty replacement in my answer to you on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 50W.

Officials have spent some time examining your request and exploring potential ways of providing the information you seek, including discussions with the Unit. Unfortunately, however, this has proved impossible. Unlike in previous conflicts, our policy is not to identify individual replacements. Units are not, therefore, required to identify those individuals who replace colleagues who are injured or killed. Rapid replacement in theatre would in any event make this extremely difficult to track.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reports he has received on the incident involving the International Security Assistance Force and Afghan police in Lashkar Gah on 20th March 2008, which is being investigated by Royal Military Police. [197113]

Des Browne *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* I have received an initial report regarding this incident, which is currently subject to investigation. It would be inappropriate to comment further while the investigation is continuing.

Aircraft Carriers

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of security scenario planning in which the proposed aircraft carriers were deemed to be an essential part of the UK's response; and if he will make a statement. [195435]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Future Carrier, as an integral part of the Carrier Strike capability, contributes to a number of planning scenarios, the details of which I am withholding as their release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the defence of the United Kingdom. The 2004 "Future Capabilities" White Paper noted that aircraft carriers contribute to medium-scale intervention and large-scale operations, though they are a very flexible platform which also provides wider utility.

Armed Conflict: EC Action

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Treaty of Lisbon affects the UK's capacity to take unilateral military action. [196349]

Des Browne: No. The provisions on the Common Security and Defence Policy in the Lisbon Treaty do not change the fundamental nature of the Common Foreign and Security Policy under the current Treaty on European Union (TEU). As under the TEU, individual member states will not be constrained from conducting their own foreign policy, including a decision to undertake unilateral military action.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel are deployed on operations, broken down by location. [196616]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location at 10 March 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Total	13,460
of which:	
Afghanistan	7,600
Iraq	3,800
At Sea	710
Qatar	410
Cyprus	280
Kuwait	260
Oman	190
Kosovo	130
Bahrain	70
Bosnia	10
Other	30

[1] Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of mail lost in transit between military personnel and their families were recorded in each month of 2007. [196610]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of claims for compensation paid by the MOD for non-delivered and damaged mail for each month of 2007 was as follows:

Month	*Number of claims compensation paid*
January	74
February	55
March	32
April	95
May	62
June	80
July	72
August	32
September	80
October	59
November	42
December	12

Armed Forces: Public Transport

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals for a scheme to enable members of HM Armed Forces to travel free on public transport when wearing uniform. [195978]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It would be inappropriate for the MOD to make any specific recommendations regarding free use of public transport for military personnel, as this is a matter for individual public transport providers.

However, the Government are currently examining the wider issue of the provision of services to our armed forces personnel under the Service Personnel Command Paper and the nation's relationship with the armed forces under the National Recognition study carried out by my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford's (Mr. Davies).

Armed Forces: Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* helicopters, *(b)* vehicles and *(c)* fixed-wing aircraft were lost under enemy fire in each year since 2003, broken down by model. [195379]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* One Lynx helicopter was lost to enemy fire in Iraq in 2006.

A total of three Hercules aircraft have been lost, one in Iraq in 2005, one in Afghanistan in 2006 and the third in Iraq in 2007.

One Harrier aircraft was lost in Afghanistan in 2005.

I am withholding detailed information regarding the numbers and types of land vehicles lost to enemy fire as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, security or effectiveness of the armed forces.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) where the initial request came from to supply additional Supercat M-WMIK vehicles; when that request became an order; and what function these future vehicles will perform; [195628]

(2) what the reasons are for the increased cost of the new Supercat M-WMIK order; [195630]

(3) how many Supercat M-WMIKs had been supplied prior to the current orders for 130 and 72; and at what unit price. [195631]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Mobility Weapon Mount Installation Kit (M-WMIK) was identified as a solution in spring 2007, to meet a request from commanders in Afghanistan for an enhanced WMIK vehicle to complement the Land Rover based WMIK fleet. The M-WMIK will provide mobility for battle group support weapons and offers high levels of agility coupled with considerable firepower. The initial contract was signed in July 2007.

I am not aware of increased costs; this is the first time we have procured the M-WMIK vehicle. Some specialist users possess vehicles based on the same Supacat chassis, but the costs of these were broadly similar.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent modifications have been made to the main armament of the Challenger II tank for training purposes. [196607]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been no recent modifications to the main armament of Challenger 2 (CR2). In June 2006, however, we brought into service a new Live Fire Crew Training System to provide realistic CR2 crew training using a removable barrel insert and smaller calibre rounds.

Army: Manpower

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the required strength of army officers is in each of the categories *(a)* 1/(D), *(b)* 1, *(c)* 2, *(d)* 3, *(e)* 4, *(f)* 5 and *(g)* 6 to 9. [195629]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The categories referred to are the NATO categorisations used to identify equivalent ranks across the armed forces. The current permanent liability (required strength) for Regular Army officers, for each category is split between direct entry officers, i.e. those who join the Army as officers, and late entry officers, who are promoted from the non-commissioned ranks:

NATO rank	*Army rank*	*Direct entry*	*Late entry*
OF7+	Major General to General	64	
OF6	Brigadier	174	
OF5	Colonel	535	
OF4	Lieutenant Colonel	1,664	79
OF3	Major	3,375	909
OF2	Captain	3,331	1,569
OF1	Second Lieutenant and Lieutenant	1,777	0
OF1 (Des)		[1]660	

[1]OF1 (Des) are officers under training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

AWE Aldermaston: Protest

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make arrangements to enable the making of peaceful protests at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment; and if he will make a statement. [195371]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD recognises the democratic right of individuals to participate in lawful and peaceful protest activities. Such activities have taken place at AWE for many years, and there are well-rehearsed plans in place to ensure minimum disruption and to allow peaceful protests to occur. Safety and security at AWE are paramount. Any protester action that could compromise these will always be dealt with appropriately. There were demonstrations at AWE as recently as 24 March and Thames Valley Police subsequently congratulated the organisers for organising an effective and peaceful demonstration.

Defence

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many urgent operational requirements are under consideration; and what estimate he has made of the total value of such requirements. [191552]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Some 800 UORs have been approved to date; a further 120 are under consideration. To date, the value of UORs approved for Iraq and Afghanistan is in excess of £3.5 billion. The costings for UORs that have not yet been approved are not mature enough to provide an accurate estimate.

EC Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements are planned for liaison between his Department and the office of the high representative of the Union for foreign affairs and security policy. [196358]

Des Browne: If the Lisbon Treaty is ratified by all EU member states, the Ministry of Defence will liaise with the office of the high representative of the Union for foreign affairs and security policy through our permanent and military representation to the European Union, as we currently do with the office of the high representative for the common foreign and security policy.

EC Defence Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what burden-sharing arrangements are planned for civilian and military assets for EU defence under the Lisbon Treaty. [196350]

Des Browne: Under the Lisbon Treaty, both civilian and military assets for European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) operations would continue to be supplied by EU member states on a voluntary basis, as they are under the current Treaty on European Union.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1171W, regarding the funding of ESDP operations under the Lisbon Treaty.

Iran: Defence Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the financial value of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines equipment which remains in the possession of the Iranian authorities. [196599]

Des Browne: The financial value of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines equipment which remains in the possession of the Iranian authorities from the two incidents in 2004 and 2007 is approximately £500,000 in each case. This corrects the previous replacement costs I provided on 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1253W, for the hon. Members for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) and for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis) which included the estimated replacement coast of only one Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces were withdrawn from Iraq in each year since 2003, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age and *(c)* service; what plans he has to increase members withdrawn in each of the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [190878]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During major combat operations in March-April 2003, there were some 46,000 UK military personnel committed to Operation TELIC (including those stationed outside Iraq in support of the operation). Subsequently, the number of UK military posts in Iraq decreased to 18,000 by May 2003. Year on year troop reductions beyond that point are set out in the following table:

January each year	*Approximate UK troop level*	*Reduction from previous year*
2004	8,500	[1]9,500
2005	8,000	500
2006	8,000	0
2007	7,100	900
2008	4,300	2,800

[1] From May 2003

There are currently around 4,200 UK military personnel in Iraq, of whom around 4,000 are based in southern Iraq. The actual number of UK military personnel in theatre varies significantly from day to day for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, visits, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Accurate information on the total number of personnel broken down by sex, age and service is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Work continues on the details of our future plans in consultation with our coalition partners and the Government of Iraq. For this reason, we are unable to provide a month-by-month projection for each of the next 12 months. Our plans will, of course, be guided by the advice of our military commanders and are subject to conditions on the ground.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people serving in the British forces in Iraq hold *(a)* British citizenship and *(b)* citizenship of countries other than Great Britain; and how many personnel there are of each nationality in the latter. [197103]

Des Browne: Data on the number and citizenship of service personnel serving in Iraq are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Reserve Forces

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role is of formed units in the reserve forces; and if he will make a statement. [196787]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Reserves in formed units, such as Territorial Army (TA) Battalions and Regiments, and Royal Auxilliary Air Force Squadrons, are in most cases maintained to provide a framework which parallels their Regular equivalent, as over the years this has been shown as the most effective and robust method of providing a framework, upon which reservist capability can be recruited, grown, nurtured and trained.

In the case of the TA, it is the basis from which capability can be deployed on operations. Where possible, the Army tries to deploy TA personnel in 'cohorts', groups drawn from units listed on the commitments forecast. However, the current operational requirement dictates that TA capability is deployed variously as individual reinforcements, as formed sub-units and only in some exceptional cases—particularly field hospitals—as formed units. For a large-scale operation a greater proportion of the TA would be deployed as formed sub-units and units, although the latter would still be the exception.

For the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, Squadrons are established for peacetime training purposes only. For the Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve, there are no units formed for operational deployment; they are administrative groupings only. Individuals, within them would deploy as reinforcements to other units.

On 19 March 2008, the Secretary of State announced a review of our Reserve Forces. This will examine how the Reserve can be optimised to meet current and projected defence requirements.

Warships

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to commission a fifth Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship to provide the maximum sea-lift capability recommended in his Department's 1998 operational analysis; and if he will make a statement. [195570]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The modernisation of the Royal Navy's amphibious fleet was completed in 2007 with the introduction into service of RFA Lyme Bay, the fourth of the Bay class Landing Ships Dock (Auxiliary). We have no plans to procure a fifth vessel of this class.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Broxbourne, of 18 February 2008; *Official Report*, column 119W, on ministerial policy advisers (1) if he will provide figures for special advisers separately from the figures in the Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments on Crown servants; [191050]

(2) which special advisers have *(a)* received approval from and *(b)* been refused by the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments to take up an outside appointment on leaving office since May 2005. [191051]

Edward Miliband: Under the "Rules on the Acceptance of Outside Appointments by Crown Servants", the independent Advisory Committee on Business Appointments advises on the approval of applications from the most senior civil servants, including special advisers of equivalent standing. Once a new appointment has been taken up or announced, the Committee publishes information on the application and the advice it gave on it.

Since May 2005, the Advisory Committee has published such information about the appointments of two Special Advisers: Jonathan Powell and Elizabeth Lloyd.

Applications from civil servants, including special advisers, below these levels are dealt with by their employing Departments.

Departments provide collated data annually for publication in the statistical tables of the Advisory Committee's annual reports on the total number of applications they have received, including those subsequently referred to the Committee. These figures show the numbers that were approved unconditionally or approved subject to a condition.

The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments does not intend to collect or publish any additional data on applications under the Rules.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what criteria are used by the Electoral Commission in deciding whether to refer to the police late declarations of donations to regulated donees. [195364]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that, in deciding whether to refer to the police the late reporting of donations by regulated donees, it takes into account, in the first instance, the sufficiency of the evidence and, if that threshold is met, whether it is in the public interest to refer the matter, having due regard to the proportionality of the case.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what the reasons were for the referral by the Electoral Commission of the right hon. Member for Neath to the police for late declaration of donations. [195365]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that this matter is the subject of an ongoing police investigation. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment on it.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what steps have been taken by the Electoral Commission in response to late declarations of donations by *(a)* the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam and *(b)* the hon. Member for Henley. [195366]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that, in line with its usual procedures, it has checked these donations for permissibility and has published the details on its website. It has also written to the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) and the hon. Member for Henley (Mr. Johnson) regarding their failure to report these donations on time.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Government have to place a levy on the purchase of farm plastic. [195663]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have no plans to introduce a levy on farm plastics. However, we intend to consult on proposals to deliver a statutory producer responsibility scheme for the collection of non-packaging farm plastics in late spring 2008.

Climate Change

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will request the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to ensure that all bodies which submit scientific data to the panel publish their data correction methodologies; and if he will make a statement. [196786]

Mr. Woolas: The preparation of all IPCC reports and publications follows strict procedures (available on the IPCC website), and reviews by Governments and experts are essential elements of the preparation of IPCC reports, commenting on the accuracy and completeness of the content and the overall balance of

the drafts. Differing views for which there is significant scientific or technical support are clearly reflected in final IPCC documents.

The IPCC does not commission research or undertake data analysis but reviews peer-reviewed scientific literature. As such, the process of ensuring data analysis and correction techniques are robust and available to the scientific community is not the responsibility of the IPCC but that of the research community itself and the editors of the scientific journals that ultimately publish the body of research that informs the IPCC reviews.

Eaga

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what contracts there are between his Department and Eaga; [194361]

(2) how many complaints his Department has received about work carried out under the Warm Front Scheme. [194362]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA currently holds one contract with Eaga plc, which is to perform the duties of Scheme Manager for the Warm Front Scheme.

Between 1 June 2005 and 13 March 2008 the number of complaints received by Warm Front was 7,614 from a total of 600,000 households.

2,870 of these complaints were upheld. This represents 0.48 per cent. of all households assisted.

Energy: Housing

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to encourage owners of existing housing stock to improve their energy performance rating. [196386]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is taking action to reduce emissions from housing through a number of initiatives such as Warm Front, the Energy Efficiency Commitment (the next phase of which will be called Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), the ActOnCO$_2$ carbon calculator, and the Energy Saving Trust's Energy Efficiency Best Practice Programme for Homes and its newly announced Green Homes Service.

Fisheries: Compensation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken by his Department to provide for compensation to inshore fishermen whose fishing grounds are affected by the construction of offshore wind farms; and if he will make a statement. [196234]

Jonathan Shaw: Compensation is a commercial matter and not for Government intervention. Wind farm developers engage directly with local fishing associations to agree a fair compensation package when their proposed developments are likely to have an impact on local fishermen.

Before any construction can commence, however, wind farm developers have to obtain a range of licences and consents. These include a licence under the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) from the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA).

The MFA will assess the impact of the proposed development on local fishing grounds before deciding whether to issue a FEPA licence. If a licence is granted, it will include a range of conditions to protect the marine environment, including fisheries. Some of these will be site specific. However, all licences stipulate that a suitably qualified fisheries liaison officer be appointed to maintain effective communications between fishermen, the licence holder and contractors.

Pollution Control: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the quantity of ozone-depleting substances in building; and what amount of ozone-depleting emissions has come from this source since 2000. [195933]

Mr. Woolas: The UK does not hold any reliable figures for the quantity of ozone-depleting substances found in insulating foams which are used in the building sector.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to implement EC Regulation 2037/2000 as it applies to the disposal of ozone-depleting substances found in foam in buildings. [195934]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has had recent discussions with industry experts about the scope for greater recovery and destruction of ozone-depleting substances found in building foams. Recovery of ozone-depleting substances from building foams is one of the issues being considered as part of a wider review by the European Commission of EC Regulation 2037/2000.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1278W, which marine protected areas were not included in the list of areas provided but counted within the total of 180 sites reported in the Government's response to the Science and Technology Committee report Investigating the Oceans HC (2006-07) 470. [196218]

Jonathan Shaw: The information supplied to the Science and Technology Committee on around 180 marine protected areas differs from that given in the answer of 5 December 2007; *Official Report*, column 1278W, because of ambiguity in the definition of what constitutes a 'marine' site.

Habitats are considered to be 'marine' if they are covered (continuously or intermittently) by the sea. However, terrestrial sites can also be considered to have marine elements and interpretation of this criterion may lead to differences in reported figures.

Tree Preservation Orders: Guildford

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on tree preservation orders: Guildford, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter of comfort produced by his Department in relation to disposal of the Epsom Road site. [196075]

Joan Ruddock: In my answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1130W, no mention was made of a comfort letter in respect of Tree Preservation Orders. However, if following the identification by the council of those trees from the joint survey considered worthy of protection, the Department considers such a letter necessary for the interim preservation of trees pending the sale, I see no reason not to publish said letter in the House of Commons Library.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who *(a)* funds and *(b)* runs community-based options for substance misuse as alternatives to custody sentences. [196533]

Mr. Hanson: Combined funding from the Department of Health, Home Office and Ministry of Justice known as the pooled treatment budget (PTB) for drug treatment services is allocated annually to drug action team partnerships (DATs). Funding from PTB allocations is supplemented by mainstream funding from the national health service.

The Ministry of Justice contribution (£22 million in the current financial year) pays for the treatment and testing required to deliver the drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) which is the main delivery route for drug interventions within community sentences and is one of 12 requirements available as part of a community order. The overall sentence is supervised and delivered by the national probation service. The treatment is commissioned locally in partnership with the drug action teams (DATs) and is delivered by a range of voluntary and public-sector treatment providers. The national probation service also delivers accredited cognitive behavioural programmes for substance misusers.

Drug action teams receive additional funding—some £110 million in 2008-09—from the Home Office to support delivery of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP). DIP works with drug-misusing offenders to move them out of crime and into treatment. While the programme is not a formal alternative to custody its emphasis is on working with offenders, particularly in the community, from their earliest point of contact with the criminal justice system.

Courts: Security

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what minimum level of training is required for security staff in courts; and if he will make a statement. [196528]

Maria Eagle: Security in courts is provided by designated court security officers, appointed by the Lord Chancellor who devolves this power to the Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS).

The training requirements for court security officers is set out in the Court Security Officers (Designation) Regulations 2005 which were made by the Lord Chancellor exercising the powers conferred on him by section 51 of the Courts Act 2003.

Under these regulations, before a person is designated as a court security officer, he must provide evidence that he has completed training courses in the following:

(a) the duties and powers of a court security officer;

(b) risk assessment;

(c) safe working practices;

(d) managing stress when dealing with threatening situations; and

(e) techniques for restraining a person and removing them from the building.

In addition, security staff in courts are required to follow the guidance provided in the security policy document of Her Majesty's Courts Service: Safe and Secure. This sets out the minimum standards for security in courts according to the function of the separate areas within each building.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department in 2007-08 on *(a)* consultants and *(b)* agency staff. [191951]

Maria Eagle: Expenditure with external consultants since the Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007 is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, from April 2007 until September 2007, the former Department for Constitutional Affairs and those bodies that were formerly part of the Home Office and are now part of the Ministry of Justice spent £5.5 million on external consultants.

The use of agency staff is devolved to separate business areas within the Ministry of Justice. The following table provides a breakdown of the most current figures held by organisation:

Organisation	*Period*	*Value (£)*
Former DCA	April 2007 to February 2008	10,600,000
HM Prison Service	April 2007 to February 2008	10,800,000
NOMS	April 2007 to December 2007	1,200,000
OCJR	April 2007 to January 2008	112,000

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193448]

Mr. Wills: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Empty Property

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vacant properties his Department owns; how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months; and what the value of each property is. [196290]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry owns one property that has been vacant for longer than three months, three that have been vacant for longer than six months and four that have been vacant for longer than 12 months. The estimated value of each property is set out as follows.

			Value (£)
Property	*Vacant >3 months <6months*	*Vacant >6 months <12 months*	*Vacant >12 months*
1	200,000		
2		600,000	
3		1,175,000	
4		235,000	
5			360,000
6			2,004,400
7			800,000
8			182,000

All the properties are non-residential and are vacant awaiting sale. They are owned by Her Majesty's Court Service.

In addition, the Prison Service owns residential properties. The number of vacancies varies but it is estimated to be between 25 and 30 at any one time and they are disposed of as soon as is practicable. Details of vacancies are not held centrally. Each individual prison establishment would need to be contacted to establish the exact number of vacancies, which would be at disproportionate cost to the Ministry.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1203-4W, on departmental ICT, when he expects to publish the detailed and assured delivery plans. [196152]

Maria Eagle: An announcement on the delivery plan for Prison NOMIS project is expected by the end of April following the conclusion of commercial negotiations which are currently under way. Delivery plans for the other NOMIS programme constituent projects will follow after commercial negotiations specific to them are complete.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193560]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007.

In February 2007, 32,589 staff were employed in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, including the Adjudicator to HM Land Registry (staff), the Judicial Appointments Commission and the Legal Services Ombudsman. A total of 175 staff were contributing to recognised Additional Voluntary Contribution, partnership and stakeholder pension schemes. This total represents 0.54 per cent. of employees.

In February 2008, the Ministry of Justice—including HM Prison Service, the National Offender Management Service, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the Youth Justice Board, the Parole Board, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and the National Probation Service employed 87,897 staff, of which 875 staff were contributing to recognised Additional Voluntary Schemes, partnership and stakeholder pension schemes. This total represents 0.99 per cent. of employees.

Marriage: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when legislative changes to eligibility for marriage in the Church of England will be implemented in Wales. [196160]

Mr. Wills: Changes to the rules on where people can marry in the Church of Wales are a matter for that Church to propose. The Church in Wales is disestablished and a separate member of the Anglican Communion from the Church of England. Church of England Measures cannot extend to the Church in Wales.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of foreign nationals sentenced to custody was recommended by the sentencing court for deportation on completion of sentence in each of the last 10 years. [187105]

Mr. Hanson: Information on what proportion of foreign nationals sentenced to custody were recommended by the sentencing court for deportation on completion of their sentence in each of the last 10 years is not available.

However, over 4,200 foreign national prisoners have been removed or deported from the UK in 2007.

Offenders: Employment Schemes

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent on providing employment programmes for offenders *(a)* in custody and *(b)* serving community sentences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [196123]

(2) what funding has been allocated for the provision of employment programmes for offenders (*a*) in custody and (*b*) serving community sentences for 2008-09, broken down by funding source; and if he will make a statement. [196124]

Maria Eagle: Improving the skills and employment outcomes for offenders is one of our key objectives for reducing reoffending, and our priorities for action are set out in the 'Reducing Re-Offending through Skills and Employment: Next Steps' plan. The Ministry of Justice works closely with the Departments for Innovation, Universities and Skills and for Work and Pensions to take this forward.

We recently published a Prison Policy Update briefing paper which set out our intention to increase the range of employment programmes available to offenders inside prison. This will be done in partnership with the private, public and voluntary sectors, which generally fund the work or training programme delivered. Individual prisons may need to cover the cost of setting up the programme, but this information is not held centrally.

Similarly, offenders in the community are given opportunities to carry out unpaid work with private, public and voluntary sector employers. Probation areas may need to cover the costs of establishing the relationships with employers, but this information is not held centrally.

In addition to these links with employers, offenders have access to DWP programmes aimed at getting disadvantaged groups into employment such as New Deal and Progress2Work. Information about these programmes is offered via Jobcentre Plus advisers, including in prisons through their employment and benefit advisers.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent on providing resettlement programmes for offenders (*a*) in custody and (*b*) serving community sentences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [196125]

(2) what funding has been allocated for the provision of resettlement programmes for offenders (*a*) in custody and (*b*) serving community sentences for 2008-09, broken down by funding source; and if he will make a statement. [196126]

Maria Eagle: The funding for the delivery of providing resettlement programmes is part of establishment baselines, so it is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of this work. Governors and area managers may allocate funds from their budgets to support local initiatives or partnerships with outside organisations or the voluntary sector to address particular needs, but this information is not recorded centrally.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on providing drug and alcohol treatment for offenders (*a*) in custody and (*b*) serving community sentences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196129]

Mr. Hanson: Drug treatment funding allocated to prisons in England and Wales over the past 10 years is shown in the following table. Prison funding used specifically for alcohol treatment is not separated from overall drug treatment funding.

	Prison drug treatment[1] *(£ million)*
1989-99	7.3
1999-2000	12.6
2000-01	16.5
2001-02	27.3
2002-03	28.7
2003-04	37.7
2004-05	51.1
2005-06	60.7
2006-07	78.1
2007-08	79.8

[1] This includes clinical interventions (detoxification and maintenance prescribing), CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service), YPSMS (Young People's Substance Misuse Services) and intensive drug rehabilitation programmes.
[2] Indicative

Some primary care trusts supplement central allocations with some local funding for clinical services. However, this information is not recorded centrally.

Provision for the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders with drug misuse problems under the National Probation Service's supervision is primarily delivered through the Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR), which has replaced the Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO). The Ministry of Justice contributes to the Pooled Treatment Budget to pay for the treatment and testing for these orders. Probation areas are also funded to provide the supervision and enforcement of these orders. Before the introduction of the DTTO in 2000, treatment and rehabilitation for drug misusing offenders was commissioned at the local probation area level and was not recorded centrally.

Provision for the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders with alcohol misuse problems under the National Probation Service's supervision is commissioned at the local probation area level and is not recorded centrally.

A breakdown of funding for DTTOs/DRRs is shown in the following table. The treatment is commissioned locally in partnership with the drug action teams and is delivered by a range of voluntary and public sector treatment providers. We do not centrally record what proportion of each DAT's budget is specifically spent on Drug Rehabilitation Requirements.

£ million

	Amount paid to pooled treatment budget to fund DTTO/DRR treatment and testing in England	*Allocation to probation areas to fund DTTO/DRR supervision and enforcement costs in England and full DTTO/DRR costs in Wales*
2000-01	[1]20	
2001-02	14.8	21.2
2002-03	20	16
2003-04	29.7	24
2004-05	[2]42	34
2005-06	42	39

	Amount paid to pooled treatment budget to fund DTTO/DRR treatment and testing in England	£ million Allocation to probation areas to fund DTTO/DRR supervision and enforcement costs in England and full DTTO/DRR costs in Wales
2006-07	42	39
2007-08	42	39

£20 million was made available to probation areas in England and Wales to fund DTTOs from October 2007-March 2008 before the establishment of the Pooled Treatment Budget. The contribution to the PTB includes £20 million permanent transfer to the Department of Health and an annual uplift of £22 million.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding has been allocated for the provision of drug and alcohol treatment for offenders (*a*) in custody and (*b*) serving community sentences for 2008-09, broken down by funding source; and if he will make a statement. [196130]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows indicative funding for prison drug treatment funding for 2008-09 by source. Figures may be subject to change.

Some additional clinical drug treatment funding for prisons may be sourced locally by primary care trusts, but this information is not recorded centrally.

Funding for alcohol treatment is not separated from overall drug treatment funding.

Drug/Alcohol Treatment Intervention	Source	£ million Allocation 2008-09
Clinical Services (detoxification/maintenance prescribing)	Primary Care Trusts (Department of Health)	35.7
CARAT+ Drug Rehabilitation Programmes	Ministry of Justice	51.1
Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS)[1]	Ministry of Justice	4.3
Total		91.1

[1] Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare service

Provision for the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders with drug misuse problems under the National Probation Service's supervision is primarily delivered through the Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR), which has replaced the Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO). The Ministry of Justice expects to contribute £22 million in 2008-09 to the Pooled Treatment Budget (PTB) (in addition to a £20 million permanent transfer to the Department of Health) to pay for the treatment and testing for these orders. Probation areas are also broadly expected to spend £39 million to provide the supervision and enforcement of these orders.

For offenders who are not sentenced to a specific drug misuse requirement as part of their community order, but who want or need to access treatment, referral to community drug services/clinical treatment is carried out on a voluntary basis. Offenders will have to access local treatment services on the same basis as the rest of the population, and we do not centrally record the cost of each offender on the probation caseload who accesses treatment in this way.

Provision for the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders with alcohol misuse problems under the National Probation Service's supervision is commissioned at local probation area level and is not recorded centrally. In particular, probation areas' ability to deliver alcohol treatment as part of a community sentence depends largely on the nature and extent of provision commissioned by local primary care trusts (PCTs) as part of NHS provision. In addition, the Ministry of Justice will be making seed funding available to probation areas to identify, support and disseminate best practice in working with alcohol misusers, although the exact sum has yet to be finalised.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were (*a*) doubling up in cells designed for one and (*b*) trebling up in cells designed for two on the latest date for which figures are available. [196151]

Maria Eagle: At the end of February, 19,382 prisoners were reported as being doubled up in cells certified to hold one person and 1,207 prisoners were reported as being trebled up in cells certified to hold two people.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the (*a*) original and (*b*) revised algorithm on the ICA1 form as referred to in Prison Service Instruction 07/2008. [196149]

Maria Eagle: The revision to the algorithm on the ICA1 form takes account of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection with short tariffs of three years and under. The revised algorithm for allocation of such prisoners means that, unless a risk assessment indicates otherwise, these prisoners will be assessed as Category C and allocated to the Category C training estate. Here they will be able to access a wider range of offending behaviour programmes. Copies of the original and revised forms will be placed in the Library.

Prisoners: Dorchester Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at HMP Dorchester (*a*) self-harmed, (*b*) committed suicide and (*c*) died of (i) natural and (ii) unnatural causes in each of the last 52 weeks for which figures are available. [196400]

Maria Eagle: Information about self-harm cannot be provided in the requested format. However, there have been an estimated 53 incidents of self-harm at HMP Dorchester in the last 52 weeks.

There has been one death at HMP Dorchester in the last 52 weeks and that was self-inflicted.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of the prison population have been held in (*a*) NHS and (*b*) independent sector mental healthcare places in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196068]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The latest available statistics, as shown in the following table, show that the following numbers of prisoners were transferred from prison custody to hospital in the years between 1997 and 2006:

	Number
1997	746
1998	739
1999	731
2000	662
2001	635
2002	644
2003	722
2004	831
2005	834
2006	894

Source:
Ministry of Justice Statistical Bulletin
Statistics of Mentally Disordered Offenders 2006 England and Wales

Figures are not available showing the breakdown between the national health service and the independent sector.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment the Department has made of the number and proportion of the prison population with one or more mental health condition, broken down by condition; and if he will make a statement. [196070]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

A survey, 'Psychiatric Morbidity among Prisoners in England and Wales' (Office for National Statistics (ONS), 1997) showed that 90 per cent. of prisoners have at least one significant mental health problem, including personality disorder, psychosis, neurosis, alcohol misuse and drug dependence.

Although the 1997 ONS study is now quite old, it is still regarded as an accurate reflection of the situation today.

Prisoners: Personal Records

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1118-19W, on Prisoners: Personal Records, what records his Department holds on the average length of time taken for a prisoner's full records to be received by the prison of destination following transfer. [196155]

Maria Eagle: Information is not held centrally on the time it takes for these records to transfer from one prison to another, but the principle is that the form travels with the prisoner's escorting officer and so the transfer should be immediate.

Reoffenders: Research

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the relationship between prison regimes and reoffending rates; and if he will publish such research. [196150]

Mr. Hanson: No specific research has been commissioned to investigate the relationship between aspects of prison regimes and reoffending. However, the latest available reoffending data, for the 2004 cohort of adult prisoners discharged from custody, show that reoffending decreased by 4.6 per cent. between 2000 and 2004 after controlling for changes in offender characteristics. Reoffending behaviour can be influenced by not just the programmes run in prisons, but the work of probation services and other partners once the offender has been released, as well as a wider range of socio-economic factors.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were employed in his Department's press office in each of the last five years; and how much it cost to run the office, including utilities and other expenses, in each year. [187051]

Mr. Woodward: The number of people employed in Northern Ireland Information Service (NIIS), the Communications Directorate of the Northern Ireland Office, for each of the last five years is detailed in the following table.

	Press officers	Admin/support staff	Total
2002-03	15	28	43
2003-04	11	25	36
2004-05	14	28	42
2005-06	12	26	38
2006-07	14	23	37

The operating budget for NIIS for each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	£
2002-03	1,951,872.14
2003-04	1,890,132.42
2004-05	1,769,763.96
2005-06	1,599,059.78
2006-07	1,605,463.68

These figures include staff salaries and all salary related costs including other expenditure incurred in pursuance of our overall objective of presenting and explaining Government policy in Northern Ireland by appropriately communicating the objectives of the NIO in a positive, timely, impartial and professional manner.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation,

were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194987]

Mr. Woodward: Five cases brought against the Northern Ireland Office Core Department by its staff were settled during the time specified. Four cases were on grounds of sex, two in 2004-05, one in 2006-07 and one in 2007-08. There was one case on grounds of race in 2003-04. All cases were settled out of court. There were no cases during this period based on sexual orientation.

The NIO has procedures in place for dealing with complaints of discrimination and the majority of complaints brought by staff will be dealt with under these procedures without recourse to tribunals.

In accordance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, all personnel policies affecting staff are screened to ensure that they do not have an adverse effect on any of the nine groups specified under the legislation, which include gender, race and sexual orientation. In addition, NIO staff receive training on avoiding discriminatory behaviour in the workplace, including such behaviour on the basis of gender, race and sexual orientation. Until recently, this took the form of mandatory equal opportunities awareness training for new staff as part of their induction. This has been replaced by a new diversity course which is currently being rolled out to the whole Department.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Newtownabbey	42	57	45	63	62
North Down	76	98	116	105	96
Urban	817	1,087	1,079	1,35	1,179
Armagh	44	67	71	98	56
Banbridge	101	140	153	122	126
Ballymena	11	9	13	14	9
Ballymoney	55	49	32	46	28
Coleraine	108	138	147	181	232
Cookstown	43	76	76	98	74
Craigavon	101	102	126	191	196
Dungannon and S Tyrone	38	78	104	102	82
Down	58	90	74	101	76
Fermanagh	42	54	78	75	48
Foyle	125	141	146	163	136
Limavady	35	64	70	110	97
Magherafelt	35	56	42	40	40
Moyle	6	11	10	16	17
Newry and Mourne	43	78	60	80	65
Omagh	74	78	97	159	97
Strabane	45	29	24	36	32
Rural	964	1,260	1,323	1,632	1,411
Total	1,781	2,347	2,402	2,767	2,590

Source: Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Drug Seizures

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many seizures of illegal drugs were made in each district command unit in each of the last five years. [194750]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out details the number of seizures of illegal drugs made in each District Command Unit in each of the last five years.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Antrim	23	75	89	97	87
Ards	48	63	46	40	37
East Belfast	54	125	100	100	81
North Belfast	150	154	154	215	229
South Belfast	149	221	228	219	266
West Belfast	70	50	58	68	97
Carrickfergus	38	61	64	50	29
Castlereagh	35	55	48	45	41
Larne	31	40	10	15	29
Lisburn	101	88	121	118	125

Drugs: Sentencing

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons are serving a custodial sentence for *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol-related offences, broken down by (i) age, (ii) sex and (iii) offence. [194755]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 gives the total number of sentenced prisoners currently in prison in Northern Ireland as at 19 March 2008, where the main sentence being served is for a drugs related offence. Table 1 has been split to provide the age group and gender breakdown of these prisoners.

Tables 2 and 3 give a separate breakdown for males and females by age group and the individual drug related offences for which they have been sentenced. It should be noted that since individual prisoners may have been sentenced for multiple drug offences, the total numbers referred to in Tables 2 and 3 reflect the number of individual offences rather than individual prisoners sentenced.

The Prison Service database does not record information on the number of prisoners in custody for alcohol-related offences.

Table 1: Sentenced prisoners in custody in Northern Ireland on 19 March 2008, where the main sentence being served is for a drugs related offence, broken down by age group and gender

	Age								
	16-20	21-25	26-30	31 -35	36-40	4 -45	46-50	51+	Total
Male	2	3	17	10	9	8	2	5	56
Female	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2

Table 1: Sentenced prisoners in custody in Northern Ireland on 19 March 2008, where the main sentence being served is for a drugs related offence, broken down by age group and gender

	Age								
	16-20	*21-25*	*26-30*	*31-35*	*36-40*	*41-45*	*46-50*	*51+*	*Total*
Total	2	3	18	11	9	8	2	5	58

Table 2: Drug related sentences being served by male prisoners in custody[1] in Northern Ireland on 19 March 2008, broken down by age group

	Age								
	16-20	*21-25*	*26-30*	*31-35*	*36-40*	*41-45*	*46-50*	*51+*	*Total*
Attempted possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply								1	1
Being concerned in supply of a controlled drug				1					1
Conspiracy to supply class A drugs					2				2
Conspiracy to possess drugs					1				1
Cultivating cannabis			1	2		1			4
Exporting controlled drugs							1		1
Fraud exporting class C controlled drugs						2			2
Fraud importing class A controlled drugs					1	1		1	3
Importing controlled drugs				1					1
Possession of class A controlled drug with intent to supply		4	10	3	5	2	2	3	29
Possession of class B controlled drug with intent to supply		1	3			1	1	1	7
Possession of class C controlled drug with intent to supply	1		12	1	3	3	2	1	23
Possession of class A controlled drugs	1	3	6	5	3	2	5	3	28
Possession of class B controlled drugs			3	1	1	1	2	1	9
Possession of class C controlled drugs		2	9	3	6	1	2	1	24
Producing class C controlled drugs			1						1
Supplying class A controlled drugs		2		4	1	1	1	2	11
Supplying class C controlled drugs		1	1	1		1			4
Total	2	13	46	22	23	16	16	14	152

[1] This relates solely to prisoners where the main offence being served is for a drugs related offence.

Table 3: Drug related sentences being served by female prisoners in custody[1] in Northern Ireland on 19 March 2008, broken down by age group

	Age								
	16-20	*21-25*	*26-30*	*31-35*	*36-40*	*41-45*	*46-50*	*51+*	*Total*
Importing controlled drugs			1						1
Possession of class A controlled drug with intent to supply				1					1
Total			1	1					2

[1] This relates solely to prisoners where the main offence being served is for a drugs related offence.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of migrant workers in Northern Ireland; and how many employers have been *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* prosecuted for paying migrant workers less than the minimum wage since its introduction. [192354]

Paul Goggins: Following restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly on 8 May 2007, employment matters have been the responsibility of the devolved administration. I therefore do not hold statistics on the number of migrant workers in Northern Ireland.

However, enforcement throughout the UK of the national minimum wage is the responsibility of HM Revenue and Customs on behalf of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The number of employers in Northern Ireland who have been found to have underpaid workers since 1 April 2001 is set out in the following table. It is not possible to identify how many of these relate to migrant workers, and this information could be provided only at disproportionate expense.

Number of employers in Northern Ireland found to have been underpaying the national minimum wage

2001-02	244
2002-03	213
2003-04	218
2000-05	204
2005-06	170
2006-07	140
2007-08	118

Ipsos Mori

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what payments his Department and its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194309]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies did not make any payments to Ipos MORI in the last 24 months.

Motor Vehicles: Theft

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many (a) vehicles were stolen and (b) persons were convicted of vehicle theft in North Belfast District Command Unit in each of the last five years. [194757]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 sets out the number of vehicles stolen in North Belfast District Command Unit in each of the last five years.

Table 2 sets out the number of persons with an address in North Belfast District Command Unit prosecuted and convicted of vehicle theft in each of the last five calendar years, 2006 being the latest available.

Table 1

	Number of vehicles stolen
2002-03	882
2003-04	568
2004-05	498
2005-06	344
2006-07	347

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Table 2

	Prosecutions	*Convictions*
2002	25	23
2003	43	36
2004	41	31
2005	23	22
2006	33	27

PSNI data on numbers of arrests is not directly comparable with statistics on conviction, as the offence recorded initially may differ from that which is used in court.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Environment Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent steps the Government have taken to minimise the undesirable effects on the environment of the 2012 Olympics. [196887]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* In the London 2012 Sustainability Plan, "Towards a One Planet Olympics", published in November 2007, the Olympic Board sets out how it intends to achieve a sustainable games for each of the build, staging and legacy phases. For example, the design of the Olympic Park will minimise water use, carbon emissions and the impacts of climate change.

This year, the ODA will publish a Biodiversity Action Plan which will consider key issues including minimising and mitigating the impact of 2012 development activity, creating new habitats and protecting sensitive species.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether 2012 Olympic competitions which involve handguns will be staged in Northern Ireland; and if she will make a statement. [196361]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Following consultation, the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich in London was selected as the venue for all the shooting events at the games. The advantage of this venue is that it is close to the Olympic Park and Village, which will improve the athlete and spectator experience by limiting travel and making it easier to attend other games events on the same day in the Olympic Park.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what consideration she has given to the location of *(a)* training facilities and *(b)* competitions for handgun shooting as part of the 2012 Olympics; whether primary legislation is required to facilitate handgun (i) training and (ii) competition in preparation for and as part of the 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [196362]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Following consultation, the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich in London was selected as the competition venue for all the shooting events at the games.

The London Organising Committee's Pre-Games Training Guide to be published at the Beijing Games identifies a number of high-quality shooting facilities throughout the United Kingdom where air pistol target shooting can be undertaken.

There is no need for primary legislation. It has already been agreed in principle to use the existing powers in section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 to allow a small number of potential Olympic pistol shooters to practise on Ministry of Defence ranges in Great Britain ahead of the London Olympics. The same powers will be used to enable pistol-shooting disciplines to form part of the games.

Olympic Games 2012: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Henley of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 47W, on Olympic Games 2012: Training, when the National Construction Skills Academy project on the Olympic Park will be established; and when she expects the first apprentice to qualify from the project. [195900]

Tessa Jowell: The ODA was granted the status of National Skills Academy for Construction (NSAfC) in November 2007 and the Plant Training Centre, which is part of the NSAfC, opened at the end of December 2007. The academy was formally launched with the ODA's Employment and Skills Strategy on 19 February 2008.

To date 57 people have passed the theory and practical test at the Plant Training Centre. Each of these now needs to complete further training in employment to consolidate their full NVQ level 2 qualification. It is expected that this will be completed by September this year for the earlier graduates from the centre.

Details of the level 3 (electricians) apprenticeships are still being finalised with the relevant Skills Council. The first group of adult apprenticeships is expected to start in September 2008. These people, who are already at level 2, will take a further two years in college and in employment training to qualify, and will complete in autumn 2010. The first group of 16 to 24-year-old apprentices are also due to start in September 2008 on full four-year apprenticeships ending in autumn 2012.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1298W, on Olympic Games 2012: Expenditure, what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose of each of the 19 projects is. [195915]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) requires approval for expenditure on projects valued at over £20 million and projects that are novel or contentious regardless of value. Gross cost estimates (including VAT) are provided below for nine of the 19 projects approved to date.

	£ million
Olympic Stadium	496
Logistics	337
Enabling Works	364
Stratford Regional Station	119
Contribution to North London Line	110
Contribution to DLR Upgrade	86
ODA Insurance Programme	50
Thornton's Field Relocation	47
Contribution to Prescott Channel Control Structure	5

Details of cost estimates for the ODA delivery partner, CLM, will be included in the next ODA annual report, scheduled for publication in summer 2008.

As the remaining approved projects are in contract negotiation or subject to statutory process, cost information remains commercially sensitive at the present time.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what percentage of training the Olympic Delivery Authority plans to offer to young people in London in construction will be to *(a)* NVQ level 2 and *(b)* NVQ level 3. [196372]

Tessa Jowell: Around 2,000 trainees are expected to be on the Olympic site over the period of construction and between 85 per cent. and 90 per cent. of these (1,700 to 1,800) are likely to be NVQ level 2. The exact number of trainees and apprenticeships will be agreed by the National Skills Academy for Construction Partnership Board as part of the ongoing process of establishing the training plan.

The ODA strategy is focused on getting people into work and then on to the first level of training. The initial forecasts of the skill requirements for the Olympic site indicate that the requirement will be mainly civil engineering and construction skills rather than the traditional building craft skills.

Accordingly, it is currently expected that the vast majority of the trainee places will be NVQ level 2 and a minority at level 3. In addition there will be a significant proportion of level 3 trainees/apprenticeships on the Olympic Village.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of her Department's initiatives and those of its predecessors have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192234]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure for the Department's advertising campaigns from the 2002-03 fiscal year, when the Department for Transport was formed, is in the following table.

The majority of campaign advertising investment by the Department is in support of the "THINK!" road safety and the "Act on CO2" campaigns. Major advertising investment by Executive Agencies has been by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, to explain changes to the car tax rules.

Following departmental reorganisations, providing total expenditure figures for prior to 2002-03 fiscal year would involve disproportionate costs.

Department	*Campaign*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
DfT	THINK! (£ million)	9.5	10.3	8.75	11.57	9.2
	Transport Direct (£000)			240	865	405
	Act on CO2 (£ million)					3.59
DVLA	Sale of Marks (£ million)	2.032	2.149	2.534	2.335	3.006
	VED Enforcement* (£ million)	2.921	8.630	5.961	4.165	5.596
	Accelerated Issue of Harmonised Registration Certificate (£ million)			1.424	1.211	
	Mandatory V5 (log book) (£ million)	3.755	1.144			
	Others (£000)	695	1,886	1,026	677	799

Department	Campaign	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
HA	Introduction of Traffic Officer Service (£000)				330	
MCA	Dial 999 for the Coastguard (£000)	8.5	8.5	9.1	15.5	9.9
VGA	n/a					
VOSA	n/a					
DSA	Passplus/other advertising (£000)	Nil	76	32	15	148

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from her Department since 1997. [193440]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Other than in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for her Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196446]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the trade unions representing staff in her Department requested the health and standard rules in respect of Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme ill-health benefits to be changed; what her Department's response was; and when this response was made. [190928]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The trade unions wrote to the Department of Transport on 23 May 2007. Unfortunately, a formal response was not sent until 20 March 2008 owing to an oversight. Changes to the pension scheme rules relating to ill-health benefits were applied in the Department in 2007.

Departmental Responsibilities

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultation and *(c)* taskforces the Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) scheduled to undertake; on what date each such initiative that is under way (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [171481]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport undertakes extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders.

The readily available information relating to ad hoc reviews, groups and taskforces is summarised as follows:

Reviews

Forthcoming: Road Safety Strategy after 2010

Started: Early 2008

Completed: Mid 2009

Purpose: Development of new road safety strategy after 2010.

The Department is currently contributing to the cross-government review on data security announced by the Prime Minister on the 21 November 2007.

Groups

Eddington Friends

Started: May 2005

Completed: Contract due to cease December 2008 (possibility of extension).

Purpose: Quarterly meeting of academics, original purpose was to advice on progress of the Eddington Study. Since completion of the study have been considering other analytical issues.

Access to Air Travel working Group

Started: June 2007

Completion: July 2008

Purpose: Informal group of industry representatives to review the code of practice "Access to Air Travel for Disabled People".

Compliance Stakeholder Group

Started: 28 May 2004

Completion: Ongoing

Purpose: The CSG seeks to involve stakeholders in the work being undertaken by the SSDL Group to develop a programme of measures aimed at improving the compliance of all drivers and vehicles and reducing vehicle related crime.

Road Safety Advisory Panel

Started: July 2000

Completed: Ongoing

Purpose: Advises on casualty reduction targets to be delivered in 2010. Representation on it will be reviewed every three years. Group membership is more akin to an internal committee than an external body.

Aviation Fuel Task Group

Started: June 2007

Completion: Ongoing

Purpose: A joint Government industry group, jointly chaired by DfT and BERR, looking at strategic short, medium and long term fuel demand and supply issues.

External Advisory Group

Started: September 2004

Completion: Ongoing

Purpose: Chaired by the Department for Transport's Director of Airports Strategy, made up of representatives from industry (airports, airlines, freight carriers), environmental organisations and other interest groups.

The role of the BAG is to maintain a formal channel of communication between the DfT and key external stakeholders on airport-related issues. EAG meetings provide an opportunity for all members to share information and exchange views as part of the Air Transport White Paper implementation programme.

Disruptive Passenger Working Group

Started: November 1998

Completion: Ongoing

Purpose: To advise Ministers on measures to minimise the frequency and potential impact of disruptive behaviour on board aircraft. The Group, chaired by the Department includes participants from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the Association of Chief Police Officers, the British Air Transport Association, the UK Flight Safety Committee, the Board of Airline Representatives in the UK, and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

A key action from the Group was establishing a standardised reporting scheme to monitor incidents of unruly behaviour on board UK aircraft and to assess what action was required to address such behaviour. This information is collated by the CAA and published on the Department website. Latest statistics will be published on 6 December 2007. Previous statistics can be viewed at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/hci/db/disruptivebehaviouronboarduk1056

Aviation Health Working Group

Started: March 2001

Completion: Ongoing

Purpose: Set up in response to the House of Lords Select Committee Inquiry into Air Travel and Health, and provides a forum at which Government and industry stakeholders discuss and advice Ministers on aviation health issues. The Group meets quarterly and includes a smaller Research-Sub Group which meets when required. Membership includes OGDs, CAA, interested industry representatives. The Group invites presentations from other parties as necessary. The Group's mission statement agreed in 2001 is to:

Provide a forum for interested Government Departments and Agencies to consider issues relevant to aviation health;

Provide an interface with the air transport industry, health experts and other interested parties on aviation health issues of mutual interest;

Evaluate the need for research into issues related to air travel and health, and consider the role of Government in supporting such research;

Ensure Ministers are kept informed and receive comprehensive advice on aviation health matters;

Monitor developments that impinge on the health of those travelling by air."

Minutes of meetings are placed on the DfT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/hci/ahwg/minutes/

Maritime Statistics Advisory Group

Started: 23 October 2007

Completion: Ongoing

Purpose: Standing group to advise DfT on maritime statistics development.

Concessionary Fares Working Group

Started: 2005

Completion: Ongoing

Purpose: Comprises local authority and operator representatives and provides advice on the implementation of the statutory bus concession.

Low Carbon Fuels Partnership

Started: January 2003

Completion: Ongoing

Purpose: The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership was established in 2003 with the mission of accelerating a sustainable shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels in the UK and thereby stimulating opportunities for the UK. The Partnership aims to achieve this mission by: facilitating membership initiatives; providing policy support to Government Departments and others; and undertaking research to improve understanding.

Consultations

Information on consultations is published on the 10 Downing Street website at:

www.pm.gov.uk

All current DfT consultations can be found on the website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/

Information on DfT Agencies and NDPBs can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/how/ndpb/departmentfortransportannual1024

Departmental Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many written questions to her Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193402]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information in the format requested by the hon. Member could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, from 6 November 2007, a total of 1,494 written questions were tabled to the Department for Transport for written answer on or before 25 February 2008.

Of these, 346 were named day questions and 208 were answered on the due date. At 11 March, three named day questions from the period remain unanswered by the Department.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of her Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194989]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is in the following table. The DfT response has been summarised into a total over the past five full calendar years to protect individuals' identities.

Last five (full calendar) years	Number of cases	Settled in court	Settled out of court
Sex	5	1	4
Race	5	1	4
Sexual orientation	Less than 5	n/a	n/a

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Data Protection

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to prevent the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency from passing drivers' personal details to commercial third parties without permission in any circumstances; and if she will make a statement. [196780]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information held on the DVLA's driver register is only released to commercial companies with the explicit consent of the data subject. Data is only released on the Car Hire Line (0906 139 3837) if the driver is present and verbally confirms consent, or has already telephoned and left permission that has been recorded on the driver's record. There are no plans to change this position.

Vehicle keeper information is released from the DVLA's vehicle register where there is a statutory requirement to do so. This includes anyone who can demonstrate a 'reasonable cause' for requesting that information.

Driving Standards Agency: Data Protection

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms have been put in place to prevent future data losses by the Driving Standards Agency; and if she will make a statement. [180498]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 626-6, by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on measures to improve the security of personal data.

The following measures have been put in place to prevent future data losses by the Driving Standards Agency and its contractors:

Following identification of the loss in Iowa, immediate measures were introduced to secure bulk transfers of data through use of point to point delivery or secure courier where appropriate.

A review of all transfers of data was instigated. This is due to be completed shortly.

Reminders of current procedures (where still appropriate) and new instructions concerning handling of data were communicated to all Driving Standards Agency staff in the form of email, and messages on the Agency's intranet.

The data, held by NCS Pearson for the purpose of the backup of DSA data, and referred to in the Secretary of State's statement of 17 December 2007, are now transferred electronically rather than on hard disc.

Further, additional security measures such as CCTV and reduced staff access have been instigated at NCS Pearson's premises in Iowa, USA.

A data protection audit is currently in progress. This covers assessment of all Pearson's data handling and storage procedures, including the use of primary and secondary back-ups to ensure that all the design, procedural and process safeguards are in place.

Heathrow Airport: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the impact of her proposal for Heathrow expansion on each of the Government's emissions reduction objectives. [194001]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Emissions from international aviation do not currently score as UK emissions. The Climate Change Bill includes provisions which would enable Ministers to include international aviation emissions in UK totals in the event of developments in international carbon reporting practices for the sector.

The UK is continuing to press for the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). As the Heathrow consultation document states, under current proposals aviation emissions would effectively be capped at the average level over the period 2004 to 2006. This means that when the trading scheme is established, any additional aviation emissions above that level would lead to no increase in total emissions, since airlines would have to pay for the equivalent emissions reductions in other sectors.

Motorcycles: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many multi-purpose test centres will be required for the implementation of the second European driving licence directive for motorcycles; how many are currently in operation; and if she will make a statement. [196707]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The second European driving licence directive EC 2000/56 gives member states some discretion on how to implement the directive. Following ministerial approval, the Driving Standards Agency plans to deliver the new motorcycling test from a national network of around 60 multi-purpose test centres. Currently 17 centres are operational.

Road Accidents

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents were recorded in each region in each of the last five years; how many of these resulted in (*a*) fatalities and (*b*) injuries; and if she will make a statement. [197434]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents in each region by severity from 2002 to 2006 are given in the table.

Number of accidents

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
Region	Fatal	Injury[1]	Fatal	Injury[1]	Fatal	Injury[1]	Fatal	Injury[1]	Fatal	Injury[1]
North East	117	8,163	123	8,222	119	7,994	98	7,640	104	7,222
North West	306	27,616	371	26,462	303	26,201	326	25,121	298	23,172

Number of accidents

Region	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Fatal	*Injury*[1]	*Fatal*	*Injury*[1]	*Fatal*	*Injury*[1]	*Fatal*	*Injury*[1]	*Fatal*	*Injury*[1]
Yorkshire and the Humber	294	20,037	296	19,591	288	18,488	276	16,947	278	16,655
East Midlands	324	15,579	335	15,191	269	14,931	270	14,550	299	13,789
West Midlands	272	20,266	298	19,513	264	18,769	262	18,299	271	17,469
East of England	351	20,711	337	20,098	337	20,061	318	19,205	318	17,892
South East	474	30,774	487	29,382	441	28,842	460	28,035	422	27,573
London	267	33,733	259	31,585	208	28,570	205	26,607	221	24,608
South West	312	18,140	281	17,601	285	17,659	280	17,739	272	16,589
Wales	133	9,567	162	9,582	183	9,352	154	8,561	150	8,551
Scotland	274	14,041	298	13,556	281	13,565	264	13,118	293	12,715
GB	3,124	218,627	3,247	210,783	2,978	204,432	2,913	195,822	2,926	186,235

[1] Serious or slight injury accident

Speed Limits

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the maximum speed limit for *(a)* a single carriageway road and *(b)* a dual carriageway road which has been permanently constricted to a single carriageway for a set distance. [196175]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The Department has, from time to time, received representations from interested parties requesting information on the maximum speed limit for dual carriageways, including dual carriageways constricted to a single carriageway.

The maximum speed limit for cars on a single carriageway road is 60 mph. The maximum speed limit for cars on a dual carriageway is 70 mph.

If a dual carriageway is constricted to a single carriageway, the speed limit will be reduced from 70 mph to 60 mph, unless signs indicate otherwise.

If a dual carriageway is reduced to a single lane of traffic in each direction, the 70 mph speed limit will still apply unless signs indicate otherwise.

TREASURY

Census

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information will be collected as part of the 2011 national census; and if he will make a statement. [195676]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 27 March 2008:

I am replying as National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information will be collected in the 2011 Census.

The question development and testing programme is not yet complete and decisions about the information to be collected in the 2011 Census in England and Wales have not yet been made.

A White Paper setting out the proposals for the 2011 Census is scheduled to be published towards the end of 2008. However it will not be possible to confirm what questions and response categories are to be included in the 2011 Census until the consultation and question testing programme is complete and formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010.

Childbirth

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many live births there were in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* primary care trust area. [195752]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 27 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many live births there were in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by (a) region and (b) Primary Care Trust area. (195752)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. Births are assigned to an area according to the usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth, as stated at registration.

The number of live births in 2006 by (a) region and (b) Primary Care Trust within England, and Local Health Board within Wales are provided in the attached tables.

Live births by area of usual residence of mother, England and Wales, 2006

Area of usual residence of mother (Government office region)	*Live births*
North East	29,184
North West	84,155
Yorkshire and the Humber	62,955
East Midlands	50,717
West Midlands	67,688
East	66,870
London	120,898
South East	98,566
South West	54,715
Wales	33,628
Normal residence outside England and Wales	225
England and Wales	669,601

Live births by area of usual residence of mother, England and Wales, 2006

Area of usual residence of mother[1] (primary care trusts in England, local health boards Wales)	*Live births*
Newcastle PCT	3,221
North Tyneside PCT	2,256
Hartlepool PCT	1,188
North Tees PCT	2,385
Darlington PCT	1,282
Gateshead PCT	2,251
South Tyneside PCT	1,560
Sunderland Teaching PCT	3,236
Middlesbrough PCT	1,878
County Durham PCT	5,402
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,528
Northumberland PCT	2,997
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	2,315
Salford Teaching PCT	3,014
Stockport PCT	3,280
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	3,627
Blackpool PCT	1,655
Bolton PCT	3,645
Warrington PCT	2,231
Knowsley PCT	1,887
Oldham PCT	3,325
Bury PCT	2,311
Tameside and Glossop PCT	3,193
Cumbria PCT	4,917
North Lancashire PCT	2,984
Central Lancashire PCT	5,422
East Lancashire PCT	4,843
Sefton PCT	2,713
Wirral PCT	3,575
Liverpool PCT	5,494
Halton and St. Helens PCT	3,744
Western Cheshire PCT	2,447
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	5,064
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	2,856
Trafford PCT	2,766
Manchester PCT	7,268
North East Lincolnshire PCT	1,954
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,812
Rotherham PCT	2,989
Calderdale PCT	2,513
Barnsley PCT	2,747
Leeds PCT	9,155
Kirklees PCT	5,531
Wakefield District PCT	3,803
Sheffield PCT	6,341
Doncaster PCT	3,612
North Yorkshire and York PCT	7,755
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	3,071
Hull PCT	3,500
Bradford and Airedale PCT	8,153
Nottingham City PCT	3,909
Bassetlaw PCT	1,157
Derbyshire County PCT	7,587
Derby City PCT	3,269
Northamptonshire County PCT	7,154
Lincolnshire PCT	6,849
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	7,055
Leicester City PCT	4,747

Live births by area of usual residence of mother, England and Wales, 2006

Area of usual residence of mother[1] (primary care trusts in England, local health boards Wales)	*Live births*
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	8,588
Herefordshire PCT	1,710
South Birmingham PCT	4,291
Shropshire County PCT	2,779
Walsall Teaching PCT	3,615
Coventry Teaching PCT	4,216
Telford and Wrekin PCT	2,135
Wolverhampton City PCT	3,196
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	5,445
Dudley PCT	3,548
Sandwell PCT	4,166
Birmingham East and North PCT	6,551
North Staffordshire PCT	1,932
Stoke on Trent PCT	3,394
South Staffordshire PCT	6,541
Worcestershire PCT	6,025
Warwickshire PCT	6,034
Solihull PCT	2,110
Luton PCT	3,325
South East Essex PCT	3,769
Bedfordshire PCT	4,943
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	6,531
West Hertfordshire PCT	6,968
Peterborough PCT	2,630
Cambridgeshire PCT	6,641
Norfolk PCT	7,506
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	2,187
Suffolk PCT	6,527
West Essex PCT	3,420
North East Essex PCT	3,252
Mid Essex PCT	4,017
South West Essex PCT	5,154
Havering PCT	2,426
Kingston PCT	2,046
Bromley PCT	3,740
Greenwich Teaching PCT	4,236
Barnet PCT	4,835
Hillingdon PCT	3,691
Enfield PCT	4,543
Barking and Dagenham PCT	3,208
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	4,614
Tower Hamlets PCT	4,152
Newham PCT	5,523
Haringey Teaching PCT	4,076
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	2,775
Ealing PCT	5,066
Hounslow PCT	3,829
Brent Teaching PCT	4,700
Harrow PCT	2,924
Camden PCT	3,012
Islington PCT	2,803
Croydon PCT	5,024
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	2,322
Westminster PCT	2,887
Lambeth PCT	4,908
Southwark PCT	4,753
Lewisham PCT	4,568
Wandsworth PCT	5,002
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	2,767
Sutton and Merton PCT	5,518

Live births by area of usual residence of mother, England and Wales, 2006

Area of usual residence of mother[1] (primary care trusts in England, local health boards Wales)	*Live births*
Redbridge PCT	3,977
Waltham Forest PCT	4,185
Bexley PCT	2,788
Medway PCT	3,257
Brighton and Hove City PCT	3,100
Surrey PCT	13,004
West Sussex PCT	8,452
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	3,150
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,839
West Kent PCT	8,075
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	8,205
Milton Keynes PCT	3,452
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	2,471
Southampton City PCT	2,907
Hampshire PCT	14,195
Buckinghamshire PCT	6,006
Oxfordshire PCT	7,665
Berkshire West PCT	5,799
Berkshire East PCT	5,606
Isle of Wight NHS	1,282
South Gloucestershire PCT	2,939
Plymouth Teaching PCT	3,011
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,785
Swindon PCT	2,656
North Somerset PCT	2,107
Gloucestershire PCT	6,211
Bristol PCT	5,708
Wiltshire PCT	5,002
Somerset PCT	5,280
Dorset PCT	3,474
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	3,374
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	5,173
Devon PCT	6,802
Torbay PCT	1,294
Anglesey	697
Gwynedd	1,331
Conwy	1,149
Denbighshire	989
Flintshire	1,719
Wrexham	1,597
Powys	1,222
Ceredigion	590
Pembrokeshire	1,278
Carmarthenshire	1,887
Swansea	2,543
Neath Port Talbot	1,515
Bridgend	1,526
Vale of Glamorgan	1,360
Cardiff	4,216
Rhondda Cynon Taff	2,778
Merthyr Tydfil	692
Caerphilly	2,167
Blaenau Gwent	770
Torfaen	1,069
Monmouthshire	854
Newport	1,679
Normal residence outside England and Wales	225

[1] Data provided on 2006 boundaries.

Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1642W, on data protection, what plans HM Revenue and Customs has to appoint further data guardians. [196393]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC continues to keep the role and number of Data Guardians under review. There are currently 38 Data Guardians, reflecting current business demands.

Excise Duties: Beer

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was received from duty on beer in the last financial year; and how much is expected to be received in the 2008-09 financial year. [196536]

Angela Eagle: Information on the revenue raised from beer is available at the UK Trade Info website. Table 2 shows duty receipts from beer.

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbeer

The revenue forecast from beer and cider in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is published in Table C6 of the 2008 Budget Report:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/report/bud_bud08_repindex.cfm

A detailed breakdown of beer and cider is not published.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letters of 10 December 2007 and 11 February 2008 from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean on Northern Rock. [196984]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Money Markets

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to restore stability and liquidity to the UK money market; and if he will make a statement. [196248]

Angela Eagle: The provision of liquidity to the money markets through open market operations is a matter for the Bank of England. The Bank of England has already taken steps to provide liquidity to the money market in increased amounts, at longer maturities and against an enlarged set of collateral. The UK Authorities stand ready to take further steps if necessary.

Northern Rock: Guernsey

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total deposits are of Northern Rock (Guernsey) Bank. [194577]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its Board at arm's length

from Government on commercial principles. It publishes its audited reports and group accounts on a regular basis in accordance with statutory reporting requirements. The group accounts will provide information about the Northern Rock group, which includes its subsidiary in Guernsey.

Overseas Aid

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of turbulence in international credit markets on the delivery of overseas development assistance pledges; and if he will make a statement. [196281]

Angela Eagle: The Government are committed to reducing international poverty. We announced in the 2007 comprehensive spending review that DFID's budget would rise from £5.4 billion to £7.9 billion a year in 2010-11. This will enable total UK Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to reach over £9.1 billion a year by 2010-11. We continue to urge all countries similarly to live up to their commitments, including the promises made at the 2005 Gleneagles summit, and to achieve the millennium development goals. The successful recent replenishments of the World Bank's International Development Association and, of the African Development Fund in 2007, to which the UK pledged £2.134 billion and £417 million respectively over the next three years, will ensure that low-income developing countries will continue to benefit from the concessional finance and expertise of these institutions.

Suicide: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females of each 10 year age cohort committed suicide in Stroud constituency over the last 10 years. [196421]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 27 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females of each 10 year age cohort committed suicide in Stroud constituency over the last 10 years. (196421)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, by (a) sex and (b) 10-year age group, in Stroud parliamentary constituency, in the period from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, Stroud parliamentary constituency[1], by sex and age group[2], 1997-2006[3]

Age-group	Deaths: Male	Deaths: Female
15-24	5	4
25-34	16	4
35-44	20	7
45-54	10	7
55-64	8	3
65-74	4	1
75-84	3	2
85+	6	0
Total	66	28

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2006.

[2] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in the calendar years 1997 to 2006 combined.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost in the last 24 months. [191029]

Angela Eagle: The following plasma screen televisions were purchased in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

	2005-06: Number	2005-06: Cost (£)	2006-07: Number	2006-07: Cost (£)
HM Treasury (inc. Group Shared Services)	2	5,398	4	6,515
OGC bs	1	3,133		
HM Revenue and Customs			1	582
National and Investments	5	11,649		
Office for National Statistics	1	623		

WALES

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197150]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Neither myself nor my predecessor have visited any of the listed venues in a Wales Office ministerial capacity between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197071]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None

Legislative Competence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will consider conducting a review of the effectiveness of legislative competence orders. [196157]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The UK Government are working closely with the Welsh Assembly Government to deliver the new legislative arrangements for Wales set down in the Government of Wales Act 2006. I keep these arrangements under constant review and will continue to do so.

National Assembly for Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make it his policy to announce planned forthcoming meetings between Ministers in his Department and Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government. [196159]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I can confirm that I meet or speak with the First Minister on a weekly basis. The Parliamentary-under-Secretary of State and I also meet regularly with all Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by his Department in each of the last nine years. [197519]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Nil

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Government Equalities Office: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what Government Equalities Office initiatives have been advertised to the public; and at what cost since the Office was established. [192467]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office is not a public service delivery department and so has not advertised initiatives to the public.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Poverty

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in households with income below 60 per cent. of the median after housing costs in each year since 1979; and how many are projected to be in this category in each of the next five years. [195723]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* The Government are fully committed to their targets to halve child poverty by 2010 and to eradicate it by 2020.

Information on the number of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs in each year from 1979 to 2005-06 is given in the following table.

Number of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income for available years (after housing costs)

	Million
Family Expenditure Survey (UK)	
1979	2.1
1981	2.9
1987	3.4
1988-89	3.5
1990-91	4.0
1991-92	4.2
1992-93	4.4
1993-95	4.4
1994-96	4.5
1995-97	4.8
Family Resources Survey (GB)	
1994-95	4.1
1995-96	4.2
1996-97	4.3
1997-98	4.2
Family Resources Survey (UK)	
1998-99	4.4
1999-2000	4.3
2000-01	4.1
2001-02	4.0
2002-03	3.9
2003-04	3.7
2004-05	3.6
2005-06	3.8

Notes:
1. Family Expenditure Survey figures are for the United Kingdom. Family Resources Survey figures are for Great Britain up to 1997-98, and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99 onwards, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998-99 through to 2001-02.
2. The reference period for Family Resources Survey figures is single financial years. Family Expenditure Survey figures correspond to single calendar years for 1979, 1981 and 1987, two combined calendar years from 1988-89 to 1992-93, and two financial years combined for 1993-95 to 1995-97.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, equivalised for household size and composition, as a proxy for standard of living. This uses the OECD equivalence scale for all years in the series.
4. The median income of the survey year in question has been used, namely the contemporary median, instead of using a fixed median for a particular year.
5. For after housing costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are deducted from income.
6. Amounts in the tables have been presented in millions, rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.

We do not have any projections of the number of children in low income households on an after housing costs basis in each of the next five years.

A projection of the number of children in relative low income, on a before housing costs basis, made using the Department for Work and Pensions' microsimulation model, is outlined in the Marker Review (Delivering on Child Poverty: What Would It Take? DWP November 2006). This is available in the Library. It is important to note that there are many uncertainties around such projections and they should be treated as wide estimates.

There have been further policies announced since the Review was published. Progress in reducing the number of children is Policies announced in Budget 2007, the pre Budget report and Budget 2008 will help lift over 500,000 more children out of poverty from 2010-11 than otherwise on a before housing cost basis. In addition, the Government have announced further measures to improve parental employment since that projection was made.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of (*a*) his Department and (*b*) its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192507]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not collate a central record of data in respect of appeals to the Civil Service Appeal Board.

Copies of the outcome of the board's decision are informed to departmental officials dealing with the case on an individual basis. The cost of trying to extract this information from individual clerical records for the period requested would be at a disproportionate cost.

Statistics on appeals heard for each of the last 10 years can be found in Appendix 2 of the Civil Service Appeal Board's annual reports. These are available on the Board's website at:

http://www.civilserviceappealboard.gov.uk

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Labour Turnover

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the turnover rate of staff in (*a*) his Department and (*b*) each of its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [195386]

Mrs. McGuire: The percentage turnover of staff in the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies for each year ending 31 March since 2004-05 is in the following table.

Percentage

	Turnover 12 months ending		
	31 March 2007	*31 March 2006*	*31 March 2005*
DWP Overall	6.37	7.11	7.65
Jobcentre Plus	6.12	6.69	6.65
The Pension Service	7.46	8.68	11
Child Support Agency	8.79	8.70	11.45
Disability and Carers Service	4.62	5.89	5.66
The Rent Service	5.87	8.28	9.66
Appeals Service	n/a	9.48	10.66
Departmental Corporate Units	5.13	6.76	6.69

Note:
The Appeals Service transferred to the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 1 April 2006.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 570W, on departmental public expenditure, whether HM Treasury has agreed to treat savings in annual managed expenditure arising from other programmes in the same way. [193937]

Mrs. McGuire: In Budget 2008 the Government announced their intention to explore using a new funding mechanism to reward private and voluntary sector specialist providers for investing in helping long-term incapacity benefit claimants to return to work. Detailed proposals will be announced in due course.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195883]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has in excess of 250 video-conferencing systems located throughout its office network. As part of an initiative to reduce business travel, there is an existing programme, established in November 2007, to improve video-conferencing facilities as well as the number of systems deployed. This programme is supported by numerous communication events to heighten awareness of managers and staff. The Department is tracking usage of both video and audio conferencing facilities but has not set arbitrary targets. An additional conferencing tool will also be provided later in 2008 and this is expected to help provide further options to conduct more business from home offices and as a consequence reduce the amount of business travel.

Discrimination: Special Educational Needs

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases have *(a)* been brought under the Special Educational Needs and Disability Discrimination Act 2001 and *(b)* been ruled unlawful confirming that less favourable treatment has taken place; and how many of these cases have been brought against universities. [176803]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The number of claims of disability discrimination made in England and Wales dealt with by special educational needs (SEN) and disability tribunals are detailed in the following table.

Claims and outcomes at SENDIST from 2002-07

	Claims	*Decided*	*Upheld*	*Dismissed*
2002-03	79	14	3	11
2003-04	83	71	23	48
2004-05	78	56	22	34
2005-06	128	57	21	36
2006-07	119	85	36	49
2007-dec	60	30	16	14

None of the claims in the table includes cases against universities, which are not covered by SENDIST special educational needs and disability tribunal jurisdiction.

Higher education institutions such as universities are independent autonomous organisations who are responsible for ensuring that their policies and practices fully comply with disability discrimination legislation. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills does not hold any information centrally on the number of cases brought against universities in respect of this legislation.

In Scotland, claims of unlawful disability discrimination in relation to school education are brought as civil proceedings in the sheriff court. Such data is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Universities in respect of this legislation.

In Scotland, claims of unlawful disability discrimination in relation to school education are brought as civil proceedings in the sheriff court. Such data is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on bottled water in the latest period for which figures are available. [189751]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions currently has a single contract to supply DWP offices with water coolers and associated services and equipment. Bottled water may also be provided for business meetings but is sourced from a variety of contracts and is not accounted for separately.

From April 2006 to March 2007, DWP spent £880,546 on bottled water. So far this year, from April 2007 to January 2008, DWP has spent £746,983. These costs include the provision of cups and sanitisation of the installed water coolers in addition to the bottled water itself.

DWP is committed to phase out the use of bottled water for all business meetings and replace it with tap water. We are aiming to have this process in place by the summer of 2008.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in which the first child is now older than 11 years have made a continuous claim for income support for lone parents since 1997. [185861]

Mr. Timms: Information on whether people have claimed continuously as lone parents could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons are for the proposed closure of the Jobcentre Plus office in Shepherds Bush; and if he will make a statement. [194332]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 27 March 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the reasons for the proposed closure of the Jobcentre Plus office in Shepherds Bush. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus needs to constantly look at how it delivers its business to ensure that it is making best use of resources to deliver Jobcentre Plus services.

We are near to completing the rollout of the Jobcentre Plus Network and are therefore reviewing how we deliver services to customers. The investment in new technology and increased availability of Contact Centre facilities mean that increasing numbers of customers, including employers, access services via telephone and e-channels, such as the internet. This has changed the work of Jobcentres and we need to adapt to meet these changes. At the same time, we need to make best use of the

resources available to us, and to provide value for money to the taxpayers, especially given the high cost of the London estate.

The Jobcentre Plus London network was planned some time ago on the original business model and customer base. With the current business model we need significantly less office space than we currently occupy and we can deliver a more effective and efficient service by consolidating our operations in a smaller number of large sites.

A consultation exercise on the proposed closure of Shepherds Bush Jobcentre is in progress. The views of local stakeholders will be taken into account and no decisions will be made until the Minister has seen the outcome of the consultation. Customers in the area will still be able to access a face to face Jobcentre Plus service at Acton and Hammersmith Jobcentres.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer the letter to his predecessor of 14 January 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Timothy Gordon. [195387]

Mrs. McGuire: I can confirm that a response to this letter was issued to the right hon. Member on 13 March 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer the letter of 1 February 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Ms Claudette Murphy. [195389]

Mrs. McGuire: I can confirm that a response to this letter was issued to the right hon. Member on 19 February 2008.

New Deal Schemes: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those participants who have taken part in *(a)* the new deal for young people, *(b)* new deal 25 plus, *(c)* new deal 50 plus, *(d)* new deal for lone parents, *(e)* new deal for disabled people, *(f)* new deal for parents in West Lancashire constituency have (i) entered employment and (ii) entered sustainable employment. [194833]

Mr. Timms: The available information is in the following table.

New deal in Lancashire West

Programme	*Individual starts*	*Of which: into employment*	*Of which: into sustained employment*
New deal for young people	2,220	1,550	1,330
New deal 25 plus	1,060	400	320
New deal 50 plus	140	[1]100	—
New deal for lone parents	1,610	1,160	690
New deal for disabled people	460	250	—
New deal for partners	20	10	

[1] Information in the table for new deal 50 plus is from January 2004 when data for starts to the programme first became available. The total number of people who have been helped into work through new deal 50 plus since April 2000 in West Lancashire is 370.

Notes:

1. Information on sustained jobs for new deal for disabled people is not available at parliamentary constituency level.
2. A definition of sustainability is not available for new deal 50 plus and new deal for partners.
3. A job obtained through new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus is defined as sustained if no return to jobseeker's allowance is made within 13 weeks of a person leaving these new deals. For new deal for lone parents, a sustained job is a job recorded as lasting at least 13 weeks as measured through the Work and Pensions longitudinal study.
4. Information at parliamentary constituency level for new deal for partners is only available from April 2004.
5. Starts and jobs data in the table for all new deals is to may 2007 to provide comparative starts and jobs data. Data for starts is available to August 2007 and data for jobs to May 2007.
6. Programme start dates are: New deal for young people: January 1998; New deal 25 plus: July 1998; New deal for lone parents: October 1998; New deal for partners: April 1999; New deal 50 plus: April 2000; New deal for disabled people: July 2001.
7. Data is rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants have taken part in *(a)* the new deal for young people, *(b)* new deal 25 plus, *(c)* new deal 50 plus, *(d)* new deal for lone parents, *(e)* new deal for disabled people and *(f)* new deal for parents in West Lancashire constituency in each month since inception. [194834]

Mr. Timms: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Pension Credit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants who were underpaid pension credit in 2006-07 have now received their full entitlement for that year. [194669]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available.

Unemployment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of children lived in workless households in each year since 1997. [185865]

Mr. Plaskitt: Since 1997, the proportion of children living in workless households has fallen from 18.7 per cent to 16 per cent. in Quarter 2 of 2007. This is a reduction of over 405,000.

The information requested is shown in the following table.

Proportion of children living in workless households in each year since 1997 (Great Britain)

	Percentage
Quarter 2	
1997	18.7
1998	[1]18.5
1999	17.8
2000	[1]16.4
2001	16.2
2002	16.7
2003	16.1
2004	15.9
2005	15.7
2006	15.6
2007	16.0

[1] There is no available calendar data for Q2 1998 and Q2 2000. This is because the figures for those years, published by the ONS, were erroneous and have been retracted while under review. For these two years, spring data has been inserted in the table above, although it is important to note that the spring data is not directly comparable with Q2 data.

Notes:

1. Definition of the proportion of children living in a working-age workless household is the percentage of children aged under 16 in a working-age household where no adult works. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working age (a woman aged between 16 and 59 or a man aged between 16 and 64). Workless individuals are those who are either International Labour Organisation unemployed or economically inactive (that is, not in employment).
2. Quarter 2 is April to June.
3. The data provided differs from the data on children in workless households published by the ONS for Great Britain: the data provided has been adjusted by DWP for households with unknown economic activity, while the ONS published data for Great Britain is unadjusted.
4. The DWP adjusted data for GB is used in measuring progress towards reducing the number of children in workless households to help inform the delivery of the child poverty PSA. The data has been previously published in a chart on page 19 of the 2007 DWP Autumn Performance Report.

Source:

DWP estimate using Labour Force Survey

Wikipedia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2806-7W, on Wikipedia, how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from IP addresses from the central pool. [195349]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department of Work and Pensions does not have a policy of regularly monitoring updates made to Wikipedia from DWP IP internet protocol addresses. Therefore the Department would not as a matter of course determine Wikipedia entries that have been created or amended. The cost of obtaining and analysing such data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with the *(a)* Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and *(b)* higher education sector on community cohesion issues. [196693]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has worked closely with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) on community cohesion issues, particularly: on the citizens' juries to examine provision of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) held in London and Hull in December 2007; and the DIUS stakeholder steering group established to discuss community cohesion, and tackling extremism throughout post-16 education, which includes bodies from both the further education and higher education sectors.

Construction: Inspections

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to revise inspection processes affecting the construction industry. [196524]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Future of Building Control consultation launched on 18 March puts forward plans to modernise the inspection regime for those seeking building control approval and also sets the expectation that planning and building control departments should work closely together to provide a seamless service to the customer.

The Government are consulting on the following changes that will have a direct impact on the current inspection regime applied to building projects.

Removing statutory notification stages which will stop builders having to make unnecessary calls to building control and will require local authorities to take a more risk-based approach to their work which will stop unnecessary inspections.

Limiting the use of building notices to ensure local authorities have more up-front information at the start of the project in order for them to direct their limited time and resources at high-risk projects, thus allowing a lighter-touch regime for good builders and low risk projects that are likely to comply.

Continuing to encourage other ways for builders to show compliance in addition to the traditional inspection route—specifically expanding and improving the Competent Persons schemes (self-certification by registered installers).

Raising awareness among the construction industry by providing new guidance to make it easier to meet the regulations and to better understand how the system works.

The consultation closes on 10 June.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of her Department and its predecessors and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194976]

Mr. Dhanda: Since the formation of our predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, there has been a total of seven such claims, each of which was settled outside employment tribunal.

We cannot further disaggregate this information because of the risk of identifying individuals.

Eco-Towns: West Sussex

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department invited Wates construction company to submit an application for a proposed eco-town at Ford in West Sussex; [193508]

(2) what discussions she has had with Wates construction company on the proposed eco-town at Ford in West Sussex; and on what dates she has held meetings with Wates for that purpose since 1 January 2005. [193509]

Caroline Flint: No developers have been invited directly by the Department to submit an application for a proposed eco-town.

The Secretary of State has held no discussions or meetings with Wates Construction Co. since 1 January 2005.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to mark Saint George's day on 23 April 2008. [194440]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issue the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings. This includes recommending flying the St. George's flag on St. George's day on 23 April on buildings with two or more flag poles, provided it is flown alongside the Union flag with the Union flag in the superior position.

Two of CLG's HQ buildings, Eland House and Ashdown House, have a second flag pole, and the St. George's flag will be flown on these to celebrate St. George's day.

The Secretary of State has also written to the Local Government Association urging them to encourage all local authorities to think about how they might mark St. George's day in their own area.

Fire Safety: Construction Methods

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the LPS1181 standard in ensuring the fire safety of public buildings, with particular reference to the use of cladding panes in combustible foam plastic insulation. [196764]

Mr. Iain Wright: LPS1181 is a loss prevention standard used primarily by the insurance industry. This standard provides a method for assessing the fire performance of cladding systems with respect to potential economic loss in the event of a fire.

Current statutory provisions and supporting standards for fire protection in buildings are made only for the purposes of securing the health and safety of people in and around buildings, not to reduce economic loss. No such assessment, therefore, has been made.

Higher Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress the task force on studentification has made; and which higher education sector bodies have been involved in the taskforce. [196712]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have commissioned researchers to undertake a short evidence-gathering exercise to identify a range of planning and non-planning measures that could help to create and maintain balance in areas of high student population. The researchers will present the emerging findings of this work to invited participants at a seminar on 9 April. We have invited representatives of local planning authorities, residents groups, the national HMO—houses in multiple occupation—lobby, universities, landlords, and interested charities to the seminar. Their contribution will assist in formulating the way forward on this issue. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills will also be represented. External bodies invited to participate in the seminar include Universities UK, the Guild of Higher Education, Unipol, the College and University Business Officers and individual universities.

Housing: Planning

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she issues to local authorities on the management of annual quotas of planning applications for residential development. [196688]

Mr. Iain Wright: 'Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing' (PPS3) sets out the national planning framework for delivering the Government's objectives for high quality housing in suitable locations which will contribute to the creation of mixed and sustainable communities. PPS3 asks local authorities to identify specific, suitable sites in their plans, including a rolling five year supply of land for housing, to enable them to deliver the housing numbers and brownfield targets allocated to them in regional spatial strategies. These sites should take into account the spatial vision for the local area and objectives set out in the relevant regional spatial strategy, and reflect clear and informed strategies for the location of housing development, and for the infrastructure needed to service it.

The policies in PPS3 should be taken into account by local planning authorities in the preparation of their local development frameworks. They should also be regarded as material considerations in determining planning applications for new housing development which may supercede the policies in existing development plans.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service: Standards

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the recent performance of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service; and if she will make a statement. [197046]

Mr. Dhanda: The Audit Commission regularly assesses the performance of all fire and rescue authorities.

In 2005's Comprehensive Performance Assessment the Audit Commission assessed Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority as "Excellent". In January 2008, the Audit Commission published its Performance Assessment for Fire and Rescue Authorities. Merseyside Fire and Rescue was assessed as "Improving Well" in Direction of Travel with the highest score of four for "Use of Resources".

Property Development

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place to ensure building owners provide affected parties with adequate notice of their intentions to build under the Party Wall Act 1996. [189586]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a civil matter between the relevant parties (the building owner and the adjoining owners). If a building owner starts work without having first given notice in the proper way, adjoining owners may seek to stop the work through a court injunction or seek other legal redress.

The Department publishes an explanatory booklet which sets out the rights and responsibilities of both parties. It also gives information and guidance which individuals may find useful, such as sample letters.

Hard copies of the booklet are available free of charge from Communities Free Literature, PO Box 236, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 7NB, tel: 0870 1226 236, fax: 0870 1226 237, textphone: 0870 1207 405, e-mail: communities@twoten.com It is also available to download from the Planning Portal at: www.planningportal.gov.uk and from the Department's website at: www.communities.gov.uk/partywall-1996

Public Lavatories

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the change in the number of municipal public conveniences in the last 10 years. [194822]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provision and maintenance of toilets in public places is at the discretion of local authorities who have, under section 87 of the Public Health Act 1936, a power to provide public conveniences, but no duty to do so. For this reason statistical data on changes in the number of municipal public conveniences is not held by CLG. The Department's Strategic Guide on Improving Public Access to Better Quality Toilets, published on 6 March, includes information showing that a number of public toilets have closed over many years. This was based on figures compiled by the Audit Commission until 2000, and Valuation Office Agency data used for rating commercial and industrial property.

Regional Ministers: Visits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many official visits regional Ministers have made to each constituency in the area for which they are responsible. [192828]

Hazel Blears: Constituencies visited by regional Ministers (in this capacity) are set out as follows. Due to the role of regional Minister, which involves regional or sub-regional meetings, the Minister usually attends a meeting held in that area rather than visiting a constituency per se. The following information is correct up to and including 7 March 2008.

The Minister for the South East

Constituency	*Number of visits*
Aylesbury	1
Buckingham	1
Dover	1
Folkestone and Hythe	1
Gillingham	1
Guildford	1
Hastings	1
Lewes	1
Maidstone and the Weald	1
Mole Valley	1
New Forest West	1
North East Hampshire	1
North West Hampshire	2
Oxford East	1
Portsmouth South	2
Reading East	1
Reading West	2
Thanet South	1
Tonbridge and Malling	1
Wantage	1
Winchester	1

The Minister for the East of England

Constituency	*Number of visits*
Bury St. Edmunds	1
Cambridge	1
Great Yarmouth	1
Ipswich	1
Norwich South	1
Peterborough	2
South Cambridgeshire	4
Stevenage	2
Waveney	2
West Suffolk	2
South East Cambs	3

The Minister for the South West

Constituency	*Number of visits*
Bournemouth East	1
Bournemouth West	1
Bristol North West	1
Bristol West	1
Cheltenham	1
Devon South West	1
Exeter	4

The Minister for the South West

Constituency	Number of visits
Gloucester	1
Plymouth Devonport	2
Poole	1
South East Cornwall	1
Swindon South	1
Taunton	2
Tewkesbury	1
Truro and St. Austell	1
Westbury	1

The Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber

Constituency	Number of visits
Rosie Winterton from 27 January	
Doncaster Central	1
City of York	2
Leeds Central	4
Morley and Rothwell	1
Wakefield	1
Wentworth	1
Bradford West	1
Bradford North	1
Caroline Flint to 2 July 2007 to 26 January 2008	
Barnsley Central	1
Bradford West	1
City of York	1
Don Valley	4
Doncaster Central	2
Doncaster North	1
Hull North	2
Hull West and Hessle	1
Leeds Central	3
Rydale	1
Scarborough and Whitby	1
Wakefield	2

The Minister for the East Midlands

Constituency	Number of visits
Gillian Merron to 26 January 2008	
Lincoln	2
Louth and Horncastle	1
Leicester West	1
Leicester South	1
North West Leicestershire	1
Rushcliffe	1
Sherwood	1
Newark	1
Nottingham East	2
Nottingham South	4
Boston and Skegness	1
Derby South	2
Corby	1
Kettering	1
Northampton South	1
Grantham and Stamford	1
Leicester East	1

The Minister for the East Midlands

Constituency	Number of visits
Phil Hope from 26 January 2008	
Corby	1

The Minister for the North West

Constituency	Number of visits
Blackburn	1
Bolton South East	1
Bootle	1
Burnley	1
Ellesmere Port and Neston	1
Fylde	1
Knowsley South	1
Liverpool Riverside	3
Liverpool Walton	1
Liverpool West Derby	1
Manchester Central	5
Penrith and The Border	1
Preston	3
Salford	3
St. Helens North	1
Warrington South	1
Westmorland and Lonsdale	1

Note:
Some of the regional Minister for the North West's meetings have taken place in her office base at Government office for the north-west, situated in the Manchester Central constituency.

The Minister for London

Constituency	Number of visits
Cities of London and Westminster	7
Croydon Central	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	1
Hendon	1
Hornsey and Wood Green	1
North Southwark and Bermondsey	2
West Ham	1

The Minister for the West Midlands

Constituency	Number of visits
Birmingham Ladywood	4
Birmingham Northfield	1
Bromyard	1
Coventry North East	1
Coventry South	1
Ludlow	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	1
North Warwickshire	3
Stoke on Trent Central	2
Stratford on Avon	1
Telford	2
West Bromwich East	1
West Worcestershire	1
Wolverhampton South East	2

The Minister for the North East

In carrying out his duties as Minister for the North East Nick Brown has paid visits to the following constituencies at least once:

Wansbeck
City of Durham

Newcastle Central
Stockton North
Stockton South
Newcastle Upon Tyne North
Sunderland North
Sunderland South
Tyne Bridge
Newcastle East and Wallsend
Redcar
Easington
Blaydon
Jarrow
Middlesbrough
North Tyneside
Houghton and Washington East
Blyth Valley
North Durham
Hexham

Wind Power: Northumberland

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what grounds she is reviewing her earlier decision not to call in the Moorsyde wind farm application in Northumberland; and if she will place in the Library copies of any new information which she is considering in this review. [196345]

John Healey *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, is reviewing her decision on 12 December 2006 not to intervene in the planning application by Moorsyde Wind Farm Ltd for a wind farm at Felkington, because new information has become available and because the scale of the application has also changed materially since the decision. The Secretary of State wishes to satisfy herself that her decision remains soundly based in the light of this information.

I have deposited a copy of the Climate Change Supplement to the Government's Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1), a report called: 'Wind Farm Development and Landscape Capacity Studies: South and West Berwick-upon-Tweed', commissioned for the North East Assembly, Northumberland county council and Berwick-upon-Tweed borough council, and the borough council officers' report to elected members on the application.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Foreign Relations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of bilateral relations with Afghanistan. [196389]

Dr. Howells: The UK remains committed to the long term reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. Good progress has been made. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, visited Afghanistan on 7 February 2008. This long-planned visit reaffirmed the strong relationship both the UK and US have with Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Public Appointments

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many candidatures for the role of UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Afghanistan his officials have discussed with the UN. [196390]

Dr. Howells: The UK is committed to supporting the UN's role in Afghanistan, led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The appointment of the Special Representative is a matter for the UN Secretary-General. We were aware that various candidates had been suggested for the post and offered our views on these when asked by the UN. We warmly welcome the appointment of Kai Eide and look forward to working closely with him as he undertakes the vital role of co-ordinating the efforts of the international community in Afghanistan.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria were used in deciding to establish EU sanctions against Burmese companies. [195835]

Meg Munn: The EU Common Position on Burma dates back to 1996 and imposes restrictive measures on members of the military regime, the military and security forces, the military regime's economic interests and other individuals, groups, undertakings or entities associated with the military regime who formulate, implement or benefit from policies that impede Burma's transition to democracy, and their families and associates.

In November 2007, the EU strengthened the Common Position to add further state economic enterprises to the investment ban extant on Burmese state owned enterprises. Further restrictive measures include a ban on trade and investment in the timber, gemstones and other extractive industries, which provide a source of revenue for the military regime, including companies trading in these commodities.

In drawing up these measures, the aim of the EU is to target those closely associated with the regime and to minimise the impact on ordinary Burmese citizens.

China: Olympic Games

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take if there is political violence in China when the 2008 Olympics take place. [196181]

Meg Munn: Our embassy in Beijing has a country contingency plan which will be implemented in the event of a crisis which endangers British nationals, and those we have consular responsibility for in China, during the 2008 Olympics.

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with the (*a*) Commonwealth Scholarship Commission and (*b*) others before deciding to end his Department's funding for new awards with effect from 2009-10. [195627]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The 2006 review of Chevening scholarships was based on broad consultations with a range of stakeholders, including other Government Departments and outside organisations. Officials have been in regular, close contact with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had no discussions himself with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with (*a*) UK universities and (*b*) universities in Commonwealth countries on the effect that the withdrawal of his Department's support for Commonwealth scholarships will have on the ability of Commonwealth students to attend UK universities. [195765]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no such discussions, but officials have regular contact with UK universities. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is withdrawing funding for Commonwealth scholarships only for developed Commonwealth countries. Overall, Government funding for Commonwealth scholarships will be higher in each of the next three years than it is in the current academic year. Students from developed Commonwealth countries are still eligible for Chevening scholarships; and a large number of students from developed Commonwealth countries study in the UK funded from other sources.

Cuba: Foreign Relations

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on relations with Cuba following the resignation of Fidel Castro. [195672]

Meg Munn: There is no change in UK policy following the resignation of Fidel Castro. UK policy continues to be based on the EU Common Position, as it has been since 1996, and aims to encourage a peaceful transition to pluralist democracy, greater respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and release of all political prisoners.

Departmental Complaints

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget for his Department's grievances and counter-narrative team was in each year since it was established; how much the team spent on external consultants in each year; how many (*a*) full-time and (*b*) part-time staff work in the team; and when the team was established. [195635]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: The grievances and counter-narrative team was established in December 2007 following the restructuring of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Counter Terrorism Department.

The team has not completed its first year so no figures for annual expenditure yet exist. The number of people working in the team varies, but has not dropped below six full-time staff. It has not hired any external consultants.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of overnight accommodation for (*a*) civil servants, (*b*) special advisers and (*c*) Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193530]

Meg Munn: Both in the UK and overseas, staff are paid subsistence to compensate for the additional costs of being away from home on official duty. Subsistence covers the cost of a room in a typical hotel and the costs of meals and other incidentals. Each post has a different daily subsistence rate depending on different economic conditions. Depending on local circumstances, Posts will normally book and pay for any hotel rooms direct, charging this back to the departmental cost centre for the member of staff involved. Our policy is to use standard hotels in the city concerned, typically non-luxury business hotels reasonably close to the Post.

In the UK, there is no automatic entitlement to subsistence. Where this does apply, staff can claim actual costs for bed and breakfast in inner London up to a maximum of £120 per night, elsewhere in the UK £80 per night.

Current electronic data in the UK show that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent the following on hotel accommodation between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008:

UK: £64,616.11

Overseas: £861,862.92

However, this information is subject to the following caveats:

the figures shown are only those where total expenditure has been paid; and

the figures provided are only those held electronically in the UK. Posts overseas may also have paid individually for accommodation during this period, but our systems are not able to separate out the sums spent by overseas posts on overnight accommodation from other travel expenses.

There is no centrally held record of the cost of overnight accommodation for Ministers or special advisers over the last 12 months. To collate this information would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to publish a White Paper on the new strategic framework for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. [196255]

David Miliband: The key points of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) new strategic framework were set out in my written ministerial statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-53WS. Additionally, I wrote to all hon. Members and Peers, enclosing a leaflet titled 'Better World, Better Britain', with further information about the strategic framework. Further details will be available on the FCO website at

www.fco.gov.uk

from 28 March 2008 and in the forthcoming FCO departmental report.

Iran: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Iran on its decision to prevent reformist candidates from standing in the recent elections. [195715]

Dr. Howells: The UK strongly supports the EU presidency statement of 15 March 2008 which said that the recent parliamentary elections in Iran were 'neither free nor fair' and that 'the Iranian people deserve a genuine democratic choice about their country's future'. We were deeply disappointed that Iran's Interior Ministry and Guardian Council disqualified over a third of all prospective candidates who registered to stand, including a large propoftion of reformist candidates. This denied the Iranian electorate their right to choose from candidates representing the full range of political views in their country and make a genuine democratic choice about how they are governed. We do not wish to take sides in Iran's internal debates, but together with the EU we will continue to stand up for the internationally recognised principles to which many Iranians aspire including freedom of speech and transparent, genuinely democratic and accountable government.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 865-6W, on Simon Mann, whether an explanation has now been given by the Equatorial Guinean authorities; and what action he intends to take. [196689]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The Equatorial Guinean authorities have told us that Simon Mann is shackled because they deem him to be a terrorist suspect and therefore a high security risk.

We do not believe this is a reasonable position for the authorities to take and we have been taking a number of welfare points forward with the authorities, including the fact that Mr. Mann is shackled and handcuffed. We will continue to follow these up.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1822W, on Simon Mann, what action has been taken in following up the specific consular and welfare concerns referred to; and if he will make a statement. [196690]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* We have raised specific consular and welfare concerns regarding Simon Mann with the Equatorial Guinean authorities. Our ambassador to Equatorial Guinea, resident in Abuja, met President Obiang on 6 March and raised Mr. Mann's welfare. We will continue to follow these issues up with the Equatorial Guinea authorities.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he intends to take in the week beginning 24 March to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea; and what procedures are in place to ensure that any inhumane treatment of this prisoner is brought to his attention. [196716]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Our consul from the British deputy high commission in Lagos was refused consular access to Simon Mann during his last visit to Equatorial Guinea in March. We have expressed our concern to the Equatorial Guinea authorities and are urgently seeking another consular visit. The authorities have offered assurances that Mr. Mann will be treated well while in detention, but we have made our concerns clear regarding his shackling. His welfare remains our primary concern.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of China on the situation in Tibet. [195708]

Meg Munn: We have expressed our concern to the Chinese authorities both in Beijing and London about events in Tibet and the surrounding region. We continue to urge them to respect fully the human rights of those detained; to avoid use of excessive force in dealing with riots; and to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet. We also call on the protesters, in Lhasa and elsewhere, to desist from further violence. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Chinese Premier Wen on 19 March urging the Chinese government to address the underlying issues by re-engaging in dialogue with the Dalai Lama and his representatives.

Tibet: Protest

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on Chinese Government actions in relation to Tibetan protesters. [196179]

Meg Munn: Our Embassy in Beijing is sending us daily updates on the situation in Tibet. Chinese authorities have acknowledged the deaths of eighteen people in Lhasa on 14 and 15 March. Unconfirmed reports from non-governmental organisations put the figure higher. We have reports that following disturbances on 14 March, Chinese security forces deployed around Lhasa early on 15 March and continued to deploy in large numbers over the next few days. The Chinese Government has assured us they did

not use lethal force in Lhasa. We have told the Chinese authorities that it is important for the public to have accurate facts and that lifting restrictions on the access of journalists to the region would be in the best interests of China. We continue to urge the Chinese authorities to respect fully the human rights of those detained; to exercise maximum restraint in restoring public order; and to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet. We have also called on the protesters, in Lhasa and elsewhere, to desist from further violence.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to urge the Chinese Government to show restraint in relation to the recent protests in Lhasa. [196180]

Meg Munn: We have expressed our concern to and have remained in contact with the Chinese authorities both in Beijing and London regarding events in Tibet and the surrounding region. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Chinese Premier Wen on 19 March urging the Chinese Government to address the underlying issues by re-engaging in dialogue without preconditions with the Dalai Lama and his representatives. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also spoke to Chinese Foreign Minister Yang on 21 March, further emphasising the need for dialogue. We continue to urge the Chinese authorities to respect fully the human rights of those detained, to exercise maximum restraint in restoring public order, and to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet. We have also called on the protesters, in Lhasa and elsewhere, to desist from further violence.

USA: Defence

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* possible outcome of the US House Appropriations Subcommittee hearings into the US Air Force award of a $40 billion contract to Northrop Grumman and EADS; what discussions (i) he, (ii) members of his Department and (iii) UK representatives in Washington have had with members of the US House of Representatives on the (A) financial and (B) employment implications in the UK of a possible reversal of the US Air Force's decision; and if he will make a statement. [192979]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The tanker aircraft to be supplied by Northrop Grumman/EADS under this contract will have 16 per cent. UK content and the financial value of the programme's first tranche of 179 aircraft is estimated to be worth up to $4.6 billion to the UK. We continue to monitor closely the outcome of the competition given its industrial significance to the UK, including the progress of the US House Appropriations Subcommittee hearings.

Written Questions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will answer Question *(a)* 190947, *(b)* 191153, *(c)* 191154 and *(d)* 191042, on the use of Diego Garcia for rendition flights, tabled on 27 February 2008. [196253]

David Miliband: I replied to the right hon. Member on 18 March 2008 in respect of questions 191042, *Official Report*, column 1031W, 191153, 191154, *Official Report*, column 1034W, and on 20 March 2008 for question 190947, *Official Report*, column 1288W.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will answer question 191151, on negotiations with Iran, tabled on 27 February 2008. [196254]

David Miliband: I replied to the right hon. Member on 18 March 2008.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to improve healthcare services for those with alcohol addiction. [196731]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2005 and 2006, we published guidance for local health organisations and their partners, to support delivery and improvement of local programmes for alcohol misuse interventions, 'Alcohol Misuse Interventions: Guidance on developing a local programme of improvement and Models of care for alcohol misusers'.

To test out the best ways to identify and provide advice to people who are drinking more than is good for them, the Department has commissioned a programme of trailblazers to pilot identification and brief advice that is under way in general practitioner (GP) practices, accident and emergency departments and in probation departments, in 57 locations.

We have put in place a new national health service indicator to measure the change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related harm from April 2008 the first ever national commitment to monitor how the NHS is tackling alcohol health harms.

This indicator is expected to encourage primary care trusts (PCTs) to invest in earlier identification of people who drink too much, linked to advice and support from GPs or other health care staff – shown to be the best way of reducing the kind of "everyday" drinking which over time leads to liver disease and other problems, including dependency.

Since 2007-08 we have provided PCTs with an extra £15 million of additional funding to improve alcohol interventions. The National Audit Office will carry out an audit of NHS spend on alcohol interventions and specialist treatment, with a report expected this autumn.

Over the next three years, the Government will be actively supporting the full implementation of the published guidance, 'Substance Misuse in the Undergraduate Medical Curriculum'.

This major development will, over the next 10 years, ensure around 60,000 new doctors leaving medical

training in England will be able to deliver competent practice in both drug and alcohol misuse, including as a crucial priority for implementation the recognition and the management of risky and harmful alcohol consumption.

We have allocated £650,000 in 2008-09 for the developmental work medical schools will need to carry out, to embed such an integrated substance misuse curriculum into core teaching and training programmes.

Ambulances: Accidents

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accidents there were involving ambulances on emergency calls in (*a*) Castle Point constituency and (*b*) Essex in each of the last five years. [196785]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about the number of accidents involving ambulances on emergency calls is not collected centrally.

The only data collected in relation to ambulance services is the number of emergency calls received by ambulance trusts across England, and their performances against the targets set. This is published annually.

Antidepressants: Misuse

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to tackle addiction to prescribed selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressants. [195566]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no conclusive evidence that antidepressants such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are addictive, in that they do not appear to lead to tolerance or dependence-forming, hence the Department has not implemented any policies to deal with this issue.

However, we know that some patients will experience withdrawal reactions on stopping or reducing their use of SSRIs, and in some cases the withdrawal reactions may be severe and disabling.

In 2005, the expert working group of the then Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) reported on the safety of SSRIs, which the Department currently regards as definitive. The CSM recommended that no one taking SSRIs should stop this treatment without prior discussion with their prescribing doctor, that SSRI usage should not stop suddenly, and that dosage should be reduced gradually at the end of a course of treatment.

Benzodiazepines: Misuse

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means the National Treatment Agency measures outcomes for involuntary benzodiazepine addicts. [194099]

Dawn Primarolo: Activity data is collected by specialist drug treatment services on all clients/addicts in treatment and reported into the National Drug Treatment Monitoring Service (NDTMS). NDTMS collects data including numbers and retention in treatment, and whether clients have completed treatment.

A new outcome monitoring tool, the Treatment Outcomes Profile (TOP), will also now be used for all clients in specialist treatment for drug misuse from April 2008. This will record a range of outcome measures which include the amount and range of drugs taken in each of the last four weeks and measures of health and social functioning. Some initial TOP data will be published by May 2008.

The National Treatment Agency (NTA) provides a range of support guidance to Drug Action Teams and to treatment providers. Most recently the NTA and the Department published "Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management" (2007), which includes a detailed section on the management of benzodiazepines. The NTA also oversee the NDTMS and TOPs databases.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the appropriate savings threshold above which the elderly should have to pay for their own care in nursing homes; and if he will consider a review of this threshold. [180843]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The capital limit above which care home residents are assessed as being able to fund their own care is set out in the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992. The capital limit is uprated annually in line with the increase in average earnings. The capital limit was uprated to £21,500 from April 2007. The Department will shortly be announcing the uprated capital limit to apply from April 2008.

However, in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review, the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Alistair Darling) announced a Green Paper to set out options for the reform of the current care and support system.

The Department has asked the Commission for Social Care Inspection to undertake a review of the eligibility criteria. They will report in autumn 2008.

Childbirth

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births per whole-time equivalent NHS midwife there were at (*a*) West Suffolk, (*b*) Addenbrookes and (*c*) Ipswich hospitals in each of the last five years. [179188]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested.

Dental Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to improve accessibility of NHS dentistry treatment. [196732]

Ann Keen: The Department has made increasing the number of patients seen within national health service dental services a formal priority in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09. We have supported this with a very substantial 11 per cent., uplift in overall dental funding allocations to primary care trusts from 1 April 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (*a*) staff and (*b*) full-time equivalent staff under 18 years are employed by his Department. [189079]

Mr. Bradshaw: No staff under the age of 18 are employed by the Department in either a full-time or part-time capacity.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193564]

Mr. Bradshaw: In February 2007, 13 members of staff in the Department (0.6 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay. The same number and proportion of members of staff (again, 0.6 per cent.) were making additional voluntary pension contributions in February 2008.

Departmental Surveys

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs his Department incurred in (*a*) designing, printing and distributing and (*b*) analysing the results of the Ipsos MORI GP Patient Survey on Hospital Choice. [195369]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2007-08, we expect the total costs for all elements of the 'general practitioner patient survey' to cost approximately £10 million. This includes costs to conduct both the access and choice components of the Survey. It is not possible to give a more detailed breakdown as this would require disclosure of commercially sensitive information provided by our suppliers. In 2006-07, the total costs incurred by the Department for the same survey was £9,586,520.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds have been made available to Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust to further the Government's 2008 drug strategy Tackling drugs, changing lives. [196535]

Dawn Primarolo: Since 2001, the Department of Health and the Home Office have provided specific resources for drug treatment in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB), which is allocated to drug action teams across the country. This is used along with local mainstream funding, to provide treatment and services according to specific local needs. The allocation for Oxfordshire from the PTB for 2008-09 is £3,763,816.

Folic Acid: Flour

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans the Food Standards Agency has in relation to their proposals for the mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid; what matters relating to the proposals are under consideration by the Agency; over what timescale he expects the Agency to proceed with their proposals; with whom the Agency will consult on the proposals; and how he plans to consult the natural health products industry on the likely (*a*) financial and (*b*) health effects of the proposals; [196082]

(2) what recent representations he has received from (*a*) manufacturers and (*b*) retailers of food supplements on the proposed introduction of limits on the levels of folic acid permitted in such products as a result of the proposals of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for the mandatory fortification of flour with folate; and whether the FSA plans to undertake further modelling of the implications of its proposals. [196085]

Dawn Primarolo: In June 2007, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) recommended mandatory fortification with folic acid of bread or flour alongside controls on voluntary fortification and guidance on supplement use to United Kingdom Health Ministers. In October 2007, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) wrote to the FSA to request a further expert view of the evidence on folic acid and colorectal cancer (CRC) risk.

On the basis of expert advice FSA have advised the CMO that they will defer agreeing their final advice on CRC risk until the results of ongoing trials are available in early 2009.

In the meantime, FSA officials will continue their discussions with industry about controls on voluntary fortification in food and caps on the levels of folic acid in supplements as there are 106,000 people in the UK exceeding the upper limit for folic acid from dietary and supplement sources. It is therefore important to control voluntary fortification and intake through supplements to ensure there is no further increase in these numbers.

The FSA has received representations from the trade associations of food supplements manufacturers and retailers regarding proposed controls on folic acid containing food supplements, capping folic acid at 200 micrograms. Information has been provided to the FSA on the types of products on the market containing folic acid and the recommended daily dosage. The FSA will undertake further modelling and the results will be discussed with the supplements industry.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a decision has been taken on the locations of the 150 general practitioner-led health centres to be introduced in each primary care trust. [195746]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are currently talking to local stakeholders, including clinicians and patients, to determine the locations of these services based on local health need. It is unlikely that exact locations will be decided upon until the outcomes of local consultations have been considered.

Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of contracts awarded to third sector organisations that provide services in *(a)* Lincolnshire and *(b)* England are three-year contracts. [193318]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the proportion of three year contracts awarded to third sector providers is not collected centrally. However, the Department fully supports the expectation that Government Departments pass on the certainty of longer-term funding, where appropriate, to the third sector organisations that they and their agencies fund.

The Office of the Third Sector has proposed a staged approach to implementing three-year funding. The Department will work between now and 31 October 2008, to establish the arrangements needed to ensure reporting in 2009 on the proportion of funding arrangements between primary care trusts (PCTs) and third sector organisations that allow for three year funding, that does not impose unnecessary burdens on PCTs.

The 2008-09 NHS Operating Framework included the message that PCTs should not feel prevented from entering into three year agreements with local partners including small and medium enterprises and the third sector that establish practical measures to maximise their capacity to deliver health and well-being outcomes.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are prescribed *(a)* stoma and *(b)* other incontinence products as part of their treatment in the London borough of Havering. [196667]

Dawn Primarolo: Information about the number of people who are prescribed stoma and other incontinence products as part of their treatment is not held centrally. The following table shows the number of appliances prescribed by general practitioners (GPs), nurses, pharmacists and other non-medical prescribers working in Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT) area that were dispensed in 2007.

	Number
Stoma Appliances	9,892
Incontinence Appliances	5,860

Notes

1. This information was obtained from the Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool (PACT) system, which covers prescriptions by GPs, nurses, pharmacists and others in England that are dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom.
2. For data at PCT level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside that PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based.
3. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included.
4. Prescriptions written in hospitals /clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as items from some sections of the British National Formulary have a high proportion of prescriptions written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community.

Medicines: Guernsey

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has made of whether the draft Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2008 conforms with the medicines legislation of the European Union; [196083]

(2) what information he has on the proposed timetable for the government of Guernsey to bring forward secondary legislation and enforcement measures to implement the proposed Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2008; and if he will make a statement. [196084]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has reviewed the draft Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2008 in respect of human medicinal products and believes that it is not consistent with the Medicines Directive 2001/83/EC. The MHRA is already working with the Government of Guernsey to identify where Guernsey will need to introduce additional legislation and to agree a timetable for this.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding is allocated for the provision of mental healthcare treatment for offenders *(a)* in custody and *(b)* serving community sentences in 2007-08, broken down by funding source; and if he will make a statement; [196131]

(2) how much has been spent on providing mental healthcare treatment for offenders *(a)* in custody and *(b)* serving community sentences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196140]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not held in the format requested. For offenders in custody, in England the total amount allocated specifically to primary care trusts for national health service mental health services in prisons was £1,719,000 in 2001-02, £3,685,000 in 2002-03, £9,400,000 in 2003-04 and £20,000,000 for each year since 2005-06. Information is not available before 2001.

For offenders serving community sentences, offenders service community sentences will receive treatment provided by the local mental health care NHS provider, commissioned through the local commissioning primary care trust.

Palliative Care: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will undertake research to compare primary care trusts' effectiveness in inclusion of *(a)* children's palliative care and *(b)* children's hospice services in local development plans; [186167]

(2) what plans he has to monitor the inclusion of children's *(a)* palliative care and *(b)* hospice services in primary care trusts' local development plans. [186168]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Working with their local partners, including local authorities, primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for setting local delivery plans (LDPs). The levels of performance set in the LDPs will be agreed and signed off by the relevant strategic health authority (SHA). In turn, the Department will sign off SHA level plans, ensuring that national performance expectations are formally agreed.

Monitoring of individual LDPs is a role for the relevant SHA.

It is for PCTs to decide how best to resource the priorities set out in the National Health Service Operating Framework for 2008-09.

In section 2 of the operating framework under 'Priorities' it states "disabled children : identifying actions and setting local targets on improving the experience of, and ranges of services for, children with disabilities and complex health needs and their families. This includes significantly increasing the range of short breaks, improving the quality and experience of palliative care services, improving access to therapies and supporting effective transition to adult services".

On 19 February, we launched a first ever national strategy for children's palliative care "Better Care: Better Lives". The Strategy will assist local commissioners, providers and regulators in will devising local strategies to enable every child and young person with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition access to high-quality, family centred, sustainable care and support with services provided in a setting of choice according to the child's and family's wishes. It sets out clear expectations for improving choice, access and continuity of care, and seeks to place palliative care at the centre of local children's service provision.

We also announced an additional £20 million in funding to enable the Children's Hospices and Hospice at Home Grant to continue in 2009-10 and 2010-11 with £10 million available in each year.

Palliative Care: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what data is used by commissioners to determine the need for specialist palliative and neurological care in the Tamworth constituency. [195419]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including South Staffordshire PCT, within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including end of life care and neurological care, based on an assessment of local needs and priorities. Strategic health authorities are responsible for monitoring PCTs to ensure they are effective and efficient.

The NHS operating framework for 2007-08 asked PCTs, working with local authorities, to undertake a baseline review of their end of life care services. These will allow local commissioners to assess current services, identify gaps and obtain a much clearer view of local need, which will inform local commissioning.

Regarding neurological care, the information strategy published alongside the "National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions" outlines commissioners' information requirements and a series of local and national actions designed to meet those needs. A copy of the National Service Framework is available in the Library.

Patients

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 762W, on patients, how many patients were receiving NHS in-patient treatment at *(a)* each date referred to in the answer and *(b)* in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [196394]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: Figures are not available on the number of patients receiving treatment on a given day. The number of in-patient admissions in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table.

Emergency and elective general and acute (G and A) admissions, England[1]

Thousand

Year[2]	*Total G and A admissions*[3]	*Non-Elective*	*Elective*
1996-97	8,041	3,629	4,413
1997-98	8,261	3,761	4,500
1998-99	8,805	3,882	4,923
1999-2000	8,908	3,920	4,988
2000-01	9,077	3,976	5,101
2001-02	9,131	3,995	5,137
2002-03	9,408	4,041	5,367
2003-04	9,864	4,311	5,553
2004-05	10,204	4,535	5,669
2005-06	10,528	4,732	5,795
2006-07	10,586	4,739	5,847

[1] These figures are for admissions purchased by the national health service ('commissioner-based').
[2] Figures for years prior to 2006-07 have been rebased to allow direct comparison.
[3] G and A specialities do not include mental health, learning difficulties or maternity services.
Source:
Health Authority quarterly monitoring, Monthly Monitoring Returns

Prescription Drugs: Misuse

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the National Treatment Agency has taken to improve the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for prescribed drug addicts in England. [192782]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts in each area to commission services for individuals who are not illicit drugs users but are dependent on prescribed drugs (such as benzodiazepines).

On the other hand, it is the responsibility of Drug Action Teams (DATs) to commission within their areas specialised treatment for clients who misuse illicit drugs.

The National Treatment Agency (NTA) provide a range of support guidance to DATs and to treatment providers. Most recently the NTA and the Department published "Drug misuse and dependence: UK guidelines on clinical management (2007)", which includes a detailed section on the management of benzodiazepines. NTA also oversee the National Drug Treatment Monitoring Service and Treatment Outcomes Profile databases.

Prescriptions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescriptions were *(a)* issued and *(b)* dispensed in England in each of the last five years; [195573]

(2) how many people in England *(a)* paid for prescriptions and *(b)* used a prescription pre-payment certificate in each of the last five years. [195574]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on the numbers of prescriptions issued, only the number of prescription items dispensed. This can be found in table one of the Information Centre for health and social care publication, "Prescriptions dispensed in the community. Statistics for 1996 to 2006: England". A copy of this document has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre's website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/prescriptions/prescriptions-dispensed-in-the-community-1996-2006-[ns]

Similarly, we do not hold information on the number of people paying prescription charges, only on numbers of prescription items attracting a prescription charge, either at the point of dispensing or by a prescription prepayment certificate. This information can also be found in table two of the "Prescriptions dispensed in the community. Statistics for 1996 to 2006: England".

Prescriptions for Ativan/Lorazepam

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were issued for ativan/lorazepam in each year since 2000. [196705]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on prescriptions issued, only on prescription items that are dispensed. The following table gives the total number of items dispensed for all formulations of lorazepam, including ativan injection.

Prescription items dispensed in the community in England (000)

	Lorazepam
2000	715.0
2001	731.4
2002	744.2
2003	761.0
2004	790.6
2005	805.2
2006	839.1

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis

Prescriptions: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of primary care settings where prescribing and dispensing take place which are not GP practices, community pharmacies or dispensing appliance contractors were *(a)* technically live on and *(b)* using the Electronic Prescriptions Service system in each month since the system's inception. [195403]

Mr. Bradshaw: The initial scope for the electronic prescription service includes general practitioner (GP) practices, including dispensing GP practices, community pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractors. Therefore, no electronic prescription messages have been generated or received in alternative locations where prescribing and dispensing takes place.

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people have taken up the option of direct payments for social care in each local authority area in England. [188179]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The percentage of people who have taken up the option of direct payments is not available centrally.

Data is collected on the number of clients receiving direct payments and is available via the Referrals, Assessments and Packages of Care report which is published by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care. The most recently available data is for 2005-06 a copy of which has been placed in the Library. This data shows there has been an increase of over 50 per cent. in the uptake of direct payments since 2004-05.

Tranquillisers: Misuse

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what statistics are recorded on the incidence of addiction to prescribed tranquillisers; [195565]

(2) what steps were taken to address tranquilliser addiction in England in each year from 1999 to 2006. [195562]

Dawn Primarolo: Information about the incidence of addiction to prescribed tranquilisers is not collected centrally. Decisions about which tranquiliser addiction treatments have been provided between 1999 and 2006 have been made locally by each primary care trust, not by the Department, which does not hold this information.

Prevention, effective treatment and legal controls are all important in reducing the number of people who become addicted to prescribed tranquilisers like benzodiazepine. The main focus of the Department's

action has been to warn general practitioners, other prescribers and users of the potential side-effects and dangers of benzodiazepines and to try and prevent addiction/dependence occurring in the first place.

Transsexuality: Surgery

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many gender reassignment operations were carried out by NHS trusts between January 2007 and January 2008; and at what cost. [196798]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not yet held by the Department.

However, the amount of transgender procedures carried out in the national health service in previous years, from 2002 to 2006, are shown in the following table.

	Male to Female	*Female to Male*
2002-03	79	2
2003-04	83	1
2004-05	99	0
2005-06	97	4

Note:
Data for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is not yet available.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics data.

Vegetarianism: Research

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has evaluated on the effect of vegetarianism on well-being. [195620]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has not conducted any research on the link between vegetarianism and well-being.

West Midlands NHS Diagnostic Service

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients were seen by the West Midlands NHS Diagnostic Service during the period of its contract with Care UK; [196088]

(2) how much (*a*) has been and (*b*) will be paid to Care UK by his Department in relation to terminating its contract with Care UK for the the West Midlands NHS Diagnostic Service; [196089]

(3) how much has been spent under the West Midlands NHS Diagnostic Service contract with Care UK since June 2007; [196091]

(4) for what reasons the West Midlands NHS Diagnostic Service contract with Care UK was terminated in November 2007. [196118]

Mr. Bradshaw: Up to 31 January 2008, 8,100 diagnostic procedures were delivered to national health service patients by the West Midlands NHS Diagnostics Service.

Costs incurred as a result of the termination of the scheme are yet to be determined but any payment made by the Department will be governed by the contract with Care UK. The Department is currently in the process of verifying the claim made by Care UK.

From June 2007 until 31 January 2008, £13.3 million has been paid to the provider.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State outlined in the written ministerial statement on 15 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 78-81WS, that the provision of diagnostic services in the West Midlands should be terminated because of an unacceptably low rate of use, and a very low prospect of the utilisation increasing which represents poor value for money to the taxpayer. In short, a significant increase in productivity by local NHS providers has substantially reduced the need for the capacity provided by this scheme with waiting times for most diagnostics reduced from more than one year to currently three weeks on average.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with police forces on alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour; and if she will make a statement. [183492]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 31 January 2008]:* The Home Secretary has not had any recent meetings specifically on antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related crime, but the Home Secretary and myself regularly have discussions with Police on all aspects of crime, which include antisocial behaviour and alcohol-related crime.

As announced in the recent written ministerial statement on the evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham) together with the Home Secretary, will convene a summit of police and local authorities to explore how we can take proposals forward to further tackle alcohol-related harms.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plans to take to reduce underage drinking. [186848]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The Government take underage drinking very seriously. The National Alcohol Strategy 'Safe.Sensible.Social' published in June 2007, focuses action on three groups most at risk which are 18 to 24-year-old binge drinkers, young people under 18 who drink alcohol, and harmful drinkers whose drinking is damaging their health, often without them realising it.

In the Home Secretary's speech on 6 February 2008, she said that a number of new measures and possible steps would be taken to crack down on crime and antisocial behaviour which is fuelled by alcohol. This includes highlighting the message that it is not acceptable for young people to drink in public places. The Home Secretary also said that she is considering a number of options including making the possession of alcohol by a young person an offence, or possibly involving the parents if alcohol is confiscated from a child. We are currently considering the effectiveness of the current powers and what can be done to help the police use them more effectively.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families will also be publishing an action plan later in the year on young people and alcohol which will contain further proposals for reducing drinking by young people. Additionally, two confiscation campaigns have taken place recently; one in October 2007 and one in February 2008. The results of the October campaign showed that nearly 3,700 litres of alcohol were confiscated from young people during the four week period.

The Government also support schemes that make it easier for retailers to verify, and young people to prove, their age. That is why we are working with the British Retail Consortium's Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) which validates the variety of proof of age card schemes available. This allows card schemes to apply for accreditation under PASS and entitles them to issue cards displaying the PASS holographic logo. This is easily recognisable both to retailers and young people and helps them know that they have a proof of age document which should be accepted.

Alcoholic Drinks: Enforcement

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to work with licence holders to reduce levels of antisocial behaviour as a result of drinking on their premises. [193343]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 March 2008]*: The Government continue to prioritise reductions in levels of alcohol-related disorder and antisocial behaviour. Through schemes such as Pubwatch and Best Bar None, we are continuing to support responsible management of licensed premises that results in reductions in alcohol-related crime and disorder. We have also held a series of enforcement campaigns that have targeted irresponsible premises and individuals that contribute to, or partake in alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour. This has involved meeting with retailers in local areas to raise awareness in respect of their responsibilities.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to work with supermarkets to reduce underage drinking. [190536]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 February 2008]*: Through 'Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy', the Government are committed to carrying out an independent review of the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm, and following public consultation, will consider the need for regulatory change in the future, if necessary. This review is being led by the Department of Health and has gone out to tender. We anticipate publishing the review's findings in the summer of 2008.

In addition, the Government are also committed to carrying out a review and consultation on the effectiveness of the alcohol industry's Social Responsibility Standards document in contributing to a reduction in alcohol harm, and following public consultation, will consider the need for regulatory change in the future, if necessary. We anticipate launching the public consultation in November 2008.

Successive Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns (AMECs 2004-06) and Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaigns (TUSACs 2006-07) have been designed to address the problem of underage drinking through the use of test-purchase campaigns focused on all retailers (including but not limited to supermarkets). In 2004, the overall repeated test purchase failure rate was approximately 50 per cent. In 2006, it had dropped to approximately 20 per cent. In this latest and more targeted campaign it now stands at approximately 15 per cent. overall.

The Prime Minister held an alcohol summit with key alcohol stakeholders in November 2007 a second alcohol summit is planned for spring 2008.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the ministerial letter of 31 January 2006 responding to the recommendations of the Animal Procedures Committee's 2005 report on the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, if she will make a statement on her considerations of recommendation 18 on improvement of the techniques listed in Table 9 the better to represent procedures in current use that may cause substantial suffering. [191994]

Meg Hillier: We will shortly be reviewing our response to all of the recommendations in this Animal Procedures Committee report, including recommendation 18, and will aim to publish our further conclusions when we publish the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals 2007.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Drugs

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of post conviction antisocial behaviour orders contained conditions relating to drug offending, in the latest period for which figures are available; and what percentage of those antisocial behaviour orders were breached. [196532]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the conditions attached to antisocial behaviour orders on conviction is not collected centrally.

Asylum

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of unsuccessful asylum cases considered by the Case Resolution Directorate that did not include a questionnaire and are entitled to an appeal have been subject to an appeal; and if she will make a statement. [196073]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of unsuccessful asylum cases considered by the Case Resolution Directorate that included a questionnaire and are entitled to an appeal have been subject to an appeal; and if she will make a statement. [196074]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2055-6W, on asylum, whether her Department has re-evaluated its expected completion date for considering and issuing a decision on all asylum cases that fall under the remit of the Case Resolution Directorate; and if she will make a statement. [196077]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency remains committed to, and on track to achieve, the clearance of the older unresolved asylum cases by summer 2011.

Lin Homer will provide updates to the Home Affairs Select Committee on a six monthly basis.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of asylum applicants with cases considered by the Case Resolution Directorate without a questionnaire have been informed when consideration began either directly or through their legal representative; and if she will make a statement. [196099]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of unsuccessful asylum applicants considered by the Case Resolution Directorate without a questionnaire, and who were subsequently removed, were informed of the outcome of the final decision either directly or through their legal representative prior to removal; and if she will make a statement. [196100]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time was between the final decision being taken and removal for unsuccessful asylum cases considered by the Case Resolution Directorate; and if she will make a statement. [196101]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not collated and could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library copies of information provided to staff on the Border and Immigration Agency hon. Members hotline on the Case Resolution Directorate; and if she will make a statement. [196102]

Mr. Byrne: No specific guidance has been issued to workers on the hon. Members hotline. Information on the Case Resolution Directorate can be found on the Border and Immigration Agency website.

Border and Immigration Agency

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the Border and Immigration Agency's expenditure on advertising related to the new points-based immigration system in financial years (*a*) 2007-08 and (*b*) 2008-09. [192964]

Mr. Byrne: To support the introduction of the points-based system which is the biggest change to the UK's immigration system in over 40 years, an advertising budget of £1.5 million was spent in this financial year. This advertising activity targeted employers to make them aware of the new immigration controls and to give them sufficient notice in order to begin to prepare their business for these changes.

Further advertising activity to support the points-based system is planned in the next financial year. This activity will continue to be aimed at employers who will have new responsibilities under these new immigration controls. The budget for that activity has not yet been finalised.

Border and Immigration Agency: Tribunals

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the Border and Immigration Agency's predecessor agency, took the agency and her Department to an employment tribunal in each of the last five years; how many such cases were successful for the claimant; what the complaint was in each such case; and how much has been paid in compensation in such cases over those years. [193117]

Mr. Byrne: The number[1] of employees of the Border and Immigration Agency who have lodged Employment Tribunal claims, and the respective category of these complaints, in each of the last two calendar years[2] are shown in the table as follows.

[1] Not all cases lodged have proceeded to a formal hearing. The figures reflect the number of staff who have lodged Tribunal claims in the two calendar years and not the number of times the cases have proceeded to a hearing.

[2] The year in which the Employment Tribunal claim was lodged.

Category	*2006*	*2007*
Sex Discrimination	6	5
Disability Discrimination	7	1
Age Discrimination	0	9
Race Discrimination	2	5
Religious Discrimination	0	1

Category	2006	2007
Sex Orientation Discrimination	1	1
Unfair/Constructive Dismissal	27	32
Unlawful Deduction of Wages	6	6
Victimisation	0	1
Total	49	61

None of the aforementioned claims which have been heard by the Employment Tribunal have been successful.

Information prior to 2006 is unavailable.

Borders: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on consultation exercises related to the e-borders project. [195134]

Mr. Byrne: There has been extensive consultation with border agencies and other stakeholders including other Government Departments, the travel industry and carrier communities.

While we have been able to identify certain costs associated with these consultation exercises, the majority of the costs are not readily identifiable, since e-Borders does not record these by activity.

British Nationality: Assessments

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who took citizenship tests at the Grahame Park One Stop Shop advice centre in Colindale, North London in 2006 *(a)* are awaiting the outcome of their citizenship application and *(b)* have had the processing of their tests placed on hold as a result of investigations into test fraud at the centre; and if she will make a statement. [195023]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The most recent data we have identifies that we currently have 500 cases on hold as a result of the allegations regarding an invigilator of knowledge of life in the UK tests taken at the Grahame Park One Stop Shop.

(b) No other citizenship applications supported by a test and supervised by other invigilators from the Grahame Park One Stop Shop are on hold.

Case Resolution Directorate

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints her Department has received about the Case Resolution Directorate in each month since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [196105]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information has not been collated in a way that would readily identify complaints received about the Case Resolution Directorate. This could only be obtained at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual records.

Curfews: Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children in contravention of their curfew notices have been removed to their place of residence by *(a)* police community support officers and *(b)* police officers under paragraph 4B of Schedule 4 of the Police Reform Act 2002 in each of the last fours years, broken down by police authority area. [176317]

Mr. Coaker: Information is not collected in the form requested. Section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 provides the police with two powers to disperse groups of two or more people and to return young people under 16 who are unsupervised in public places after 9 pm to their homes. 1,065 areas were designated for the exercise of these powers between 1 January 2004 and 31 March 2006. The following table shows a breakdown by police force area. Information on those removed to their place of residence for this period is not held. Information on numbers of designated areas and individuals removed to their place of residence for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 will be published in June 2008.

Force	Number of areas designated (January 2004 to March 2006)
Avon and Somerset	30
Bedfordshire	29
Cambridgeshire	31
Cheshire	1
City of London	
Cleveland	30
Cumbria	2
Derbyshire	22
Devon and Cornwall	49
Dorset	31
Durham	2
Dyfed Powys	
Essex	24
Gloucestershire	1
Greater Manchester	45
Gwent	6
Hampshire	69
Hertfordshire	20
Humberside	15
Kent	73
Lancashire	18
Leicestershire	30
Lincolnshire	4
Merseyside	70
Metropolitan Police	
Norfolk	18
North Wales	16
North Yorkshire	6
Northamptonshire	67
Northumbria	3
Nottinghamshire	40
South Wales	2
South Yorkshire	16
Staffordshire	30

Force	Number of areas designated (January 2004 to March 2006)
Suffolk	5
Surrey	33
Sussex	35
Thames Valley	6
Warwickshire	22
West Midlands	123
West Yorkshire	22
West Mercia	[2]
Wiltshire	19
Total	1,065

[1] No areas designated
[2] No data provided

Departmental Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in her Department have been able to work from home in the last 12 months. [189781]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not keep a central record of those staff that are able or who have permission to work at home.

Line managers have discretion for deciding whether their staff are allowed to work at home. Staff are allowed to work at home for many reasons which can last be both short-term/ad hoc and longer-term arrangements.

Examples of when working at home is permitted:

- Family or domestic commitments which make it difficult for people to come to the office every day;
- People with disabilities or health problems which prevent them travelling to work on a regular basis;
- People whose work involves regular travel over a wide area where the home is more sensibly and conveniently located to meet business needs; and
- Regular work which does not require regular interaction with colleagues and which, while still meeting business needs, can be completed more conveniently and sensibly from home. Examples would be some stages of research or project work e.g. writing initial scoping documents and final reports.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff under 18 years of age are employed by her Department. [189073]

Mr. Byrne: The most recent cross-Government benchmarking data available (Civil Service Employment Survey 2006) for the number of staff under 18, as at the end of September 2006, shows that the Home Office compares favourably to other Government Departments.

The latest 2008 figures show a slight decrease in the number of staff under 18; this can be attributed in part to seasonal fluctuations and the Home Office drive to improve efficiency savings and reduce our administrative function under the Gershon review.

	30 September 2006		31 January 2008	
Permanent and non-permanent staff	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE
HO Headquarters	720	720	Less than 5	Less than 5
Border and Immigration Agency	[1]	[1]	14	8.35
Criminal Records Bureau	n/a	n/a	0	0
Identity and Passport Service	n/a	n/a	0	1

n/a = Not available

The Home Office recognises the value of an age diverse work force. We are a member of the Employers Forum on Age (EFA); more information on the EFA can be found at:

http://www.efa.org.uk/default.asp

The Home Office, like all responsible employers, works hard to ensure that all staff, regardless of age, are treated equally from their initial application through to when they leave us.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by senior civil service staff in her Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187540]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office accounting system does not hold the requested information in a readily accessible form; it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Of the Home Office agencies the Criminal Records Bureau reimbursed £12,700 in the last 12 months and the Identity and Passport Service reimbursed £35,000 in financial year 2006-07.

All staff expenses are reimbursed subject to the conditions set down in the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Public Participation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what subjects her Department commissioned opinion polling in each of the last two years; and at what cost. [193856]

Mr. Byrne: During the last two years (2006-07) the Home Office has commissioned public opinion polling on attitudes, experiences and awareness of a broad range of crime, immigration and asylum issues. Specific polls have been carried out on the issues of neighbourhood policing and gangs. The cost of the opinion polling was £67,500 during 2006 and £197,025 during 2007 (exc. vat).

Departmental Temporary Employment

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average hourly rate her Department paid to employment agencies for agency staff in each year since 1999, broken down by employment agency. [187908]

Mr. Byrne: Agency workers are used where recruiting managers require individuals to undertake a role of short duration, or as a temporary measure where permanent staff are unavailable or there are exceptional and overriding business reasons for doing so.

Agency workers should only be used as a short-term solution to fill a particular need that cannot be met by permanent staff.

The Home Office currently uses its new national framework for the supply of admin/clerical temporary staff (agency). This contract was awarded in April 2007 and will run for a period of four years. Contracts were awarded to seven suppliers:

Reed Employment

Hays

Brook Street

Office Angels

Kelly Services

Northern Recruitment Group plc

Employment Plus

with pricing aligned to the 13 government regions.

The range of temps covered by this framework is wide from basic administrative grades to generalist junior managers. The pricing information is commercially sensitive with differing rates between each supplier. The effort and cost of averaging every role by supplier by 13 regions would incur disproportionate cost.

Details of the average hourly rate paid by the Department to each employment agency for agency staff in 2005-06 for the core Home Office is not held centrally and to provide the information would incur disproportionate cost. Information relating to BIA and the Executive Agencies is available as follows:

Hourly rates paid to employment agencies by BIA for 2005-06

Employment agency name	Average hourly rate £
Huntress	10.12
Headstart	9.94
Tate	9.20
Brookstreet	9.89
Employment Plus	9.79
Reed	9.91
Crown Personnel	9.93
Berry Recruitment	9.09
PRC	9.13
Office Angels	9.85
Hays	8.99
First Recruitment	9.57
Demon	9.11
Catherine Johnstone	9.57
Blue Arrow	9.50
Ashley Morgan	9.40
Middleton Murray	8.98
Southern Recruitment	9.11
New Appointments Group	14.18
ADECCO	8.55
Select	12.20

Hourly rates paid to employment agencies by Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) for 2005-06

Employment agency name	Average hourly rate £
Computer Futures	56.00
Drive On	50.00
Excel Recruitment	16.84
Hays Accountancy	17.18
ITP Recruitment	63.00
Montpellier	52.70
Reed Personnel Services	18.38

Hourly rates paid to employment agencies by Identity and Passport Service (IPS) for 2005-06

Employment agency name	Average hourly rate £
Adecco	18.75
Ajilon	43.10
Brook Street	13.17
Capita	69.61
Crystal	38.00
Elan	67.74
Glotel	25.41
Kelly Services	22.74
NESCO	68.08
NRG	122.22
PA Consulting	159.03
Parity	77.74
Pendragon	73.27
Real Time Consultants	58.06
Rullion	38.80
Search	75.89
SGS	59.30
Spring	51.23
Step Forward	22.70

During 2006-07 the Home Department used the HM Prison Service Framework agreement for temporary staff and the average pricing (across five suppliers/nine regions) for 2006-2007 was as follows:

Average hourly rate paid to employment agencies for agency staff across five suppliers/nine regions for 2006-07 via the HM Prison Service Framework agreement

Grade	Average hourly rate paid £
Admin Officer	9.30
Admin Assistant	8.45
Executive Secretary/PA	12.69
Senior Secretary	11.60
Junior Secretary	9.60
Receptionist	8.97
Telephonist	8.90
Messenger	8.04

Information on the hourly average rate paid to employment agencies for agency staff prior to 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187655]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on first class travel. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

For the Department's agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service, answers could, again, be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Grants

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of payments under the Facilitated Returns Scheme were made to *a* failed asylum seekers, *b* migrants and *c* foreign national prisoners in the last year for which information is available. [193232]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: The Facilitated Returns Scheme is limited to those foreign nationals who have committed a criminal offence for which they have received a custodial sentence and is not open to failed asylum seekers or migrants as separate categories.

Domestic Violence: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for offences involving domestic violence in *a* Tamworth constituency and *b* Staffordshire in each year since 2000. [195455]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not routinely collect data on the number of arrests for domestic violence related offences but is planning to commence the collection of this data from 2009-10 onwards. The Home Office does, however, collect data on the number of arrests for domestic violence related incidents since 2005-06.

Incidents are defined as any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.

A subset of domestic violence related incidents are those incidents where a specified offence has been committed.

However there has been a change in what is collected as a result of changes in legislation as Section 110 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 made all offences arrestable.

2005-06 to January 2006: number of arrests for those domestic violence incidents where a power of arrest existed.

January 2006 onwards: number of arrests for any domestic violence incidents.

Data is available from Staffordshire for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06:

	Number
2004-05	5,230
2005-06	5,793

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will review guidance issued to local authorities on helping women subject to domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds, setting out the steps authorities need to take. [196784]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The guidance issued to local authorities, via a circular in February 2006, will be reviewed as part of the development of a new scheme for victims of domestic violence who, through their insecure immigration status, have no recourse to public funds. Details will be made available later in the spring.

As part of this work, we will also be drafting guidance for voluntary sector agencies and other potential advocates who are assisting these victims, and will outline what is required for a successful application for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government plan to take to tackle illegal drugs. [191894]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 March 2008]*: The Government published on 27 February a new comprehensive 10-year Drug Strategy backed-up with a three year action plan. The strategy is focused on preventing young people developing drug problems, targeting families at risk and intervening early through a whole family approach, protecting communities through robust enforcement by attacking drug supply at all levels and cutting drug-related crime and disorder.

Key actions to tackle illegal drugs and the harms they cause include:

extending police powers to seize more dealers' cash and assets on arrest rather than conviction;

embedding action to tackle drugs within the Neighbourhood Policing approach, responding to community concerns about drugs, acting on intelligence provided by the community and giving feedback on how such intelligence was used;

identifying and targeting those drug misusing offenders causing the greatest harm to communities and improving the responses to divert them out of crime using more effective and integrated approaches;

helping families at risk and supporting parents with drug problems and ensuring prompt access to treatment for all drug misusing parents with a treatment need;

continuing to improve drug treatment with a focus on treatment outcomes and on more individuals overcoming drug dependence; and

using opportunities presented by the benefits system to provide support and create incentives to move towards treatment, training and employment.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to combat drug-related crime in smaller towns and communities. [195218]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are committed to tackling drug-related crime wherever it occurs, including in our smaller towns and communities.

The recently published strategy, 'Drugs: protecting families and communities' sets out clearly our future intention to take a robust stance against dealers and to reduce drug-related offending, including developing ways to regularly engage and respond to the needs of communities. In addition, we will make asset seizure more visible to local communities so those communities see the benefits of working with police and their partners to identify dealers.

The Government have already invested heavily, including through the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP), in reducing drug-related crime. DIP aims to get adult drug-misusing offenders out of crime and into treatment and other support. Delivery at local level is through local partnerships, using integrated teams (including drug workers in all custody suites) for which funding is provided in all areas of England and Wales, including smaller towns and communities. Since DIP began, acquisitive crime - to which drug-related crime makes a substantial contribution - has fallen by around a fifth.

Drugs: Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W, on drugs: schools, whether information is to be collected centrally on arrests of school pupils. [195678]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office and Ministry of Justice have no plans to collect statistics on arrests of school pupils.

Eurostar

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and its agencies spent on (*a*) first and (*b*) other class travel by Eurostar in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [187748]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on travel by Eurostar. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the Department's agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau's spend is nil and the Identity and Passport Service's spend could not be identified without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel to be carried out by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

The Cabinet Office produces the annual list of Cabinet Ministers overseas travel, the one for 2006-07 was published on 25 July 2007.

Firearms

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the availability and use of replica firearms in public places. [196855]

Mr. Coaker: In October 2007, as part of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, we implemented a ban on the manufacture, import and sale of realistic imitation firearms, which evidence showed were being used in criminal activity to threaten and intimidate. The 2006 Act also increased to 12 months the maximum sentence for possessing an imitation firearm in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.

The police, together with SOCA the Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs, are looking at the supply and availability of firearms as a priority. This includes items which contravene the recent legislation on realistic imitations.

We have also recently increased the provision of search arches and wands in priority areas and, as part of the Tackling Violence Action Plan, have committed to providing additional search technology to the police and partner agencies.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers chief constables have to order the retention or removal of entries from the national DNA database; and if she will make a statement. [188154]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for West Bromwich, West (Mr. Bailey) on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 824W.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Yorkshire residents had samples of their DNA recorded on the National DNA Database at the latest date for which figures are available. [192609]

Meg Hillier *[Holding answer 11 March 2008]*: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) does not hold address details, and it is not, therefore, possible to provide figures for the number of people who are resident in the Yorkshire area. The following table gives figures for people sampled by the Yorkshire police forces, however, these people may not be resident in the area in which they were sampled. There are two figures for each force: the number of profiles, and the estimated number of individuals. The number of profiles held on the database is not the same as the number of individuals. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded.

At present, the replication rate is 13.3 per cent., that is, the number of people whose details are loaded is 13.3 per cent. fewer than the number of profiles.

Police force	Subject profiles	Estimated number of individuals
North Yorkshire	55,879	48,447
South Yorkshire	117,023	101,459
West Yorkshire	214,362	185,852
Total for Yorkshire forces	387,264	335,758

Government Offices for the Regions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of her Department's programme budgets were administered by the Government Offices for the Regions in each of the last five years. [195126]

Mr. Byrne: GOs directly administered the following programmes on behalf of Home Office between 2002-03 and 2006-07:

1. Home Office Regional Deputy Directors Allocation
2. Basic Command Unit
3. Safer Stronger Communities Fund (incorporating Building Safer Communities Fund, Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinators and Drug Strategy Partnership Grant)
4. Specialist Domestic Violence Courts
5. Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
6. Tackling Violent Crime Programme
7. Domestic Violence
8. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
9. Sexual Assault Referral Centres
10. Guns, Knives and Gangs
11. Criminal Damage Initiative

The Safer Stronger Communities Fund is now paid to the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) for inclusion in local area agreements (LAAs).

Identity Cards: Students

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she expects students to be able to (*a*) obtain a student loan and (*b*) open a bank account without an identity card from 2010. [195095]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan published on 6 March 2008 and available on the Identity and Passport Service website:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/national-identity-scheme-delivery-2008.pdf

set out our plans for issuing identity cards on a voluntary basis to young people from 2010. Identity cards will provide many advantages to young people who wish to prove their identity as they start out their independent life in society. There is no requirement to have an ID card when applying for a student loan.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the letter of 17 December 2007 from the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency to the Home Affairs Committee, how many cases dealt with under the legacy exercise in which leave to remain in the UK has been granted concerned individuals who had been refused leave to remain under the October 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise; and what her policy is on the grant of leave to remain under the legacy exercise to individuals who have been refused leave under the family indefinite leave to remain exercise. [177361]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 January 2008]*: A written update was provided by Lin Homer on 17 December 2007 to the Home Affairs Select Committee stating that 52,000 older asylum cases have been concluded, of which two-thirds had either been removed, or discovered to be duplicate files or other errors. Around a third (19,000) had been granted leave to stay, of which around 570 did not qualify under the 2003 family exercise.

We consider each case on its own merits and will look at the most up to date information in deciding a claim. Decisions will be based upon the information and circumstances prevalent at the time, regardless of previous exercises.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means she first become aware of Mr Moshe Feiglin's application to enter the UK; what representations she has received from (*a*) other Government departments and (*b*) community groups on Mr Feiglin's case; and if she will make a statement. [194191]

Mr. Byrne: It is not the policy of the Home Office to comment on individual cases.

The Home Secretary may decide to exclude or deport any individual who is not a British citizen if she considers that their presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good. The Home Secretary will use these powers when justified and based on all available evidence taking full account of the views of the relevant Departments. Since July 2005 the Home Secretary has excluded 79 individuals from the UK on grounds of unacceptable behaviour.

Immigration Controls: Airports

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent immigration officers were employed screening incoming passengers at (*a*) Heathrow, (*b*) Stansted and (*c*) Gatwick airports in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [164224]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 14 March 2008.

Immigration Controls: Domestic Service

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 801W, on immigration controls: foreign workers, what the programme of research and analysis being undertaken in respect of the current provisions for overseas

domestic workers consists of, when she expects the results to be published, and if she will place in the Library a copy of the results. [196117]

Mr. Byrne: The focus of the research is to gather existing evidence on overseas domestic workers (ODWs) in order to understand better the risks associated with those entering as ODWs. The research will also highlight the quality of, and any identifiable gaps in currently available information.

The research is expected to be completed in the spring.

The findings of research are normally published if they meet quality standards and do not present issues of security, operational effectiveness or confidentiality. However, a publication date has not been set.

Immigration Controls: Eurostar

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether persons who purchase a Eurostar train ticket from Brussels to Lille are (*a*) subject to juxtaposed UK immigration controls at Brussels, (*b*) checked for valid UK entry documents at any stage during their journey, (*c*) required to alight from the train at Lille and (*d*) subject to full immigration control in the UK if they remain on the train until it arrives in the UK. [180331]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 January 2008]*: Passengers who purchase a Eurostar train ticket from Brussels to Lille are not subject to juxtaposed UK Immigration Controls at Brussels. Under Schengen rules, immigration checks between Schengen states are only permitted in exceptional circumstances.

All passengers boarding at Brussels, irrespective of their ticketing arrangements, have their travel documents checked by the Belgian Federal Police (BFP), who also check personal details against departmental systems. Anyone travelling without valid travel documents will be refused travel by BFP and are liable to arrest if illegally found in the Schengen area.

Passengers who are ticketed only as far as Lille should disembark there. Passengers who are travelling to the UK from Brussels are subject to Immigration Control. Any passengers who do not get off at Lille who are then identified by The Border and Immigration Agency, British Transport Police, Kent Police or the Metropolitan Police can be intercepted and detained in the UK for travelling with inadequate documentation.

Immigration: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 803–4W, on immigration: deportation, what the definition is of serious criminality for the purposes of prioritisation of consideration of deportation under the legacy exercise; what guidance is given to caseworkers relating to this; whether any record is kept of how many such cases result in deportation; and what approach is taken in respect of applicants whose criminality falls outside the definition of serious criminality. [196177]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The definition of serious criminality used within the Border and Immigration Agency is set out in published guidance. Cases which fall within that definition are prioritised in the legacy exercise.

All decisions on legacy cases are made on a case by case basis by caseworkers within the Case Resolution Directorate. The Border and Immigration Agency's website provides details of policy and guidance that staff follow when considering all cases.

In her letter of 17 December 2007 to the Home Affairs Select Committee, Lin Homer, chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, stated that of the 52,000 older asylum cases that had been concluded, about 16,000 led to removals, some of which would be deportations. A detailed breakdown of the reasons for these removals could only be obtained by examination of individual case records at a disproportionate cost.

The Border and Immigration Agency is committed to the removal of foreign criminals who commit a serious crime in this country. We have repeatedly said we will target the most dangerous first. Increasingly we are deporting those who have received shorter sentences.

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of people entitled to apply for indefinite leave to remain under the 14-year residence rule who are not permitted to work or claim benefits until their status is regularised and cannot afford the fee. [195556]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not known. An estimate of this type would be extremely difficult to arrive at, resource intensive and unlikely to be accurate given the nature of this type of application.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer Question 168341, tabled by the hon. Member for Mid Sussex on 21 November 2007, on terrorist suspects and asylum. [185960]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 February 2008]*: I replied to the hon. Member on 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 681W.

Migrants: English Language

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research she has (*a*) commissioned and (*b*) evaluated into the proficiency in English of workers obtaining leave to enter under (i) the highly skilled migrants scheme and (ii) the work permit scheme; and what assessment she has made of the proficiency in English of those who have obtained leave to enter under these schemes. [162956]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 November 2007]*: People coming here under the highly skilled migrant programme (HSMP) have been obliged to meet an English language requirement since November 2006. Such migrants have to prove that they have either:

passed an English language test equivalent to level 6 (competent user) on the International English Language Testing System's scale, or

Obtained a bachelor's degree or equivalent that was taught in English.

Passports: Personation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps were taken to counter identity fraud by the UK Passport Service in each of the last five years; what the cost of these was in each year; what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of these steps; and if she will make a statement. [195964]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service, and prior to 1 April 2006, the UK Passport Service, has introduced a range of measures that help to counter identity fraud. These include carrying out identity checks, investigating suspected identity fraud cases, implementing systems and processes to detect and prevent fraudulent applications for UK passports, systems to confirm the validity of UK passports presented to other organisations and the introduction of interviews for first time passport applicants over 16-years-old. As part of research into the cost of identity fraud to the UK economy published in February 2006, The UK Passport Service calculated the cost of measures to counter identity fraud when processing applications for UK passports issued in the UK at £62.8 million.

In addition, the Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC), chaired by the Identity and Passport Service, has since 2003 been leading a cross public-private sector work programme to tackle identity fraud. There have been a number of successes and costs are given where available. Tougher criminal penalties have been introduced for driving licence and passport offences, alongside offences in the Identity Cards Act 2006 to target those who possess and use false identity documents and genuine documents belonging to someone else.

The IFSC has also led on introducing more powers to share data to combat fraud, and most recently the Disclosure of Death Registration Information Scheme was launched on 16 January 2008.

We have worked extensively to raise public awareness of identity fraud. A leaflet and the website:

www.identitytheft.org.uk

provide a quick and easy guide on things to look out for that indicate that a person may be at risk of becoming a victim of identity theft or fraud, or that they are already a victim. Over 13 million leaflets are in circulation and the website receives an average of 16,000 visits per month. Leaflets are printed by a range of partners on the IFSC, as well as banks and other organisations.

Costs associated with the website are shared across IFSC members. The total cost to Identity and Passport Service in 2007-08 of the leaflet, poster and website is £12,000. In 2006-07 Identity and Passport Service spent £5,500 on printing leaflets. In 2005-06 the Home Office spent £25,000 on identity fraud awareness material.

We have also sought to ensure better co-ordination in prosecuting fraudsters. This has involved the establishment of a network of Single Points of Contact in all police forces and a range of Government Departments and agencies dealing with identity fraud investigations and prosecutions.

Public Order: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the police's powers to disperse groups of youths; and what plans she has to extend those powers. [194259]

Mr. Coaker: Dispersal orders are one of a number of measures to tackle antisocial behaviour. They have succeeded in tackling underage drinking, joyriding, noise nuisance, the antisocial use of fireworks and the harassment and intimidation of residents. They are not intended to be used in isolation, but should form part of a tiered and integrated response to tackling crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour in local areas. This includes work by Youth Offending Teams to prevent young people getting involved in offending and antisocial behaviour. There are no plans to extend dispersal powers.

While no assessment has been made of the efficacy of dispersal orders on their own, a study and report by the National Audit Office ('Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour', HC 99 Session 2006-07, 7 December 2006) confirmed that a tiered approach to tackling antisocial behaviour is highly effective. This is also borne out by the fact that perceptions of antisocial behaviour have fallen by 4 percentage points from the baseline of 21 per cent. in 2002-03 to 17 per cent. in 2005-06.

Rape: Prosecutions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the next quarterly report to the National Criminal Justice Board on local progress in investigating and prosecuting rape will be issued; and if she will publish *a* this report and *b* all future reports from the board. [194253]

Mr. Coaker: The Rape Performance Group will report to the National Criminal Justice Board on a quarterly basis, but the precise arrangements for this have yet to be agreed. There are no plans to publish a quarterly report on the performance of police forces and CPS (the Crown Prosecution Service) areas on the investigation and prosecution of rape cases.

Travel Restrictions: Football

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the enforcement of prohibitions upon certain individuals against travel to and attendance at international football matches; what discussions she has had on the matter with her counterpart in the Scottish Executive; and if she will make a statement. [196282]

Mr. Coaker: Individuals subject to football banning orders imposed in England and Wales are required by the Football Banning Orders Authority to report to a designated police station at the beginning of the control period for all matches and tournaments played outside England and Wales and thereafter on match days. Failure to comply with these instructions is a criminal offence punishable by a custodial sentence of up to six months and/or £5,000 fine and the imposition of a further football banning order.

There is close co-operation between the Home Office and Scottish Executive, and between police forces on both sides of the border to ensure that different legislative arrangements across the UK do not lead to evasion of the controls. The requirement that banned individuals report to their designated police station at least five days prior to a relevant match or tournament ensures local police have sufficient time to take enforcement action against any individual who fails to comply with reporting instructions.

Vandalism: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there were for vandalism in (*a*) Tamworth constituency and (*b*) Staffordshire in each year since 2000. [195445]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection undertaken by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by Police Force area, age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group. Hence data are not available at parliamentary constituency level and cases involving vandalism are not identified by the collection. Information is given in the following table for Staffordshire police force area for the number of persons arrested for offences within the main offence group "criminal damage".

Table 1: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) of Criminal Damage, in Staffordshire police force area, by period

	Total
2000/01	n/a
2001/02	n/a
2002/03	n/a
2003/04	2,988
2004/05	3,266
2005/06	3,459

n/a = Not available

Includes indictable offences for criminal damage and summary offences of criminal damage, 35 (0.5) or less.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer Question 176720, tabled by the hon. Member for Shipley on 18 December 2007, on Project Semaphore. [188667]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2669W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the Question tabled on 4 February 2008, by the hon. Member for Eddisbury, on Wikipedia. (185527). [195203]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 790W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195878]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has published its Environmental Operations Policy which is available on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/environment.asp

This sets out the Department's approach to managing the Estate's operational and support activities in line with the Government's objectives on Sustainable Development. The DFID Sustainable Development Action Plan has also been published and is available at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/sustainable-development-plan-intro.asp

This explains DFID's approach to sustainable development, the commitments made in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, and plans for taking them forward.

DFID's performance against Sustainable Development in Government targets is reported annually by the Sustainable Development Commission, and the latest (2007) report records the continuing improvement in DFID's environmental performance.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UK aid in reducing poverty in the developing world. [196696]

Mr. Thomas: The Government are committed to ensuring that UK aid is used effectively to make a difference to the lives of the world's poorest people. UK aid helps lift three million people permanently out of poverty every year. The recent OECD-DAC baseline survey also shows that the Department for International Development (DFID) has either met or is on track to meet all of the 2010 targets contained in the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness.

Kenya: Overseas Aid

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what (*a*) development and (*b*) humanitarian aid his Department has provided to Kenya via (i) bilateral programmes, (ii) multi-lateral agencies and (iii) non-governmental organisations in the last five years. [195633]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the following support to Kenya over the last five years.

Table 1: DFID Bilateral assistance to Kenya, 2002-03 to 2006-07

£000

	Total humanitarian assistance to Kenya	Total DFID bilateral assistance to Kenya (excl. humanitarian assistance)	Total DFID bilateral assistance to Kenya
2002-03	1,474	42,524	43,998
2003-04	229	25,532	25,761
2004-05	5,517	29,671	35,188
2005-06	16,577	46,096	62,673
2006-07	13,240	52,048	65,288

Table 2: Imputed UK Share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) to Kenya, 2001-05

£000

2001	14,678
2002	3,557
2003	18,250
2004	9,447
2005	10,279

DFID provides funding to non-Government organisations in Kenya, but it does not collate statistics on the total amount of its bilateral programme that is delivered through NGOs.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has received reports of the hijacking of World Food Programme trucks in Darfur since 1 January 2008; and what assessment he has made of the humanitarian impact of such events in Darfur. [195671]

Gillian Merron: The latest statement from the World Food Programme (WFP) indicated that five WFP passenger vehicles and 45 WFP-contracted trucks have been hijacked in Darfur since the start of 2008. Some 37 trucks and 23 drivers are still unaccounted for.

The insecurity in Darfur has forced many agencies to scale back operations at a time on increasing need. Although existing food stocks are sufficient for the next two months, the insecurity is hampering the ability of WFP and other agencies to stock pile food, medicines, shelter materials and fuel before the onset of the rainy season in May/June when needs will rise dramatically and logistics become extremely difficult.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Further Education

12. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, what assessment he has made of the impact that the changes to regional administration will have on the funding of colleges of further education; and if he will make a statement. [196491]

Bill Rammell: On 17 March with the Department for Children, Schools and Families we published "Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver". It sets out plans to tackle education and skills challenges and strengthen support for young people and adults.

In the proposals, colleges will receive funding for pre 19 provision from local authorities and for post 19 provision from the Skills Funding Agency. This continues the current practice of two distinct discussions for pre and post 19 provision.

National Apprenticeships Service

13. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, what the functions and objectives of the proposed National Apprenticeship Service are; and if he will make a statement. [196493]

Mr. Denham: The proposed National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) will have end to end responsibility for the Apprenticeship programme, including accountability for the national delivery of targets. Full functions and objectives of the National Apprenticeship Service are detailed in Section 4 of 'World-class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All' published on 28 January 2008. The NAS will be a distinct service within the Learning and Skills Council and will commence in April 2009.

Bursaries

14. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, if he will take steps to improve access to bursaries for students from lower-income families. [196495]

Bill Rammell: This Government have put in place the most generous financial support package ever. At least 70,000 students from a lower-income background have received bursaries.

But we can and must do more. We have made improvements to the Student Finance Form to make it easier for students to consent to share financial information to be assessed for bursaries. We are also working with OFFA—the Office for Fair Access—and the sector on sharing good practice on encouraging bursary take-up.

Learning and Skills Council

15. **Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on the future role of the Learning and Skills Council. [196498]

Mr. Denham: The White Paper 'Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver', was published jointly with DCSF on 17 March 2008. This sets out proposals to replace the Learning and Skills Council with two new systems. Responsibility for 16-19 funding will transfer to local authorities, supported by a new Young People's Learning Agency. For adults we propose to strengthen the demand led approach, including through the creation of a new Skills Funding Agency and a strengthened advice and support service.

These proposals will require legislation, and the LSC will continue to play an important role in securing effective delivery of post-16 learning until the new arrangements are in place.

Universities: Access

16. **Christine Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, what discussions he has held with universities on enabling public access to their facilities. [196499]

Bill Rammell: This is already part of the business of higher education providers. For example, over two million people attend public lectures and performances put on by higher education providers. UK academics provide over 30,000 working days in support of museums, galleries and related education activity, benefiting millions of people, and the public can access top class sporting facilities as well. Our new "university challenge" initiative also emphasises that higher education providers make a real difference to the cultural life of towns, not least through the facilities which benefit both students and communities.

Learning and Development

17. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the demand for learning and development in relation to sectors requiring highly skilled workers; and if he will make a statement. [196500]

Bill Rammell: Analysis undertaken for the Leitch review suggested that 18 million jobs would become vacant between 2004 and 2020, half of which would be in the occupations most likely to employ graduates and those with higher level skills. All sectors require highly-skilled workers to meet the increasing demand for knowledgeable, adaptable and innovative people and Sector Skills Councils articulate the needs of employers for learning provision at all levels in particular sectors.

Wirral Metropolitan College

18. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on the future of Wirral metropolitan college. [196501]

Bill Rammell: The Corporation of Wirral Metropolitan College has recently announced plans to develop a new world class college for 2011, including investment to redevelop the college estate. These plans are at an early stage: they will require consultation and will need to demonstrate that they provide further education opportunities that meet the needs and demands of people in the Wirral.

Knowledge Transfer

19. **Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution knowledge transfer partnerships can make to university-created businesses. [196502]

Ian Pearson: The aim of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) is to strengthen the competitiveness and wealth creation of the UK by the stimulation of innovation in business through collaborative partnerships with the UK knowledge base. Businesses of all sizes in most industries and commercial sectors can take part.

No specific assessment has been made of the contribution KTPs can make to university spinout businesses. However, in July 2007 the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) took over responsibility for Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, and the TSB is currently considering how best to meet the needs of different types of businesses.

Higher Education

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students gained a place at a higher education institution in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [196480]

Bill Rammell: The latest figures published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that the number of applicants who have been accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses in 2007 was up by 6 per cent. compared to 2006. They have also exceeded the large increase in 2005, which means the 2007 figures are the highest ever. The small downturn which we saw in 2006, which we always anticipated, has been strongly reversed this year.

Age: Discrimination

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to identify and record instances of age discrimination in the workplace. [164128]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply on behalf of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Neither the European Framework Directive (2000/78/EC) nor the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations, which implement the age strand of the directive, require instances of age discrimination in the workplace to be identified and recorded. Instances of age discrimination that individuals have challenged through the employment tribunal system are recorded. Data about cases are available in the employment tribunal and EAT statistics for the year to 31 March 2007 at:

www.employmenttribunals.gov.uk/publications/documents/annual_reports/ETSAS06-07.pdf

We shall be monitoring the effectiveness of the legislation through the second Survey of Employers Policies, Practices and Preferences Relating to Age in 2009 and through the second Fair Treatment at Work Survey later this year which looks at perceptions of discrimination in the workplace.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196742]

Bill Rammell: The guidance currently offered to staff comprises:

The Civil Service Code, covering the values and standards civil servants are expected to uphold, in terms of integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality.

Staff policies on involvement with publications, broadcasting, lectures, conferences and surveys; acceptable usage of IT; political activities; official information and data protection; and whistleblowing.

We are working with the Cabinet Office to develop cross-government guidance on use of social media by Government, including the propriety and ethical issues raised. This is due for publication in April.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will set a target to increase the use of video conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195861]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is committed to reducing the need to travel to meetings where this is practicable and appropriate. Our departmental blueprint sets out our vision to be innovative and have exemplary business operations. In developing our new headquarters building, Kingsgate House, we have installed state-of-the-art video conferencing and telepresence facilities, as well as phone conferencing. E-conferencing is also being used to give people the ability to attend meetings from their desks by accessing a shared workspace which enables interaction with colleagues. Our wide range of video conferencing facilities provide for ad-hoc one-to-one conversations as well as formal planned meetings and committees. These are seen as really positive steps within the Department and I do not believe that to develop an artificial target to increase video conferencing usage would deliver any additional benefits.

Educational Institutions: Community Relations

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department has issued to educational establishments on promoting shared values and combating violent extremism. [196494]

Bill Rammell: On 22 January, we issued guidance to higher education institutions on promoting good campus relations, fostering shared values and preventing violent extremism on HE campuses.

On 11 February we also launched a consultation with the further education sector on its role in this area and the support providers need.

Higher Education: Business

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his assessment is of the contribution universities make to business. [196497]

Bill Rammell: Universities make an important contribution to business through research, knowledge transfer, innovation and work force development, in addition to supplying skilled and knowledgeable graduates. We have invested in university-business collaboration through increases in the Higher Education Innovation Fund and Knowledge Transfer Partnerships and a stronger focus on the economic impact of research. Work force development is less developed and we will consult through a Higher Level Skills Strategy on how universities can better meet this challenge.

Personal Records: Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies have been contracted by his Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing and analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens during the last five years. [183857]

Bill Rammell: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007.

HEFCE

Contracts with IPSOS/MORI for the purpose of carrying out the National Student Survey. As part of this contract, IPSOS/MORI transfers some data to a US company called SPSS Inc.

FE

The following research organisations to whom both DIUS and LSC have supplied ILR data to in the last five years and who appear to be UK subsidiaries of US companies:

ORC International: part of Opinion Research Corporation who are based in Princeton, New Jersey.

Guidance Enterprise: GE Research.

BMRB Social Research: they are part of Millward Brown, who in turn are part of Kantar Group, a company based in Connecticut.

CACI Ltd.: they are a subsidiary of CACI International Inc. who are based in the US.

Student Loans Company

The Oracle Corporation in the US hold and process the HR and finance data for the Student Loans Company on the Oracle system. These systems do 'not' meet the definition of a "database" as advised by the Cabinet Office.

The Government takes the protection of personal data extremely seriously. Data exchanges between the Student Loans Company and HMRC have all been reviewed following the Chancellor's statement on

20 November to ensure they meet the appropriate security standards. No breaches of data protection protocols have occurred in respect of student loan administration. Furthermore, the provisions catering for the sharing of information in the Sale of Student Loans Bill will strengthen the framework for legal protection of data in respect of all loans, whether sold or unsold. The Bill will extend an existing criminal sanction prohibiting the wrongful disclosure of HMRC information outside the terms of the legislative gateway.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 31 March 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electronic Voting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance or advice the Electoral Commission has provided on the use of electronic counting machines following faults with equipment supplied by Data Research Services in Scotland. [195296]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has not issued guidance on the use of electronic counting machines. However, after the publication of the Gould report on the May 2007 elections in Scotland, the Electoral Commission published its views on steps that it believes the Government should take before e-counting is used in any further statutory elections.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 452W, on departmental advertising, how much is represented by each of the percentages given. [197456]

David Cairns: The figures are:

	£
SO/OAG	
1999-2000	26,861
2000-01	270,494
2001-02	186,564
2002-03	10,390
SO (only)	
2003-04	Nil
2004-05	Nil
2005-06	Nil
2006-07	17,510

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Leader of the House what visits she made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events she attended at each. [197157]

Helen Goodman: Neither my right hon. and learned Friend, the Leader of the House, nor any of her predecessors visited any of the listed venues in a ministerial capacity as Leader of the House between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.

Members: Expenses

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House how many hon. Members make direct contributions to the Parliamentary Resources Unit from their Incidental Expenses Provision. [197724]

Helen Goodman: In financial year 2007-08, 93 Members have made payments to the Parliamentary Resources Unit from their incidental expenses provision. In addition, 34 Members have made such payments from other allowances.

OLYMPICS

London 2012: Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff in each salary band are employed in the management of the London 2012 Olympics. [190239]

Tessa Jowell: In relation to the Government Olympic Executive (GOE):

There are currently 63 members of staff working in the GOE, on the management of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

GOE is the client for the Games on behalf of central Government. Senior staff members of GOE bring significant high-level commercial and financial experience in major, complex construction and infrastructure programmes, and policy delivery, in order to provide effective oversight of this process. Their rates of pay reflect this.

GOE's Director General has a salary of £220,000 per annum and the salary of the Director of Build and Finance is £180,000 per annum.

Four senior staff are in the senior civil service pay band 1 (£56,100 to £116,000); and three are in the senior civil service pay band 2 (£81,60.0 to £160,000).

40 members of GOE staff are in the DCMS pay bands shown in the following table:

	Number	*Minimum*	£ *Maximum*
A (Upper)	3	49,918	64,065
A	14	42,770	52,985
B	19	27,560	35,335
C	2	21,242	25,178
D	2	16,796	20,395

Note:
Grades A(Upper) to D pay Scales based on August 2007 settlement.

A further 14 people working in GOE are employed through agencies on an interim basis.

In relation to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA):

ODA employees are paid individual salaries (often known as "spot rate pay") within a broad pay band structure, which allows for a wide range of jobs to be accommodated within a relatively small number of pay bands. This allows pay to be managed more flexibly in response to rapid organisational change or market-pressure. The basic salary bands of permanent ODA staff, excluding ODA's Chief Executive Officer (up to February 2008) are as follows:

Band	Number of staff	Minimum (£)	Maximum (£)
CEO	1	n/a	n/a
5	7	129,375	331,200
4	26	62,100	129,375
3	69	41,400	93,150
2	29	31,050	51,750
1	45	20,700	41,400

The ODA's Chief Executive has a salary of £372,600.

The ODA salary bands reflect the need to recruit and retain the expertise needed to deliver this unique, complex, and time limited challenge. The challenge of the ODA is without precedent and is one of the biggest jobs in the construction industry. Given the fixed deadline and the need for specialist skills in engineering, design, planning, construction, project management and other specialist areas, the ODA has had to recruit expertise most often found in the commercial sector. Rates of pay are therefore reflective of this and comparable with industry levels.

In relation to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd (LOCOG):

LOCOG is a private company. It therefore publishes summary information about expenditure on staff salaries in its annual report, which is publicly available from Companies House.

In relation to the wider Olympic family:

Within the wider Olympic Family, staff involved in the management of the Games are employed by many other organisations, for example, by other parts of Government, the Greater London Authority (GLA), the London Development Agency (LDA), the British Olympic Association (BOA), and the British Paralympic Association (BPA). Salary information for each organisation can be found in their respective annual reports.

Olympic Games 2012: Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1298W, on Olympic Games 2012: expenditure, (1) how much each of the approved projects will cost; [189365]

(2) what the 19 approved projects with expenditure over £20 million are. [189366]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 371W.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to publish estimated costs for (*a*) the aquatic centre, (*b*) the velodrome, (*c*) the international broadcast centre/media and press centre and (*d*) the athletes village. [197581]

Tessa Jowell: We will make an announcement shortly that will include an update on the Aquatics Centre and the Velopark, of which the Velodrome is the main component. The combined public sector budget for the IBC/MPC and athletes village is £492 million (inc. VAT) as announced in December 2007. However, as the negotiations on both projects are continuing and commercially sensitive, it is not yet possible to announce information on costs.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what assessment she has made of the impact of instability in the financial markets on provision in the Olympics 2012 budget for (*a*) the athletes village and (*b*) the international broadcast centre/media and press centre; and what the current estimated budget for each venue is; [197582]

(2) whether she has had recent discussions with Bovis/Lend Lease on the size of the public sector contribution to the athletes village. [197583]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and officials from the Government Olympic Executive are meeting regularly with Bovis Lend Lease, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children Schools and Families as commercial discussions continue.

The combined public sector budget for the IBC/MPC and the Olympic Village is £492 million (inc. VAT). However, the exact value of the overall public sector contribution will be finalised as these negotiations are closed out over the coming weeks. Negotiations are also still under way with potential developers of the International Broadcast Centre and Main Press Centre. In both cases, as sensitive commercial dialogue continues, the details of any potential impact of the current economic situation, or the project costs cannot yet be announced.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to start publishing (*a*) monthly cashflow and (*b*) quarterly financial updates for the 2012 Olympic Games. [197585]

Tessa Jowell: Cross-party support and proper scrutiny on the progress we are making on the Olympics is critical to the success of the games. To maintain this and to provide transparency on the games, we will publish a progress and financial report every six months—the first was published on 23 January 2008 and the next is due in June 2008. In addition I have put in place arrangements so that the hon. Member and other Opposition spokesmen may receive regular briefings on Olympic progress, including costs and cash flows. These will continue.

The Olympic Board receives monthly reports including cashflows and publication of these would not be appropriate as this could give rise to commercial disadvantages.

The Government have already made much information available, for example, Chapter 20 of the CSR White Paper published on 9 October 2007 sets out the Government's contribution for the next three years (2008-09 to 2010-11). The balance of the funding requirement will be met, as planned in March 2007, from contributions from the Mayor of London (GLA and IDA); from funding already coming in from Olympic lottery games; from the funds to be transferred from the National Lottery Distribution Fund; and from funds from the Sports Lottery Distributor.

Further details of ODA's annual cash flows will be set out in future business plan summaries, which will be published in the coming weeks.

Olympic Games 2012: Ministerial Responsibility

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what Ministerial responsibility she has to ensure the continuation of the informal cross-party agreement for co-operation over the Olympic Games. [197584]

Tessa Jowell: Cross-party support for the Olympics is critical to the success of the games. So I have put in place arrangements for quarterly briefings on our progress and finances for opposition spokesmen (both in this House and in the other place) and for the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee. I have also committed to provide an Olympics Annual Report to Parliament (the first of which was published in January), supplemented by a six-monthly update.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cars: Hire Services

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on *(a)* car hire and *(b)* taxis in each year since 1997; and whether specifications have been set out in respect of the type of cars to be hired. [195942]

Nick Harvey: The main uses of car hire and taxis are for late night staff transport and use of the government car service. Figures are only readily available from 2003.

	Late night transport (£)	*Government car service (£)*
2003-04	215,204	40,143
2004-05	272,377	31,331
2005-06	293,847	31,946
2006-07	390,027	27,841
(to date)	404,399	31,195

Both black cabs and contracted car hire services are used for these services. The type of vehicle provided will depend on the number of passengers to be carried.

Departmental Expenses

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the 24-hour overnight allowance is for staff employed by the House of Commons Commission when working outside London but in the UK. [197344]

Nick Harvey: Staff away from home on official business may claim for the cost of meals and accommodation. For overnight stays the cost of bed and breakfast is reimbursed directly. In addition an allowance is paid to cover main meals; for areas outside inner London this is £18.65 in any 24 hour period. A personal or incidental expenses allowance of £5 per night is also payable.

Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1311-2W, on drinking water, if the Commission will make it its policy to provide tap water in addition to bottled water in committee and meeting rooms while the re-examination of policy on the provision of drinking water is underway. [197525]

Nick Harvey: The standing recommendation from the Administration Committee is for the provision of bottled water in committee rooms. The Department of Facilities is re-examining the issue and no further action will be taken until the Administration Committee has had the opportunity to consider the matter.

Internet: Biofuels

Mr. Hoban: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many people accessed the parliamentary podcast pilot on biofuels in the 24 hours following its launch. [196649]

Nick Harvey: In the first 24 hours after the parliamentary podcast pilot launch the biofuels recording was accessed by four users who subscribed to the podcast Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed. In the first week of launch 452 visitors viewed the biofuels pages on the parliamentary website.

Mineral Waters

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what proportion of glass from bottles containing drinking water on sale in parliamentary canteens or provided by House departments for hon. Members' use was *(a)* recycled and *(b)* sent for disposal in landfill sites in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what the estimated cost was to departments of the House of providing bottles of water in each year since 1997. [194558]

Nick Harvey: All glass from bottles containing drinking water on sale in parliamentary canteens or provided by House departments for hon. Members' use is recycled.

The cost of bottled water provided by the House of Commons in each of the last five financial years is estimated in the table. Costs are not available prior to 2002. Catering and Retail Services sells water to its customers at a profit, and so the cost of water purchased for sale in the catering outlets (item *(a)* in the following table) is not a cost to the House.

Cost of bottled water purchases	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
(a) Catering and Retail Services	[1]58,832	[1]55,895	47,820	53,188	49,271
(b) Committee Rooms	n/a	n/a	8,357	6,656	8,340
(c) Office supplies[1]	n/a	5,165	7,449	6,095	6,988
Estimated total cost of purchases	58,832	61,060	63,626	65,939	64,599

[1] incl. committee rooms
[2] estimated

Palace of Westminster: Screening

Mr. Bone: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what representations the Commission has received on the provision of a mobile screening unit for bowel cancer in the Palace of Westminster. [197673]

Nick Harvey: There have been no representations to the Commission about the provision of a mobile screening unit for bowel cancer in the Palace of Westminster. However, a bowel cancer awareness day was held in the Attlee suite, Portcullis House on 20 April 2006. The joint parliamentary medical panel has taken the view that it is impractical for mobile screening to be carried out on the parliamentary estate.

Palace of Westminster: Waste Management

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much waste was sent to landfill by the House in each year since 1997. [197405]

Nick Harvey: No waste from the parliamentary estate has been sent to landfill since 1998. A proportion of the waste is reused and recycled and what cannot be reused or recycled is sent to a power plant where it is burnt to generate electricity. Of the waste from the power plant; the larger clinker waste is used in road base construction and the finer dust waste is sent to landfill. During 2006-07, the parliamentary estate sent 1,173 tonnes of waste to the power plant. This waste is mixed with waste from other buildings and it is not possible to determine how much dust waste results from the burning of the parliamentary waste and consequently, how much dust waste is sent to landfill.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by the House of Commons Commission in each of the last nine years. [197521]

Nick Harvey: There is no record of Rackspace having any contract with the House.

WALES

Brofiscin Quarry: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to his Answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 819W, on Brofiscin Quarry: hazardous substances, what the timetable was of action taken by the Environment Agency since 2001 when they have been involved in site investigations at Brofiscin Quarry; and if he will make a statement. [196354]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I am informed by the Environment Agency Wales that under part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Brofiscin Quarry was designated as a 'special site' by Rhondda Cynon Taf county borough council in March 2005. At that time the Environment Agency began its investigations of Brofiscin Quarry pursuant to the provisions of the Act. Those investigations are currently ongoing.

The Environment Agency is currently concluding a remedial options appraisal in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance. The Environment Agency has liaised with local residents and other interested parties throughout its investigations.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years, and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196936]

Mr. Paul Murphy: In the last three years my Department has held 15 events where wine has been served, none of the wine was fairtrade.

When catering for future functions in London and Cardiff, where possible and consistent with value for money, the purchase of fairtrade wine and locally sourced wine will be considered.

Suicide: Young People

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will discuss the co-ordination of support services for suicide prevention amongst young people with the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government; and if he will make a statement. [196782]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I regularly discuss a range of issues with the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government including the co-ordination of support services for suicide prevention among young people in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government and local services in Bridgend are working in full collaboration with the police service to analyse the recent tragic deaths within the Bridgend county borough. This analysis is being used to inform the development of an all Wales Suicide Prevention Action Plan.

It is of enormous encouragement that the many voluntary and support organisations, the health and social care agencies and the police, which all do tremendous work in the management of vulnerable children, young people and adults, continue to work in close collaboration.

By continuing this work, and through improvements to interagency joint arrangements, training and awareness raising across agencies, we hope to reduce occurrence of these tragic incidences.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Genetics: Databases

David Davis: To ask the Solicitor-General how many individuals matched to UK records from the Dutch disk of DNA profiles sent to the Crown Prosecution Service are *(a)* the subject of extradition requests by the Dutch authorities and *(b)* subject to a UK arrest warrant. [197055]

The Solicitor-General: As part of an initiative to exchange data between the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, 2,159 DNA profiles from crime scenes in the Netherlands have been searched against the UK National DNA Database. The DNA matches identified as a result are now the subject of ongoing police investigations, both here and in the Netherlands.

Data arising as a result of this continuing police operation are liable to change subject to developments both here and in the Netherlands, and no information can be released which might in any way jeopardise ongoing investigations.

Racially Aggravated Offences: Prosecutions

John Mann: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions for racial hatred offences there were in each of the last 10 years. [197323]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General's consent is required for prosecutions under Part III of the Public Order Act 1986 (relating to offences concerning conduct intended to, or likely to, stir up racial hatred). The Attorney- General's Office (AGO) keeps statistics in relation to prosecutions where such consent has been granted. The following table captures the relevant data for 1998 to 2008 inclusive. The statistics are recorded by reference to the year in which each case was referred to the Crown Prosecution Service by the police, rather than the year in which an offender was charged or convicted.

	Prosecutions
1998	0
1999	5
2000	8
2001	2
2002	1
2003	8
2004	8
2005	2
2006	3
2007	0
2008	0
Total	44

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Culture: Exports

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what share of the UK's media exports were provided by the *(a)* video games, *(b)* television and *(c)* film industries in each year since 1997. [196877]

Margaret Hodge: have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the value of UK exports of services for the creative industries provided by the *(a)* 'software, computer games and electronic publishing' *(b)* 'radio and TV' and *(c)* 'Video, film and photography' sectors. The share of UK 'media' exports is not available, so the share of all 'creative industries' exports has been provided instead. This share is only shown from 2000 onwards since data for total creative industries exports are not available in earlier years.

Exports of services for selected Creative Industries sectors (value, £ million)

	Software, games and electronic publishing		*Radio and TV*		*Video, film and photography*		*Total*	
	Value	*Share (%)*	*Value*	*Share (%)*	*Value*	*Share (%)*	*Value*	*Share (%)*
1997	1,400	—	500	—	710	—	n/a	—
1998	1,700	—	640	—	680	—	n/a	—
1999	2,300	—	730	—	730	—	n/a	—
2000	2,500	26	690	7	940	10	9,500	100
2001	3,900	35	910	8	910	8	11,000	100
2002	3,500	31	1,000	9	840	7	11,300	100
2003	3,900	34	1,000	9	810	7	11,600	100

Exports of services for selected Creative Industries sectors (value, £ million)

	Software, games and electronic publishing		*Radio and TV*		*Video, film and photographs*		*Total*	
	Value	*Share (%)*	*Value*	*Share (%)*	*Value*	*Share (%)*	*Value*	*Share (%)*
2004	4,700	36	1,300	10	940	7	13,000	100
2005	4,800	33	1,300	9	1,200	8	14,600	100

n/a = not available

Source:

DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates statistical bulletin (Oct 2007) - based primarily on data from International Trade in Services, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Total creative industries exports include exports of services in the following sectors: 'advertising', 'architecture', 'art and antiques', 'design', 'video, film and photography', 'music and the visual and performing arts', 'publishing', 'software, computer games and electronic publishing' and 'radio and TV'. Exports for the 'crafts' and 'designer fashion' sectors are excluded as consistent data are not available.

The 'software, computer games and electronic publishing' sector comprises all firms classified in official business data under 'publishing of software', 'other software consultancy and supply' or 'reproduction of computer media' (only 25 per cent. of this class is included). Games development firms likely represent only a small proportion of this sector.

The 'radio and TV' sector comprises firms classified in official business data under 'radio and television activities'.

The 'video, film and photography' sector comprises firms classified in official business data under 'reproduction of video recording' (25 per cent. only), 'photographic activities' (25 per cent. only), 'motion picture and video production', 'motion picture and video distribution' or 'motion picture projection'.

The UK Film Council also produces figures for the value of exports of services specifically by the film industry—as opposed to the wider 'video, film and photography' sector. Also based on ONS data, they estimate that these exports totalled £967million in 2005.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for how long the outreach provision provided by his Department to the eight post offices in the Cotswolds will be maintained. [196994]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how postmasters whose post offices have been closed are reimbursed for the length of their leases; and if he will make a statement. [197112]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which post office branches have (*a*) closed and (*b*) opened in the City of Edinburgh local authority area since 1997. [197360]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director, of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many transactions per week, on average, there were across post office counters in York in each of the last three years. [197136]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Video Games

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of exports by the UK games development sector in each year since 1997. [196976]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the value of exports specifically by the UK games development sector is not available.

The value of UK exports of services in the 'software, computer games and electronic publishing' sector is published in the annual DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates statistical bulletin. Games development firms likely represent only a small proportion of this sector.

Exports of services for the software, computer games and electronic publishing sector

	(£ million)
1997	1,400
1998	1,700
1999	2,300
2000	2,500
2001	3,900
2002	3,500
2003	3,900

Exports of services for the software, computer games and electronic publishing sector

	£ million
2004	4,700
2005	4,800

Source

DCMS Creative Industries Economic Estimates statistical bulletin (October 2007)—based on data from 'International Trade in Services', Office for National Statistics.

The software, computer games and electronic publishing sector comprises all firms classified in official business data under 'publishing of software', 'other software consultancy and supply' or 'reproduction of computer media' (only 25 per cent. of this class is included).

Winter Fuel Payments: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people received the winter fuel payment in *(a)* Barnsley, East and Mexborough constituency, *(b)* Barnsley Metropolitan Borough and *(c)* Doncaster Metropolitan Borough in the most recent period for which figures are available. [195759]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The information is in the following table. We expect the numbers to be similar for winter 2007-08.

Winter fuel payments made in winter 2006-07

	Number
Barnsley, East and Mexborough constituency	17,870
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough	46,010
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough	59,520

Notes

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source

Information directorate-100 per cent. data.

TRANSPORT

A14: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Highway Agency intends to restrict local vehicular access to the A14 around Kettering. [196701]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is working with Northamptonshire county council to identify a package of transport measures to minimise and manage traffic generated by the proposed growth in North Northamptonshire and ensure the smooth running of the existing A14 around Kettering.

This includes investigating a number of new and proven techniques which could be introduced in the short to medium term and which are designed to make the most of the existing A14 around Kettering. One such technique, involving installing traffic signals on slip roads, is designed to regulate and improve flow on the A14. A decision on its implementation would follow the results of the current feasibility study.

Aviation: Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information she has obtained as part of her assessment of the potential for high-speed rail on the number and percentage of passengers switching from air to rail services where high-speed rail lines have been opened in France. [197542]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has made no specific assessment of the shift from air to rail services where high-speed rail lines have been opened in France.

Bus Services: Concessions

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* local transport authorities and *(c)* passenger transport executives have made representations to her Department on the national concessionary bus fares scheme in the last 12 months. [195643]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The Department for Transport has received representations on the new England-wide statutory minimum concession to be introduced on 1 April from all tiers of local government, including the Local Government Association, London Councils, Transport for London and the Passenger Transport Executive Group, as well as individual authorities.

Over 200 responses were received to the Department's consultation last autumn on the formula distribution for the special grant for the new England-wide concession from 1 April. A list of those who responded was included in the Department's Consultation Response Document: Local Authority special grant funding for the 2008 national bus concession in England, available on its website.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether local authorities will receive changes to their special grant for concessionary bus fares following representations made since the publication of the draft funding settlement; and if she will make a statement. [196273]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The Local Government Finance Special Grant Report (No. 129) was laid before the House on 19 February 2008 and approved following a parliamentary debate on 25 March. The grant distribution reflects the likely burden of cost and is designed to direct funding towards visitor "hotspots" such as coastal towns, urban areas and others likely to experience an increase in concessionary bus journeys as a result of the new England-wide concession from 1 April.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of her Department's recent advertising campaign on the change in rules for the national concessionary bus fare scheme. [196826]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total communications budget for our concessionary fares publicity campaign is £1.3 million, of which media spend on advertising is £809,600 covering press, magazine and outdoor poster advertising.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons were for giving the responsibility for and finance of national concessionary bus fare schemes to district councils; and whether she plans to alter this arrangement. [196996]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 March 2008]*: District councils have been responsible for the statutory concessionary travel scheme since its introduction in 2000. This is consistent with their historic role in licensing bus services prior to deregulation, and their work in other areas such as taxi licensing.

The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 contains powers allowing Ministers, subject to future consultation and parliamentary scrutiny, to make secondary legislation which would transfer concessionary travel responsibilities from lower tier (district councils) to higher tier authorities (county councils). It would not have been prudent to make such a radical change less than a year before the introduction of the new England-wide statutory minimum concession from 1 April, particularly when those with existing responsibility for concessionary travel were in the process of issuing over six million new passes to a tight timetable.

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make an estimate of the annual cost of providing a free bus pass for pensioners which could be used for travel across local authority boundaries on a national basis. [197531]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Our assessment of the likely cost impact of the new England-wide concession is based on generous assumptions about pass take-up, fares and increased patronage. On this basis, for 2008-09 we have allocated an additional £212 million (rising to £217 million and £223 million in the following years) to travel concession authorities in England from 1 April, enough to fund around an extra 200 million bus journeys in local authorities across England.

Our current focus remains on ensuring the successful introduction of the new England-wide concession on 1 April and at this stage we have made no detailed assessment of the cost of introducing mutual recognition of concessionary bus passes between Scotland, Wales and England.

Bus Services: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government contributed to the cost of running bus services in York from *(a)* 1987 to 1997 and *(b)* 1997 to 2007. [197182]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Rural Bus Subsidy Grant (RBSG) was introduced in 1998 to help local authorities provide support for bus services. The City of York has to date received a total of £1,046,716 in RBSG from the Department.

York has also received a total of £415,000 in support under the Rural Bus Challenge competition, also introduced in 1998.

Local authorities may also use funding from the Government's unhypothecated Revenue Support Grant to support local bus services.

Bus companies operating in and around York also receive Bus Service Operators Grant from the Department. This is a payment equivalent to about 80 per cent. of the fuel duty operators incur in providing local bus services. However, as BSOG is a payment direct to operators, statistics are not kept of payments by local authority or geographical area.

Bus Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of passengers carried by buses in York in each year since 1987. [197184]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available from the DFT annual survey of bus operators. Local authority estimates of bus passenger journeys are published by the Audit Commission.

Cycleways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new cycle lanes and tracks have been created in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area. [197692]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data are available only from 2001-02. We do not have comprehensive audited returns which give reliable figures at local authority level. In addition, some authorities are no longer required to submit returns.

Cycling: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what sources of funding are made available by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* organisations which report to her Department for the development of national cycle routes. [197737]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department announced in January a £140 million investment for its cycling delivery body, Cycling England, over the next three years to complement local authority spend. This has a number of programmes including new routes to around 500 schools, building on the successful Links to Schools programme. In addition, £18.4 million of Government funding since 2005 has provided 295 Links to Schools which link over 600 schools and form part of the National Cycle Network (NCN).

£47 million has also been allocated on extending the Cycling Demonstration Towns (CDT) programme to up to 17 towns including a large city. The outcome of the bidding process for new CDTs is due to be announced later this year. Until the new CDTs and six existing ones develop their future programmes, it is not possible to say what the precise funding will be for increasing the cycle network in the CDTs.

Local authorities provide on and off road cycle facilities such as cycle tracks and cycle lanes, using their Local Transport Plan (LTP) Integrated Transport Block grant from the DfT (which covers schemes costing less than £5 million and includes such cycle

schemes) plus their own funding, the DfT Integrated Transport Block grant to local authorities is £372 million for 2008-09. The Department has encouraged local authorities to develop a cycling strategy as part of the LTP process from 2006 to 2011. It is for local authorities to determine the development of the local cycle networks as part of that strategy. Sustrans, who have developed the NGN, then work with local authorities to link the local networks to it. The Department is also providing £2.5 billion in 2008-09 to the Mayor of London through a Total Transport grant. The Mayor is responsible for determining how much is spent on cycling and the development of cycle networks in London.

The above covers England only as that is the Department's responsibility. Responsibility for cycling in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter for the administrations there.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on speech coaching and related consultancy for Ministers in her Department in each of the last 12 months. [197498]

Jim Fitzpatrick: For the last 12 months there has been no expenditure in relation to the above.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in her Department in the last year for which records are available. [195817]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Contracted hours are managed locally in the Department with no single system used to centrally monitor hours worked. As such, the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

East Coast Railway Line: Standards

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the level of punctuality of trains on the East Coast Main Line *(a)* has been since National Express started running the service and *(b)* was in the last year of the Great North Eastern Railway's operation of the franchise. [197181]

Mr. Tom Harris: National Express East Coast (NXEC) started its services on 9 December 2007. NXEC's current Moving Annual Average Public Performance Measure for punctuality is 82.5 per cent. and the target is 84.7 per cent. (as of 1 March 2008).

As at 8 December 2007 (which was GNER's last day of operation on the East Coast Main Line) the Moving Annual Average Public Performance Measure for punctuality was 81.7 per cent. The target was 83.5 per cent.

Government Offices for the Regions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of her Department's programme budgets were administered by the Government Offices for the Regions in each of the last five years. [195171]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The Government offices do not currently, nor have in the last five years, directly administered any programmes on behalf of the Department for Transport.

Great Western Trains

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates *(a)* she and *(b)* the Minister with responsibility for railways the hon. Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris) met representatives of First Great Western in the last 12 months. [191711]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State for Transport and the Under-Secretary, have met representatives of First Great Western on the following dates in the last 12 months:

Secretary of State

19 July 2007

25 February 2008

Parliamentary Under-Secretary

24 May 2007

26 June 2007

19 July 2007

23 October 2007

30 January 2008

Local Transport Bill: Welsh Assembly Government

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether clauses 115 and 116 in the Local Transport Bill were included at the request of the Welsh Assembly Government. [197494]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to enhancing the legislative competence of the National Assembly for Wales where appropriate. Clauses 115 and 116 were included in the Local Transport Bill at the specific request of Ministers in the Welsh Assembly Government.

Motorcycles: Bus Lanes

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will amend her Department's guidance to local authorities to support a policy of allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes; and if she will make a statement. [197589]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In line with actions set out in the Government's Motorcycling Strategy, my Department has already amended guidance to local authorities on the use of bus lanes by motorcycles.

In February 2007 the Department for Transport published Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/07: The Use of Bus Lanes by Motorcycles. This makes clear to local highway authorities that it is for them to decide

whether or not to allow motorcycles to use bus lanes and encourages them to make an objective assessment of the issue.

The new guidance revises previous advice in Local Transport Note 1/97: Keeping Buses Moving, which recommended that motorcycles should not normally be permitted to use bus lanes.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the evidential basis is for the recommendations in her Department's Local Transport Note 1/97 against allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes. [197590]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The recommendation in Local Transport Note 1/97 includes an explanation that there was insufficient evidence at the time of publishing about the risk to pedestrians if motorcycles were allowed to use bus lanes as a default position.

However based on evidence from more recent studies, in February 2007 we issued new guidance in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/07, "The Use of Bus Lanes by Motorcycles". This makes clear to local highway authorities that it is for them to decide whether or not to allow motorcycles to use bus lanes and encourages them to make an objective assessment of the situation based on local factors. The new guidance revises our previous advice concerning this issue in LTN 1/97.

Motorcycles: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the suitability of the provisions of the second European driving licence directive for motorcycles, with particular reference to the (*a*) adequacy and (*b*) safety of the swerve and brake test; and if she will make a statement. [196710]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 50 kph avoidance manoeuvre, the controlled stop and an emergency stop at a minimum speed of 50 kph are three separate elements of the off-road manoeuvres element of the practical motorcycle riding test.

(*a*) The avoidance manoeuvre has been developed to simulate another road user pulling out into the path of the rider and therefore better prepare them for dealing with real life hazards. Both braking exercises allow competence to be assessed in handling of the front and rear brake, vision, direction and the position on the motorcycle.

(*b*) These exercises will take place in a secure environment off the public road. Candidates who display unsafe levels of control will not be allowed to continue with the on-road element of the test.

The manoeuvres exercise being introduced by the Driving Standards Agency is fully compliant with the European directive.

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to reduce fraudulent use of disabled parking. [195729]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: New regulations introduced on 15 October last year have changed the design of the Blue Badge to include a tamper proof hologram and a new gender specific number to aid parking enforcement. In addition, I recently announced the pilots of a tamper proof laminate to further prevent badge fraud.

In January 2008 I published new local authority guidance and launched a £0.5 million fund to promote improved enforcement at a local level. The Department for Transport is also consulting on proposals to improve enforcement of the Blue Badge scheme. This may include the creation of a secure machine readable badge and national data sharing.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to encourage businesses to provide sufficient disabled parking. [195730]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Department has published advice on provision and design of parking for disabled car users in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/95 "Parking for Disabled People" and "Inclusive Mobility: A Guide to Best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure".

This includes specific advice on employment premises, shopping areas, leisure and recreational facilities.

Railway Services: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains run from Kettering to Leicester per week day; and how many are planned do so from December 2008. [196703]

Mr. Tom Harris: Currently there are 42 services per day between Kettering and Leicester. The draft timetable for December 2008 shows 24, though the operator may run more if there is a commercial case for doing so and if paths are available.

Railway Stations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what platforms of disused stations are still extant on railway lines in service. [197472]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is an operational matter for Network Rail and the Association of Train Operating Companies. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question.

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the criteria are for deciding whether a train service should be non-stop between two specified stations. [197302]

Mr. Tom Harris: Decisions on calling patterns are based on a number of considerations. These include existing and future demand at the stations concerned; the amount of on-train capacity available to accommodate boarding passengers; the effect of stopping on other passengers' travel times; the impact of the call on resources such as line capacity and overall train fleet size; and the availability of alternative services.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons her Department does not allow train operating companies to acquire vehicles from rolling stock companies without her Department's agreement in cases where such acquisitions take place within the terms of an existing franchise. [194539]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given today (UIN 190552).

Railways: Standards

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to reduce overcrowding and improve punctuality for rail commuters in Enfield. [196796]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improving rail performance is a key objective for the Department and joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and National Express East Anglia (NXEA) to address performance issues. The most recent published Public Performance Measure (PPM) figures are those for the period from 6 January to 2 February 2008 when NXEA's PPM was 89.1 per cent. The NXEA moving annual average was 90.1 per cent. These compare to whole industry figures of 89.6 per cent and 89.6 per cent. respectively.

The Department's rolling stock plan, published on 30 January, showed NXEA receiving an extra 188 (new and cascaded) carriages. The new carriages will be used on the London to Stansted airport route, in turn releasing carriages to enhance capacity on other services.

Rapid Transit Systems

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what weight she gives to the likely effect on *(a)* car journeys and congestion, *(b)* value added tax receipts, *(c)* fuel duty receipts, *(d)* carbon emissions, *(e)* air pollution and *(f)* reliability of journey times when assessing the costs and benefits of a light rail scheme. [196371]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department uses a framework called the New Approach to Appraisal (NATA) to undertake cost-benefit analysis of schemes relating to all transport modes including light rail. The Department aims to consider all impacts of transport schemes, including those listed, when undertaking cost-benefit analysis. No definitive set of weights are applied within this framework, with the contribution of each of these factors varying according to the specific circumstances of the scheme. For example, the significance of congestion relief to the assessment of schemes in areas experiencing high delays will tend to be greater than schemes in areas experiencing few delays.

To ensure consistency across schemes, where possible, impacts are converted into monetary equivalents using a common set of values. This allows a variety of impacts to be aggregated and compared. In practise, the weight attached will depend on the size of impact that a scheme will have on each factor and the value attached to these impacts. Where available, standard values are used to value impacts, e.g. carbon emissions are valued at the standard cost of carbon issued by DEFRA.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will consider suspending the renewable transport fuel obligation until comprehensive certification and assessment schemes are put in place. [197290]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have made clear that we will not support any increase in biofuel targets until we are satisfied that the biofuels can be delivered sustainably. That remains our position, and we are negotiating hard to ensure that future EU biofuel targets are underpinned by mandatory sustainability criteria which are as robust and wide-ranging as possible.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 implements the RTFO scheme and the Government could not suspend the introduction of the RTFO without amending or repealing the order. The new amending or repealing order would require consultation in accordance with the Energy Act 2004 and would be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, with debates in both Houses of Parliament.

The Government believe that suspending the introduction of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) until such time as mandatory, EU-wide sustainability criteria for biofuels are in place would be counter-productive. The reporting requirements under the RTFO will cause suppliers to develop systems for capturing environmental and sustainability information which will help prepare for the introduction of mandatory standards and inform the development of those standards. In addition, the UK is widely perceived as playing a leading role in developing a sustainability framework for biofuels through the reporting requirements under the RTFO. Abandoning this could marginalise us in EU negotiations, and give other member states greater influence over the direction of the EU's future biofuel policies.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration she has given to the merits of a moratorium on the implementation of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. [197763]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (RTFO) Order 2007 implements the RTFO scheme and the Government could not suspend the introduction of the RTFO without amending or repealing the order. The new amending or repealing order would require consultation in accordance with

the Energy Act 2004 and would be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, with debates in both Houses of Parliament.

The Government believe that suspending the introduction of the RTFO until such time as mandatory, EU-wide sustainability criteria for biofuels are in place would be counter-productive. The reporting requirements under the RTFO will cause suppliers to develop systems for capturing environmental and sustainability information which will help prepare for the introduction of mandatory standards and inform the development of those standards. In addition, the UK is widely perceived as playing a leading role in developing a sustainability framework for biofuels through the reporting requirements under the RTFO. Abandoning this could marginalise the UK in EU negotiations, and give other member states greater influence over the direction of the EU's future biofuel policies.

Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation: Crops

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure that the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation will not result in a conflict between the need to grow crops for both food and fuel. [197762]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) will have a statutory duty to report annually to Ministers on the effects of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), including the indirect effects such as impacts on food and commodity prices. These reports will inform the development of the Government's longer term biofuel policies.

The Government have also asked the Renewable Fuels Agency to lead an urgent review of the potential indirect impacts of biofuel production. This will, among other things, consider the risk that biofuel policies will affect international food commodity prices in the period to 2020. The terms of reference for this review are available via the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/

Road Safety Act 2006

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to table orders bringing into force sections 11 and 12 of the Road Safety Act 2006 on financial penalty deposits and the immobilisation of vehicles. [197771]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are working hard to ensure that the provisions are brought into force as soon as practicable—and this is likely to be by spring 2009. Implementation is a key priority for the Department, but there is still quite a lot of operational detail to be sorted out and also a number of detailed statutory instruments have yet to be made.

Road Traffic Control: Birmingham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 214W, on motorways: road traffic control, what the *(a)* critical path and *(b)* key milestones in the schedule are in relation to the scheme around Birmingham. [196773]

Mr. Tom Harris: Tenders for construction of the Birmingham Box active traffic management scheme phases 1 and 2 were invited on 28 February 2008. We anticipate awarding the contract by September 2008. Works should commence in the autumn and complete by summer 2011. The detailed programme for delivery within this timeframe will be agreed with the successful contractor.

Roads: Lorries

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* her Ministers and *(c)* her officials have had with (i) vehicle satellite navigation manufacturers and (ii) Ordnance Survey on identification of roads inappropriate for heavy goods vehicles and public service vehicles. [197289]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no recent ministerial level discussions with satellite navigation providers or Ordnance Survey. Officials have had informal discussions with providers on issues including mapping and routeing.

The Network Management Board, which is facilitated by the Department for Transport, has set up a sub-group to consider the issue of inappropriate routeing resulting from satellite navigation guidance. The sub-group comprises representatives from Ordnance Survey as well as local authorities, and the Highways Agency.

Any restriction imposed on the use of particular roads is a matter for decision by the relevant local highway authority.

Roads: Tolls

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what international benchmarks she has assessed in relation to road pricing schemes and their impact on congestion. [195623]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Road Pricing Feasibility Study published in July 2004 considered a number of existing charging schemes, working in a range of environments and using various technologies. The Department for Transport continues to monitor progress in road pricing schemes around the world, and in particular in Europe, where new schemes—such as the congestion charge in Stockholm—have been implemented since 2004. The Stockholm scheme in particular has demonstrated that significant reductions in congestion can be achieved by an urban congestion charge.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made on road pricing projects; where the projects are located; and what companies are involved in the projects. [198102]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are inviting the private sector to demonstrate how they might run a system of charging for road use according to time of day and route chosen. On 12 March we issued, to eight pre-qualified bidders, the first Invitation to Tender in this two-year Demonstrations Project, for the framework for Road User Service Providers. We expect that this Framework Agreement will be established

during June 2008, at which point an announcement will be made as to which companies have been appointed.

The location of the Demonstrations activity could be anywhere in England and Wales and will initially depend on where the successful bidders' volunteer road users are located.

Speed Limits

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to impose a 20 mph speed limit around schools and in residential areas; and if she will make a statement. [197872]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Local traffic authorities are responsible for setting local speed limits and have powers to introduce 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones if they believe it appropriate to do so. The Department encourages and supports any local authority wishing to introduce 20 mph speed limits in this way but does not favour a blanket reduction as there are circumstances where a 20 mph speed limit may not necessarily be appropriate.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many roads the speed limit has been reduced from 30 mph to 20 mph since the publication of her Department's circular 01/2006. [197873]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held by the Department. Local traffic authorities are responsible for setting local speed limits and have powers to introduce 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones if they believe it appropriate to do so. They are not required to inform the Department whenever they change a speed limit.

The Department has recently commissioned a new research project on local road safety policy and practice, and some information about the implementation of 20 mph zones will be collected from local authorities as part of this study.

Speed Limits: Fines

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue was raised in fines imposed as a result of offences detected by speed cameras in each borough in Greater London in each year since 2001. [197282]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department only holds information about speed cameras operating under the national safety camera programme and does not hold separate information for each London borough. London joined the programme on 1 April 2002. The audit certificates for the London Safety Camera Partnership for the last five financial years outlined in the table show the fine revenue from fixed penalty tickets for offences detected by speed and red light cameras operating under the then national safety camera programme. The Department does not hold a breakdown of fine revenue split between red light and speed cameras.

	£
2002-03	5,121,060
2003-04	6,497,460
2004-05	8,902,740
2005-06	9,445,820
2006-07	7,567,780

Speed Limits: Greater London

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many 20 mile per hour speed limit zones each London borough has introduced. [196797]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Responsibility for introducing 20 mph speed limit zones in London rests with the relevant highway authority, Transport for London (TfL) and the London boroughs respectively. No information on these zones is held centrally.

Taxis: Training

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the training required of taxi drivers. [197644]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We recognise the benefits that improved training for taxi and private hire vehicle (PHV) drivers will bring in terms of better quality of service for passengers, and to the drivers themselves in terms of potentially acquiring new business.

We are providing financial support to GoSkills, the sector skills council for passenger transport, to assist their work in raising awareness of the opportunities for, and benefits of, skills development in the taxi and PHV industry.

However, local licensing authorities are responsible for taxi and PHV licensing decisions in their respective areas, including whether drivers must undertake any particular training or qualification to meet their licensing requirements.

Our licensing Best Practice Guidance for authorities suggests they should consider, in consultation with the local taxi and PHV trades, what training initiatives and requirements are appropriate for their area.

Train Operating Companies: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons train operating companies are not allowed to acquire new rolling stock within their existing franchise without her Department's approval. [190552]

Mr. Tom Harris: Proposals from train operators are welcome if they are going to fund new rolling stock. The Department needs to ensure contractual arrangements are in place in case of franchise termination so they can continue to operate the service; hence, there is a process in place to give these approvals.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates her Department was first

made aware by (a) a rolling stock company and (b) a train operating company of a request for an increased amount of rolling stock on (i) the west coast mainline, (ii) the northern train's franchise and (iii) the southern franchise. [190560]

Mr. Tom Harris: Since the Department for Transport has regular and ongoing discussions with train operators regarding current and projected passenger demand and the efficient utilisation of existing capacity, it is not practically possible to identify dates when specific propositions were first raised. While train operators may seek central Government funding for additional rolling stock, it may also be procured with third party funding or at the commercial initiative of the train operator itself.

Transport: Capital Investment

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government capital funding for transport was provided to the City of York from (a) 1987 to 1997 and (b) 1997 to 2007. [197183]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

(a) Prior to 1996-97 North Yorkshire county council was the local highway and transport authority covering York. Figures for Government transport capital funding specifically for the York area are not available. The City of York council was created as a unitary authority in 1996. For 1996-97 it was allocated £3.340 million.

(b) York city council has been allocated a total of £52.830 million of local transport capital funding for the financial years 1997-98 to 2007-08 (inclusive).

Transport: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the real terms cost of travelling by (a) bus, (b) rail and (c) private car has been in each region in England in each year since 1997, taking 1997 as the baseline. [195926]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available at regional level.

Transport: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the funding allocated to the Yorkshire and Humber region for major transport projects up to 2015-16 has been (a) allocated to and (b) spent on individual schemes; and if she will make a statement. [197438]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding allocated for major transport projects in Yorkshire and the Humber from 2006-07 to 2015-16 is £927 million. The funding so far provisionally allocated to individual schemes is £877.6 million, though some of the schemes concerned have not yet completed formal approval processes. The estimated outturn expenditure on these schemes, from April 2006 to December 2007, is £131.175 million.

Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what official visits she has made to Yorkshire and the Humber since her appointment; and if she will make a statement. [192431]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport, visited Yorkshire and the Humber recently to open the M606/62 car pool lane. Since my appointment as Regional Minister I have made regular official visits to the region to discuss transport issues with a range of stakeholders.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Driving Under Influence: Young People

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many (a) males and (b) females under the age of 19 years were (i) arrested for (ii) charged with and (iii) convicted of driving a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol in each district command unit in each of the last five years. [194754]

Paul Goggins: This information is not available in the requested format.

The following tables provide the numbers arrested and prosecuted for alcohol/drug related driving offences.

Table 1: Males under the age of 19 years prosecuted and convicted of alcohol/drug related driving offences by DCU address of offender 2002-06

	2002		2003		2004	
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted
Antrim	0	0	3	3	0	0
Ards	2	2	2	2	3	3
Armagh	0	0	4	4	1	0
Banbridge	4	4	2	2	1	1
Belfast East	2	2	1	1	2	2
Belfast North	0	0	1	1	5	5
Belfast South	1	1	0	0	4	4
Belfast West	4	4	6	6	4	4
Ballymena	1	1	1	1	3	3
Ballymoney	0	0	3	3	0	0
Carrickfergus	2	2	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	2	2	4	4	4	4
Cookstown	1	1	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Males under the age of 19 years prosecuted and convicted of alcohol/drug related driving offences by DCU address of offender 2002-06

	2002		2003		2004	
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted
Craigavon	2	2	4	3	5	5
Castlereagh	2	1	2	2	1	1
Dungannon and South Tyrone	3	2	1	1	2	2
Down	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fermanagh	5	5	4	4	1	1
Foyle	3	3	4	4	4	4
Larne	1	1	1	1	2	2
Limavady	3	3	2	2	0	0
Lisburn	8	7	1	1	5	5
Magherafelt	2	2	2	2	0	0
Moyle	0	0	1	1	0	0
Newtownabbey	2	2	2	2	1	1
North Down	4	4	2	2	5	5
Newry and Mourne	2	2	2	1	5	4
Omagh	3	3	0	0	1	1
Strabane	1	1	1	1	3	3
Missing[1]	1	1	3	3	2	2
Total	61	58	59	57	64	62

	2005		2006	
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted
Antrim	3	3	3	3
Ards	1	1	3	3
Armagh	3	2	3	2
Banbridge	2	1	1	1
Belfast East	2	2	2	2
Belfast North	7	7	6	4
Belfast South	0	0	1	1
Belfast West	2	2	2	2
Ballymena	3	3	0	0
Ballymoney	2	2	3	3
Carrickfergus	2	2	2	2
Coleraine	4	4	0	0
Cookstown	0	0	1	1
Craigavon	4	4	4	4
Castlereagh	2	2	3	3
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	2	2
Down	4	4	2	1
Fermanagh	1	1	5	5
Foyle	3	3	5	5
Larne	1	0	1	1
Limavady	1	1	1	1
Lisburn	2	2	1	1
Magherafelt	2	2	0	0
Moyle	0	0	0	0
Newtownabbey	1	1	5	4
North Down	2	2	2	1
Newry and Mourne	4	3	1	1
Omagh	0	0	2	2
Strabane	1	1	2	2
Missing[1]	3	3	1	1
Total	62	58	64	58

[1] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom DCU information is not available.

Table 2: Females under the age of 19 years prosecuted and convicted of alcohol/drug related driving offences by police District Command Unit 2002-2006

	2002		2003		2004	
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted
Ards	0	0	1	1	1	1
Armagh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belfast North	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Females under the age of 19 years prosecuted and convicted of alcohol/drug related driving offences by police District Command Unit 2002-2006

	2002		2003		2004	
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted
Craigavon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Down	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larne	0	0	1	1	0	0
Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing[2]	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total	0	0	3	3	1	1

	2005		2006	
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted
Ards	0	0	0	0
Armagh	1	1	1	1
Belfast North	0	0	1	1
Cookstown	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	1	1	1	1
Dungannon and South Tyrone[1]	1	1	0	0
Down	1	0	0	0
Larne	0	0	0	0
Omagh	0	0	1	1
Missing[2]	1	1	1	1
Total	5	4	5	5

[1] Only those DCUs where there were court outcomes are included for females (i.e. the DCUs in which females have been prosecuted or convicted in the previous five years have been included in the table).
[2] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom DCU information is not available

Drugs: Children

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children under the age of 16 years have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of drug-related offences in each district command unit in each of the last five years. [194751]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is set out in the following tables. Prior to 2006-07, the PSNI did not provide separate figures for the number charged and prosecuted.

Table 1 (a): Persons charged or summonsed for drug-related offences under the age of 16, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Antrim	2	0	3	1	1
Ards	0	1	2	0	2
East Belfast	3	10	3	2	1
North Belfast	3	1	3	2	1
South Belfast	2	2	8	5	5
West Belfast	3	0	3	2	5
Carrickfergus	0	0	1	0	2
Castlereagh	0	0	0	1	0
Larne	1	1	0	1	0
Lisburn	3	1	5	3	5
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	2	0
North Down	2	2	4	2	4
Urban	19	18	32	21	26
Armagh	1	2	5	0	0
Banbridge	0	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	2	3	4	1	1
Ballymoney	0	0	1	0	0

Table 1 (a): Persons charged or summonsed for drug-related offences under the age of 16, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Coleraine	4	3	1	2	2
Cookstown	0	0	3	1	1
Craigavon	1	1	1	6	5
Dungannon and S Tyrone	2	0	1	1	0
Down	0	4	2	1	2
Fermanagh	0	0	0	5	1
Foyle	2	2	1	1	0
Limavady	0	2	3	0	2
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0
Newry and Mourne	2	1	1	2	1
Omagh	0	0	1	1	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	14	18	24	21	21
Northern Ireland total	33	36	56	42	47

Table 1 (b): Breakdown of persons charged or summonsed for drug-related offences under the age of 16, 2006-07

	Charged	Summonsed	Total
Antrim	0	1	1
Ards	0	2	2
East Belfast	0	1	1
North Belfast	0	1	1
South Belfast	1	4	5
West Belfast	1	4	5
Carrickfergus	0	2	2
Castlereagh	0	0	0
Larne	0	0	0
Lisburn	0	5	5
Newtownabbey	0	0	0

Table 1 (b): Breakdown of persons charged or summonsed for drug-related offences under the age of 16, 2006-07

	Charged	Summonsed	Total
North Down	0	4	4
Urban	2	24	26
Armagh	0	0	0
Banbridge	0	0	0
Ballymena	0	1	1
Ballymoney	0	0	0
Coleraine	0	2	2
Cookstown	0	1	1
Craigavon	2	6	8
Dungannon and S Tyrone	0	0	0
Down	0	2	2
Fermanagh	0	1	1
Foyle	0	0	0
Limavady	2	3	5
Magherafelt	0	0	0
Moyle	0	0	0
Newry and Mourne	0	1	1
Omagh	0	0	0
Strabane	0	0	0
Rural	4	17	21
Northern Ireland total	6	41	47

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland

Table 2: Number of prosecutions and convictions for drug offences for persons aged 10 to 15 years old for the calendar years 2002 to 2006 by police district command unit

	2002		2003		2004	
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
Antrim	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ards	0	0	0	0	1	1
Armagh	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ballymena	0	0	0	0	1	0
Belfast East	0	0	1	1	0	0
Belfast North	0	0	1	1	1	1
Belfast South	1	0	0	0	1	1
Belfast West	1	1	0	0	1	1
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castlereagh	1	1	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	0	0	1	1	1	1
Cookstown	0	0	1	1	0	0
Craigavon	0	0	0	0	1	1
Foyle	0	0	2	1	0	0
Limavady	0	0	2	1	0	0
Lisburn	0	0	1	1	1	1
Newry and Mourne	0	0	0	0	2	2
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Down	1	1	0	0	0	0
Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland total	4	3	9	7	12	11

	2005		2006	
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
Antrim	0	0	0	0
Ards	2	2	1	1
Armagh	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	1	1	1	1
Belfast East	0	0	0	0
Belfast North	0	0	2	2
Belfast South	3	3	1	1
Belfast West	0	0	1	1
Carrickfergus	0	0	2	2
Castlereagh	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	0	0	0	0
Cookstown	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	0	0	0	0
Foyle	1	1	0	0
Limavady	0	0	1	1
Lisburn	0	0	1	1
Newry and Mourne	1	1	0	0
Newtownabbey	0	0	1	1

	2005		2006	
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
North Down	1	1	0	0
Omagh	1	1	0	0
Northern Ireland total	10	10	11	11

These tables of statistics are not directly comparable as statistics on charges are compiled by the PSNI on a financial year basis, and statistics on convictions are compiled by the courts on a calendar year basis.

Missing Persons

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons registered as missing in Northern Ireland have been missing for (*a*) less than one year and (*b*) more than five years; and what percentage these figures represent of the total number of persons missing. [194749]

Paul Goggins: Missing persons are dealt with at district level. The information requested could not be provided without conducting a full examination of the records of each district, which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

However, an exercise conducted for the Northern Ireland Policing Board in November 2007 calculated the number of missing persons reported in each year since 2002 as follows:

	Number
2007[1]	581
2006	642
2005	689
2004	684
2003	668
2002	437

[1] Up until November 2007

There were 68 persons registered as missing in Northern Ireland as of early November 2007. Only a very small number of persons reported missing are not subsequently located.

Olympic Games 2012

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been secured for the construction of a new stadium in Belfast to host the football finals of the London 2012 Olympics Games. [197489]

Mr. Woodward: This is a devolved matter and the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

Sexual Offences: Convictions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 389-90W, on sexual offences, of what offences sexual offenders residing in each police command area were convicted. [195593]

Paul Goggins: This information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Products

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the percentage of each major agricultural commodity consumed in the UK which was produced in the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [196384]

Jonathan Shaw: A suitable measure is UK production or UK home-fed production as a percentage of total new supply for use in the UK[1], for which data are available for the calendar year 2007 for a range of agricultural commodities as detailed in the following table.

Commodity	Production as percentage of total new supply for use in the UK
Wheat	106
Barley	108
Oats	103
Oilseed rape	111
Sugar beet	63
Potatoes	79
Vegetables	58
Fruit	11
Poultry and poultry meat	90
Beef and veal	82
Mutton and lamb	82
Pork	69
Bacon and ham	42
Hen eggs	81
Liquid milk	105
Butter	61
Cheese	55
Cream (fresh, frozen, sterilised)	114
Condensed milk	76
Milk powders	167

[1] New supply for use in the UK is defined as UK production plus imports minus exports. For beef, veal, mutton and lamb the measure and term used is home-fed production and home-cured production for bacon and ham.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency arrangements are in place for tackling a serotype of bluetongue, other than serotype 8, if it enters the UK. [196215]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The UK Bluetongue Control Strategy, which was developed in close collaboration with a core group of farming and veterinary stakeholders, the devolved Administrations and scientific experts on Bluetongue, sets out the contingency arrangements for dealing with an outbreak. The control strategy applies to all serotypes of Bluetongue, not just serotype 8.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of how many and what proportion of livestock farmers in protection zones will take up bluetongue vaccine; [196437]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* sheep and *(b)* cattle in protection zones which will be eligible to receive the bluetongue vaccine. [196438]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: Data on livestock in England are only immediately available to cover the protection and surveillance zones as they stood on 25 February 2008:

	PZ only	*SZ only*	*All England*
Cattle			
Numbers	224,580	1,918,735	5,617,280
Holdings	2,912	19,889	52,729
Sheep			
Numbers	893,574	6,045,955	15,586,194
Holdings	4,419	23,722	48,393
Beef farmers			
Numbers	1,891	18,772	26,135
Holdings	42	184	301
Dairy			
Numbers	8,667	41,626	82,657
Holdings	1,089	4,320	7,002

Following further confirmation of infected premises, the Protection and surveillance zones have subsequently been enlarged.

Under European Community law, bluetongue vaccination can only be carried out in a protection zone. Once vaccination is progressing broadly across the protection zone, the intention is to extend or modify the zone in order to permit further vaccination, allowing a phased approach as vaccine comes on-stream. However, when vaccine first becomes available from May, it could initially be necessary to limit vaccine availability within the protection zone in accordance with the supply of vaccine and the epidemiological situation.

Although we have made no formal estimate of likely take-up of vaccine, the advice of industry stakeholders is that take-up will be high in a voluntary scheme, especially if an active approach is taken to promoting vaccination. As individual keepers will be responsible for the costs of vaccination, our aim, in close collaboration with a core group of industry stakeholders, has been to develop a vaccination programme which will reduce the cost of vaccination to a minimum by using existing delivery chains and reducing regulatory burdens in order to encourage maximum participation.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccinations

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what dosage will be necessary for vaccinating each *(a)* sheep and *(b)* cow against bluetongue; [195782]

(2) when he expects the bluetongue vaccine doses on order from Intervet to be available in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales; [195783]

(3) what percentage of livestock susceptible to bluetongue in protection zones in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales he expects the bluetongue vaccine to be available for. [195784]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: The UK was the first member state affected by the current outbreak of bluetongue to place an order for vaccine; 22.5 million doses. 20 million doses are reserved for use in England and 2.5 million doses are reserved for use in Wales. The first batches of vaccine are expected to be available from May.

Vaccination is limited to the Protection Zone, and so vaccine will be available to all keepers of susceptible livestock in the Protection Zone, who will be able to purchase vaccine through their private vet. However, as vaccine begins to be delivered by Intervet, it may be necessary to prioritise vaccine availability to reflect supply and the epidemiological situation.

The vaccine being produced by Intervet will require one dose in sheep and two doses in cattle. The size of the dose is likely to be one millilitre but this is subject to ongoing discussions between Intervet and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate as part of the vaccine licensing process.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have died or been slaughtered in *(a)* England, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* Copeland constituency because of bovine tuberculosis over the last five years. [196206]

Jonathan Shaw: Our extensive bovine TB testing programme ensures that; generally, cattle showing signs of exposure to bovine TB are identified and slaughtered before the disease has become too advanced. Cattle with advanced bovine TB, or cattle dying from the disease, are very rarely found.

The number of cattle slaughtered under bovine TB control measures in England and Cumbria is shown in the following table. It is not possible to break the data down to a constituency level.

	Number of cattle slaughtered[1]	
	England	*Cumbria*
2003	17,551	275
2004	17,306	510
2005[2]	23,135	168
2006[2]	16,007	114
2007[2]	19,794	29

[1] Includes cattle slaughtered as skin and gamma-interferon test reactors, skin test inconclusive reactors and direct contacts.
[2] 2005-07 figures are provisional, subject to change as more data become available.

Caravan Sites

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department has held a consultation on proposed amendments to the time limit given in paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960; [195761]

(2) what organisations have exemption certificates under paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960; [195762]

(3) what discussions his Department has had with the devolved administrations on proposed changes to Schedule 1 to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960; [195763]

(4) what representations his Department has received on the proposed changes to the time limit given in paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. [195764]

Jonathan Shaw: Any proposal for amendments to the time limit given in paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 would require new primary legislation. DEFRA has no plans for any such legislation.

DEFRA and Natural England, who now deal with the issue of exemption certificates under the 1960 Act, are updating, and consolidating into a single document, the existing guidance for applications for exemption certificates for both caravans and camping. We have consulted the devolved administrations and the major camping and caravanning organisations, including the Association of Caravan and Camping Exempted Organisations, about the new document.

The document reiterates previous guidance on the time limit for paragraph 6 exemptions consisting of a maximum of five periods of 24 hours commencing when the first caravan is stationed on the rally site.

Exempted organisations which, prior to any exempted rally, wish to have a single caravan on the rally site to assist with the setting up of an event may rely on the additional exemption under paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 of the 1960 Act. This provides that a site licence is not required for the use of land by a person travelling with a caravan for not more than two nights. The exemption is subject to the condition that only one caravan is allowed and the total number of days in any twelve month period on which a caravan was stationed anywhere on the site, or any adjoining land in the same ownership, cannot exceed 28 days.

DEFRA and Natural England are considering representations from the major camping and caravan organisations. We expect to finalise the single guidance document by the summer of 2008.

There are over 300 organisations who hold exemption certificates under paragraph 6 of Schedule 1 of the 1960 Act, so it is not practical to list them. A list of the organisations is publicly available on the Natural England website.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of progress in meeting targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from the housing sector; and if he will make a statement. [196865]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is monitoring annual changes in household energy consumption, by fuel, and hence the corresponding CO_2 emissions.

Against a long-term trend of rising gas consumption, over the period 2004-06, consumption of gas by household consumers fell by over 8 per cent. Of this, possibly up to half could be attributed to higher prices, weather changes had little effect. Improved energy efficiency for heating, particularly higher levels of insulation (installed via the Energy Efficiency Commitment) and more efficient boilers (required by Building Regulations), is likely to have contributed to the remaining reduction of gas, the principal heating fuel. However, more detailed analysis is required to quantify this effect.

Carbon Offsetting Fund

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy for payments from the Department for Communities and Local Government towards the Carbon Offsetting Fund to be used to support offsetting or renewable energy projects in local communities in the UK. [194769]

Mr. Woolas: There are currently no viable energy efficiency or renewable energy UK offsetting projects due to our membership of the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU-ETS).

This is because the UK prefers to meet its targets through direct emission reductions, rather than offsets.

Chemicals: Waste Disposal

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which municipal waste disposal sites received chemical waste generated by Monsanto in the latest period for which data are available. [195192]

Joan Ruddock: Wastes are categorised as hazardous, non-hazardous or inert. Specific waste streams are then sub-categorised using the European Waste Catalogue. The term "chemical waste" is not a category that is currently in use.

The Environment Agency authorises waste types that are appropriate for landfilling but does not normally authorise individual and specific waste sources. The Environment Agency is therefore not able to state categorically which of 1,500-plus operational and closed landfill sites in England and Wales have received chemical waste from Monsanto.

Consignment notes held by waste management facilities would record the source of the waste. Prior to 2005, the Environment Agency was sent copies of these consignment notes, but the cost of extracting the

required information from these records would be disproportionate. The Environment Agency retains these records for four years so would not be able to provide a full account of wastes deposited by Monsanto even if data were readily available.

Climate Change

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what research he has evaluated to develop his policy on anthropogenic climate change. [196405]

(2) what assessment he has made of the reliability of the scientific evidence on which each of the four Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports has been based; and if he will make a statement. [196408]

(3) what assessment he has made of the reliability of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports in developing his policies on climate change. [196409]

Mr. Woolas: The scientific basis for understanding anthropogenic climate change is extremely strong. DEFRA evaluates the evidence provided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its comprehensive reports, as well as through DEFRA and Ministry of Defence funded climate research undertaken by the UK's world-leading Met Office in Hadley Centre, in Exeter, and through ongoing contact with other climate researchers in the UK and elsewhere.

Four assessment reports have been completed in 1990, 1995, 2001 and the latest in 2007. The UK fully supports the work of the IPCC and regards its assessments as providing the most authoritative view of climate change. The IPCC assessments have fully informed the development of domestic climate policy and the UK position in international climate negotiations.

Hundreds of UK scientists were involved in the preparation of the fourth assessment report and DEFRA supports lead authors and review editors to participate in IPCC writing groups.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the Manhattan Declaration on Climate Change; and if he will make a statement. [196406]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has received no representations on the Manhattan Declaration on Climate Change.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193566]

Jonathan Shaw: 599 members of staff in core-DEFRA and those Executive agencies covered by the core-Department's terms and conditions: Animal Health, Marine and Fisheries Agency, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Government Decontamination Service and Pesticides Safety Directorate (9.75 per cent. of total number of staff employed in core-DEFRA and the named Executive agencies) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2007. This has decreased to 544 members of staff (9.74 per cent. of total number of staff employed in core-DEFRA and the named Executive agencies) who were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2008.

Domestic Wastes: Contracts

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the (*a*) subject and (*b*) cost was of each research contract (i) his Department and (ii) WRAP have commissioned on household waste since 2001. [192176]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Research Programme (now renamed the Waste and Resources Evidence Programme since the publication of DEFRA's Waste and Resources Evidence Strategy 2007-11 in September 2007) only started commissioning research projects from the summer of 2005. The following table lists those projects that have some association with household waste issues.

Details of the research contracts on household waste that were commissioned by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) can be found on its website at:

http://www.wrap.org.uk/

Contracted project title	*Lead contractor*	*WRT code*	*SIS code*	*Total project value (£)*
Household Waste Prevention Policy Side Research Programme	The Environment Council	251	WR0103	160,695
Lifestyle Scenarios: Futures for Waste Composition	Brook Lyndhurst	202	WR0104	139,100
Project REDUCE M and E: Developing Waste Prevention Measurement Tools	Waste Watch	192	WR0105	118,378
Achieving Household Waste Prevention and Promoting Sustainable Resource Use though Product Service Systems	Cranfield University	129	WR0106	190,971
Modelling Impacts of Lifestyle Changes on Household Waste Arisings	AEAT	218	WR0107	177,864
Understanding Household Waste Prevention Behaviour	University of Paisley	109	WR0112	62,883
Refillable Packaging Systems	Loughborough University	151	WR0113	140,183

Contracted project title	Lead contractor	WRT code	SIS code	Total project value £
Building Understanding of Techniques and Processes to Promote SWM through Behaviour Change Programmes	Global Action Plan	113	WR0114	186,868
Household Waste Prevention Activity in Dorset	Dorset County Council	264	WR0116	227,413
Towards a Materials Resource Authority: Promoting Practical Waste Prevention and Exploring Options for Resource Management	Hampshire County Council	195	WR0117	225,000
Recycling of Low Grade Clothing Waste	Oakdene Hollins	152	WR0201	154,500
Enhancing Participation in Kitchen Waste Collection	Brook Lyndhurst	372	WR0209	224,200
Biowaste Management: Policy Options for Climate Change Benefits	ERM	370	WR0210	85,675
Unlocking the Potential of Community Composting	Open University	400	WR0211	299,647
Optimising Inputs and Outputs from Anaerobic Digestion Processes	Southampton University	404	WR0212	203,000
Factors Influencing the Performance of CA Sites Recycling	Resource Futures	457	WR0215	32,934
Delivery of Waste Management Facilities in EU Member States: Comparative Review and Lessons Learned (co-funding contribution)	CIWM/SLR	288	WR0216	85,943
Assessment of Occupational Health and Safety Risks of Waste Collection and Handling Systems	Health and Safety Executive	389	WR0217	67,500
Biowaste Scoping Study	Composting Association	278	WR0218	18,000
Landfill Settlement: Controlling the Time to Completion	Golder Associates	381	WR0301	76,450
Forced Air Flow and Distribution in Landfill Wastes	Southampton University	350	WR0302	129,900
Science and Strategies for the Sustainable Management of Residual Wastes and Landfills (Third party contribution)	Veolia Environmental Body	329	WR0303	11,020
Towards Sustainable Landfill: Passive Fail-safe Design and Engineering	Golder Associates	279	WR0304	71,000
Science and Strategies for the Long Term Management of Landfills (co-funding contribution)	EPSRC/ Southampton University	424	WR0305	200,000
New Approach to Fly Ash Processing and Applications to Minimise Wastage to Landfill	Dundee University	395	WR0401	254,047
Replicating Success: Social Enterprises and the Waste Sector in London (co-funded by LDA)	Brook Lyndhurst	250	WR0501	230,000
Social Enterprises and SWM: Evaluating Impacts, Capacities and Opportunities	Cardiff University	162	WR0502	133,736
Fly-Tipping: Incentives, Causes and Solutions	University College London	274	WR0503	193,000
Establishing the Evidence-base for Delivering Community-based Pro-environmental Behavioural Change	Brook Lyndhurst	296	WR0504	192,652
Post Evaluation of Household Incentive Pilot Schemes	University of Brighton	452	WR0505	4,500
Benefits of Third Sector Involvement in WM	Resources for Change	318	WR0506	180,200
Behaviour Change: Scoping the Way Forward	AEAT	487	WR0508	9,775
Attitudes towards the Use of Organic Resources on Land	Open University	1689	WR0510	203,666
Evaluation of the Household Waste Incentives Pilot Scheme	AEAT	330	WR0512	19,744
Health and Environmental Impacts of Vermin/Insects in the Context of WM Operations	CSL	100	WR0601	26,724
Carbon Balances and Energy Impacts in Managing UK Waste Streams	ERM	237	WR0602	108,320
Review of Landfill Surface Emissions	Golder Associates	369	WR0604	40,000
Rapid Response Monitoring Network for Bioaerosol Emissions	National Physical Laboratory	281	WR0605	293,000
Dose-response Relationships and Bio-aerosol Data	IOM Consulting	282	WR0606	45,750
Scoping the Development of an Industry-wide Health and Safety Initiative	CIWM/Entec	454	WR0607	47,000
Emissions from WM: Frameworks for Assessment of Data Quality and Research Needs	ERM	683	WR0608	115,000
Impact of EfW and Recycling Policy on UK GHG Emissions	ERM	327	WR0609	39,750
Evaluating the Costs of 'Waste to Value' Management	Ceres Logistics	142	WR0702	99,700
Infrastructure Needs for a Resource Efficient Economy	Institute of Civil Engineers	292	WR0703	7,000
Updated Life Cycle Study on Reusable and Disposable Nappies (Co-funding contribution)	EA/ERM	333	WR0705	17,552
Impacts of Household Charging in England	Eunomia	450	WR0708	35,160
Data Deficiencies in WM Policy and Practice	AEAT	515	WR0801	119,730
Impact of Promotion and Education Programmes on Recycling Participation	Enviros	455	WR0802	40,000

Contracted project title	Lead contractor	WRT code	SIS code	Total project value (£)
Municipal Waste Composition Garden Waste Data Composition	WRAP	495	WR1502	2,932
Total				5,509,250

Farms: Inspections

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farm inspections were conducted in each of the last five years, broken down by inspection body. [191145]

Jonathan Shaw: Farm inspections are conducted by different bodies for different reasons. Regarding DEFRA bodies, the chief executives of the Rural Payment Agency, Animal Health, Veterinary Laboratory Agency, Veterinary Medicine Directorate, Natural England, and the Environment Agency have been asked to supply the information for their agencies.

Individual local authorities will hold information on the number of visits they have carried out. A fully comprehensive reply cannot be given as a significant proportion of the information is not collected centrally. Also, there is some uncertainty about whether non-regulatory visits would come within the scope of the hon. Member's question.

The number of farm inspections carried out by Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratory Agency are shown in the following table.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Animal Health[1]	122,000	131,000	126,000	136,000	110,000
Veterinary Medicines Directorate[2]	772	587	686	535	380

[1] The source for the data is incomplete and it is not possible to differentiate between inspections and testing visits.

[2] Includes routine and follow up/special visits but excludes inspections for residues as these are included in Animal Health's figures.

Visits are undertaken by Animal Health staff, by local veterinary inspectors acting on behalf of the organisation, or by the Egg Marketing and Dairy Hygiene Inspectorates.

In 2007, the overall number of visits declined due to a reduction in volume of sampling visits under the National Scrapie Plan and for brucellosis.

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency does not undertake any regulatory inspections.

The number of farm inspections carried out by the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) Inspectorate from 2003-04 to 2007-08 is set out in the following table:

	Number
2003-04	[1]13,805
2004-05	[2]11,779
2005-06	[3]11,951
2006-07	[3]13,869
2007-08	[4]14,457

[1] All Integrated Administration Control System (IACS) and England Rural Development Programme (ERDP) scheme inspections.

[2] All IACS and ERDP scheme inspections.

[3] First year of Single Payment Scheme (SPS) – includes all SPS Land Eligibility, Cross-compliance, Remote sensing follow-up, Cattle Identification Inspection and ERDP Inspections.

[4] As above, plus statutory sheep and goat inspections.

In 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Horticultural Marketing inspectors who merged with the RPA Inspectorate on 1 April 2006, carried out the following inspections at the premises of glasshouse growers, market gardeners, etc.:

	Number
2006	1,452
2007	1,433

Information cannot be readily gathered from a single IT system for this timeframe without incurring disproportionate cost. Animal Health have been developing its management information and hence more detailed figures are available for 2007.

Using available data, Animal Health undertook in the region of 25,000 on farm inspections in Britain in 2007. This figure includes 4,227 visits to inspect farm animal welfare (including welfare cross-compliance inspections), 12,963 inspections undertaken by the Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate (DHI) and 2,905 on farm inspections made by the Egg Marketing Inspectorate (EMI)[1].

Across these three programmes, some 22,000 on farm inspections were completed annually from 2003-07.

As well as inspection visits, Animal Health carries out various types of visit to sample stock for surveillance and for disease control. Within this category, agency staff or official veterinarians[2] working on its behalf undertook more than 50,000 herd tests for bovine TB in 2007 and 8,000 visits under the National Scrapie Plan (NSP).

[1] DHI and EMI merged with the State Veterinary Service in October 2006 and April 2007 respectively.

[2] OVs – previously referred to as Local Veterinary Inspectors (LVIs).

The number of inspections of farm animal welfare and on farm inspections performed by DHI and EMI, in 2003-07 is shown in the following table. It also shows the number of bTB herd testing visits and NSP sampling visits completed in these years.

Type of visit	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Welfare inspection	2,879	3,201	3,419	3,849	[1]4,227
DHI inspection	16,553	15,414	15,474	14,996	12,963

Type of visit	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
EMI inspection	2,722	3,098	2,865	3,241	2,905
TB herd test	45,120	44,794	43,627	50,327	51,221
NSP sampling	10,469	10,443	12,480	11,730	7,989

[1] 2007 welfare inspection visits include welfare cross-compliance inspections.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to (*a*) simplify and (*b*) reduce the number of farm inspections. [196201]

Jonathan Shaw: The Whole Farm Approach includes a project looking at on-farm inspections. The aim is to "join-up" inspections, bringing together as many organisations as possible that visit farms to enforce regulatory requirements or undertake routine monitoring. The project is focusing on increased sharing of inspection resource and inspection data to better target inspection activity and reduce the burden on the better performing farms.

Flood Control: Cumbria

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that the flood defence pumps in the Lyth Valley, South Cumbria, continue to operate effectively. [197860]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is producing a Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) for the Kent and Leven catchments, which includes the Lyth Valley. The CFMP will consider a wide variety of interests and initiatives in the area. Public consultation will commence within the next month.

The CFMP will identify future flood risk management actions across the catchments for the next 50-100 years and will include long term decisions about river maintenance and the land drainage pumps in the Lyth Valley. However, in the short term, the Environment Agency will continue to operate and maintain the pumps in the Lyth Valley.

Floods: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the damage to furniture, furnishings and moveables that were damaged and sent to landfill following the floods in summer 2007; and what estimate he has made of the impact these losses will have on council tax for those councils most affected. [197941]

Mr. Woolas: My Department has not specifically assessed the damage caused to furniture and furnishings destroyed as a result of last summer's floods.

Evidence provided by local authorities indicates only a relatively small increase in municipal waste arisings as a result of last year's flooding. This is within the normal range of variations in annual waste arisings and should not have a long-term or significant impact on waste management costs.

Government Offices for the Regions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of his Department's programme budgets were administered by the Government Offices of the Regions in each of the last five years. [195125]

Jonathan Shaw: None of my Department's programme budgets are directly administered by the Government Offices.

We have a number of programme budgets administered centrally by my Department which fund projects within the Government Office regions, and the Government Offices have an oversight role on these regional funds, in terms of how and where the money is spent. The following table sets out a number of programmes where the Government Office has had an oversight role in each of the last five years.

More generally, Government Offices have a key role to play on the DEFRA agenda by acting as environmental leaders and working in partnership with local stakeholders on cross-cutting issues such as climate change, sustainable development natural environment and waste.

	DEFRA programmes indirectly administered by the Government Offices
2002-03	Sustainable Development Publicity
	Leader +
	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
	Regional Rural Affairs Forums
	Waste Regional Support Fund
	Sustainable Food and Farming
	Waste Implementation Programme
	Leader +
	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
	Regional Rural Affairs Forums
2003-04	Sustainable Development Publicity
2004-05	Sustainable Development Publicity
	Waste Regional Support Fund
	Sustainable Food and Farming
	Waste Implementation Programme
	Leader +
	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
	Regional Rural Affairs Forums
2005-06	Sustainable Development Publicity
	Waste Regional Support Fund
	Sustainable Food and Farming

	DEFRA programmes indirectly administered by the Government Offices
	Waste Implementation Programme
	Leader +
	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
	Regional Rural Affairs Forums
	Rural Social and Community Programme
2006-07	Sustainable Development Partnership and Innovation Fund
	Waste Regional Support Fund
	Sustainable Food and Farming
	Waste Implementation Programme
	Leader +
	European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
	Regional Rural Affairs Forums
	Rural Social and Community Programme

Greyhounds: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1994W, on greyhounds: animal welfare, if he will take account of representations on *(a)* a single system of regulation and set of national standards for greyhound racing, *(b)* an independent oversight body, *(c)* a compulsory levy on bookmakers to fund welfare improvements, *(d)* a central database to record injuries to greyhounds, *(e)* a mandatory independent veterinarian at tracks, *(f)* requirements for greyhounds to be able to stand up and turn around while being transported, *(g)* rules on race frequency, *(h)* independent inspections of tracks and kennels and breeders' premises, *(i)* micro-chipping of dogs, *(j)* licensing of trainers and track staff and *(k)* a presumption against euthanasia in considering the response of the greyhound industry to Lord Donoughue's review; and if he will make a statement. [196781]

Jonathan Shaw: We are currently considering proposals for the regulation of greyhound racing. The Government will, of course, take into account the recommendations made by Lord Donoughue and also the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW). There will be a full public consultation on any proposals before scrutiny by Parliament.

Ground Water: Pollution

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 735-6W, on ground water: pollution, what plans he has to initiate research into the level of groundwater contamination in the UK and to publish a strategic plan detailing the level of *(a)* contamination and *(b)* clean water. [196360]

Mr. Woolas: In 2006 the Environment Agency published a report which identified the main risks to and impacts on groundwater quality. The Environment Agency has also carried out a groundwater protection policy review, which provides information on the key issues surrounding the contamination of groundwater. I have arranged for a copy of both documents to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

As part of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the agencies must prepare assessments of the risks to, and the status of, groundwater bodies in the UK and prepare strategic plans to meet WFD objectives. Preliminary risk assessments were published in 2004. These will be revised and published, together with status maps and proposed actions, in the draft River Basin District Management Plans. We expect these to issue for public consultation in December 2008.

Hare Coursing

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of illegal hare-coursing in England since the implementation of the Hunting Act 2004. [195758]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has made no assessment of the extent of illegal hare-coursing in England since the implementation of the Hunting Act 2004.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households received at least one main measure under the Warm Front Scheme in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08, broken down by local authority area. [195120]

Mr. Woolas: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Incinerators: Pollution

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much air pollution control residue from incinerators was treated and disposed of in Gloucestershire in the latest period for which figures are available; what percentage of the UK's total this represents; and if he will make a statement. [196595]

Jonathan Shaw: During 2007, Gloucestershire treated and disposed of 22,170 tonnes of air pollution control residues; this represents 15 per cent. of the total in England and Wales.

Nature Conservation: Wildlife

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to give equal consideration to native and non-native species in exercising his powers on species to be added to and removed from the list of species in Schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; and if he will make a statement. [197008]

Joan Ruddock: In view of the EU-wide import ban on wild birds and sales controls under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, I announced in Westminster Hall on 23 January that non-native species would not be considered for retention on or addition to schedule 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

No decision has yet been taken on which native species should remain on or be added to schedule 4.

Planning Permission: Gleadthorpe Farm

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bids were received for the former ADAS site at Gleadthorpe, Nottinghamshire; who the successful bidder was; what plans are being made to return the site to native heathland; and if he will make a statement. [196337]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* The Department received six bids by informal tender for Gleadthorpe Grange Farm.

The Department has given very careful consideration to the value for money to the public purse of each proposal received, including the financial, environmental and biodiversity benefits of the individual bids. The Department has also considered whether the benefits of any particular offer provided enhanced value or efficiency in terms of policy delivery when compared to normal spending programmes.

Detailed consideration was given to the value for money offered by a proposal which would have seen the land returned to forestry. The Department concluded that insufficient quantifiable efficiencies arose in excess of those offered by the use of normal spending methods, and as a consequence, the Department felt unable to progress this proposal further.

The Department concluded that the maximum economic value should be accepted in the case of this disposal.

For reasons of commercial confidence and contractual negotiation, the Department is unable to identify the preferred bidder at this time. The details of the successful purchaser will become a public record at the Land Registry upon completion of the sale.

It is understood the land will remain in agricultural use.

Sugar: Subsidies

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to farmers for the production of a pound of sugar on the most recent date for which figures are available; what subsidy was available per pound for exporting sugar; what tariff was applied per pound import of sugar from outside the EU; what national derogations from the EU sugar regime are in place; and how revenue from sugar imports is allocated. [195711]

Jonathan Shaw: Council Regulation (EC) No. 318/2006 sets a minimum price of €29.78 per tonne for raw sugar beet supplied by farmers in the 2007-08 marketing year. It is important to note that this is a minimum price; the actual price is subject to commercial agreements between British Sugar and their growers, for which there are no official figures.

Export subsidies are the subject of competitive tender. The most recent tender took place on 13 March 2008, resulting in a maximum export refund for successful bidders of €32.947 per 100 kg.

Imports of both white sugar and raw cane sugar are subject to a range of controls depending upon the country of origin. Duty-free import regimes exist between the EU and a wide range of developing countries through the Sugar Protocol and Everything But Arms arrangements. In circumstances where an import duty is payable, this is currently set at €33.9 per 100 kg for raw sugar for refining and €41.9 per 100 kg for white sugar. Import duties on all commodities are collected by HM Revenue and Customs on behalf of the Exchequer.

The EU sugar regime is applicable in all member states, including the United Kingdom.

In each case above, the prices are set in Euros and metric weights.

Sustainable Development: Aviation

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* he, *(b)* his Ministers and *(c)* his officials have met representatives of (i) Friends of the Earth, (ii) Greenpeace, (iii) WWF-UK, (iv) Airportwatch, (v) Stop Stansted Expansion, (vi) Plane Stupid, (vii) the Aviation Environment Federation, (viii) Enoughsenough, (ix) Hacan Clearskies, (x) the Campaign to Protect Rural England, (xi) the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and (xii) the Woodland Trust to discuss issues related to the sustainable growth of aviation in the UK in the last six months; and how often such meetings have taken place. [185805]

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times Ministers or officials from his Department have met representatives of *(a)* Friends of the Earth, *(b)* Greenpeace, *(c)* WWF, *(d)* Aviation Environment Federation, *(e)* AirportWatch, *(f)* HACAN Clearskies, *(g)* Stop Stansted Expansion, *(h)* Plane Stupid, *(i)* the Commission for the Protection of Rural England, *(j)* the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, *(k)* The Woodland Trust and *(l)* Enoughsenough to discuss the environmental impact of aviation since September 2007. [186692]

Mr. Woolas: Ministers and officials have met on several occasions with key stakeholders to discuss various issues including aviation.

Of particular note is my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn)'s launch of the Climate Change Bill in October 2007. Representatives from several organisations attended. Aviation growth was referred to during the question and answer session which followed.

In addition, the Secretary of State and myself attended a meeting in December 2007 before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change talks in Bali with representatives from Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Fund UK and others.

Waste Management: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what funding has been provided to local authorities in Northern Ireland from the waste and resources action programme in the last five years; [192180]

(2) what support the waste and resources action programme has given to local authorities in Northern Ireland in the last 24 months. [192315]

Joan Ruddock: The waste and resources action programme (WRAP) do receive funding from Northern Ireland to carry out work commissioned by the Northern Ireland Executive. The funding is dependent on the amount and value of the work carried out on its behalf, which is agreed between WRAP and the Northern Ireland Executive and is a devolved matter.

Waste Management: Landfill

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of waste per person sent to landfill in each local authority area in England in each year since 1997. [197407]

Joan Ruddock: The amount of municipal waste per person sent to landfill by local authorities with a waste disposal duty in England are shown in the following table. These data are reported annually to DEFRA by local authorities through WasteDataFlow (for 2004-5 onwards) and through the Municipal Waste Management Survey for earlier years. 2004-5 was a pilot year for WasteDataFlow and therefore complete data are not available. Data for 1997-8 are not available at individual local authority level.

Most municipal waste (an average of around 87 per cent. in England) is from household sources. However, some waste sent to landfills is from non-municipal sources such as the commercial, industrial and construction sectors, and this is not included in these figures. The estimates for each local authority represent the amount which is collected in their area and then sent for disposal in landfill regardless of the landfill site's location.

Population estimates for each local authority for each year are those published by the Office for National Statistics.

Municipal waste to landfill: per person

Government region	*Authority*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	504	515	520	512	526	531	527	513	564
North East	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	547	513	514	576	617	584	n/a	546	558
North East	Middlesbrough Borough Council	498	483	486	492	528	523	562	557	638
North East	Hartlepool Borough Council	505	514	533	558	550	568	617	588	602
North East	Darlington Borough Council	520	608	617	672	732	676	n/a	643	684
North East	Durham County Council	576	577	602	617	647	650	n/a	612	604
North East	Northumberland County Council	477	504	580	611	646	640	n/a	588	594
North East	Sunderland City Council	491	529	546	581	614	588	572	567	569
North East	South Tyneside MBC	461	472	481	508	519	556	n/a	614	607
North East	North Tyneside Council	471	481	515	600	627	635	695	699	666
North East	Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Council MBC	590	441	471	668	667	660	n/a	656	649
North East	Gateshead MBC	788	903	930	958	1,096	1,042	625	594	582
North West	Warrington Borough Council	614	626	612	594	647	588	n/a	577	583
North West	Halton Borough Council	550	570	606	604	634	662	n/a	623	625
North West	Cheshire County Council	575	623	659	642	665	647	n/a	643	635
North West	Cumbria County Council	531	594	570	584	682	673	n/a	724	708
North West	Wigan MBC	597	547	535	676	744	855	845	744	671
North West	Greater Manchester WDA (MBC)	539	562	578	649	661	674	n/a	571	596
North West	Blackpool Borough Council	575	637	632	644	628	660	n/a	602	590
North West	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	494	503	507	551	555	551	622	578	556
North West	Lancashire County Council	514	577	578	587	586	571	n/a	569	580
North West	Merseyside WDA (MBC)	523	568	570	587	611	611	n/a	616	633
Yorkshire/ Humber	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	550	557	558	599	615	623	647	626	640
Yorkshire/ Humber	Kingston-upon-Hull City Council	541	585	576	563	600	611	623	583	561

Municipal waste to landfill, per person

Government region	*Authority*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Yorkshire/ Humber	North East Lincolnshire Council	461	566	540	564	579	594	n/a	594	583
Yorkshire/ Humber	North Lincolnshire Council	646	665	641	671	696	689	685	646	649
Yorkshire/ Humber	York City Council	592	622	609	630	645	646	n/a	639	638
Yorkshire/ Humber	North Yorkshire County Council	557	621	646	652	661	663	n/a	644	658
Yorkshire/ Humber	Sheffield City Council	482	536	518	572	467	450	479	478	476
Yorkshire/ Humber	Rotherham MBC	645	587	620	603	536	530	554	536	541
Yorkshire/ Humber	Doncaster MBC	621	643	709	688	722	639	685	663	639
Yorkshire/ Humber	Barnsley MBC	593	644	637	662	603	598	n/a	604	589
Yorkshire/ Humber	Leeds City Council MBC	484	537	546	545	560	509	n/a	506	489
Yorkshire/ Humber	Kirklees MBC	650	645	640	627	622	590	614	607	595
Yorkshire/ Humber	Wakefield City MDC	618	635	663	672	641	624	n/a	611	608
Yorkshire/ Humber	Bradford City MDC (MBC)	481	522	566	571	617	634	n/a	547	564
Yorkshire/ Humber	Calderdale MBC	513	387	435	548	565	532	481	468	469
E Midlands	Derby City Council	498	484	499	529	549	546	n/a	542	561
E Midlands	Derbyshire County Council	502	464	528	543	538	534	n/a	525	536
E Midlands	Rutland County Council	596	609	591	585	571	536	548	557	542
E Midlands	Leicester City Council	427	486	496	517	530	612	n/a	511	518
E Midlands	Leicestershire County Council	578	558	567	584	605	596	n/a	598	591
E Midlands	Lincolnshire County Council	461	501	499	524	512	516	n/a	542	533
E Midlands	Northamptonshire County Council	524	577	576	601	616	571	n/a	569	587
E Midlands	Nottingham City Council	580	600	592	663	696	679	n/a	672	712
E Midlands	Nottinghamshire County Council	576	592	595	626	616	613	n/a	576	578
W Midlands	Herefordshire Council	409	497	489	524	593	594	607	561	574
W Midlands	Worcestershire County Council	520	564	564	565	587	587	n/a	568	576
W Midlands	Telford and Wrekin Council	561	655	637	609	593	560	588	566	575
W Midlands	Shropshire County Council	548	587	587	614	592	586	n/a	608	621
W Midlands	Stoke-on-Trent City Council	533	558	551	568	604	613	631	591	569
W Midlands	Staffordshire County Council	548	597	577	589	599	589	n/a	547	581
W Midlands	Warwickshire County Council	530	546	545	579	578	570	n/a	585	598
W Midlands	Wolverhampton MBC	547	543	521	671	719	679	n/a	634	620
W Midlands	Walsall MBC	514	538	590	573	596	583	610	593	565
W Midlands	Solihull MBC	456	408	449	512	477	486	n/a	505	479
W Midlands	Sandwell MBC	443	449	475	519	541	560	n/a	526	488
W Midlands	Dudley MBC	422	444	451	435	464	458	n/a	457	471
W Midlands	Coventry City Council	550	605	597	607	607	597	n/a	598	586
W Midlands	Birmingham City Council	546	544	546	548	540	544	n/a	555	574
Eastern	Luton Borough Council	495	529	527	561	552	566	531	532	563
Eastern	Bedfordshire County Council	584	618	570	649	626	592	n/a	554	542
Eastern	Peterborough City Council	471	540	540	560	586	579	630	631	635
Eastern	Cambridgeshire County Council	454	489	488	510	496	498	n/a	551	565
Eastern	Thurrock Council	560	542	453	503	663	519	513	510	537
Eastern	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	602	578	606	595	618	591	n/a	544	550
Eastern	Essex County Council	531	526	585	554	553	545	n/a	546	543

Municipal waste to landfill, per person

Government region	*Authority*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Eastern	Hertfordshire County Council	493	520	520	546	537	521	n/a	543	564
Eastern	Norfolk County Council	515	540	530	539	540	511	n/a	505	502
Eastern	Suffolk County Council	554	550	555	574	574	568	n/a	565	617
London	Bexley LB	511	572	642	644	676	604	614	612	610
London	Tower Hamlets LB	463	486	500	499	513	500	n/a	482	503
London	City of London	11,886	10,777	10,361	9,427	8,199	6,782	5,713	4,817	5,685
London	Westminster City Council	1,405	1,350	1,250	1,116	1,022	964	929	773	828
London	East London Waste Authority	574	482	612	620	620	575	n/a	554	555
London	North London Waste Authority	542	570	576	569	574	576	n/a	568	570
London	Southwark LB	513	494	525	514	525	531	n/a	536	518
London	Lewisham LB	445	520	518	505	465	552	n/a	572	554
London	Greenwich LB	521	605	708	631	605	554	529	488	523
London	Sutton LB	472	574	531	507	528	556	n/a	563	516
London	Merton LB	578	608	525	526	543	526	n/a	494	487
London	Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	504	574	560	544	550	511	n/a	517	486
London	Croydon LB	526	571	619	583	612	591	n/a	545	563
London	Bromley LB	516	647	646	667	608	578	n/a	580	569
London	West London Waste Authority	587	593	583	598	603	593	n/a	563	553
London	Western Riverside Waste Authority	589	599	599	585	571	549	n/a	499	515
S East	Wokingham Council	454	499	499	512	449	502	514	490	497
S East	Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council	650	651	632	671	657	615	534	528	511
S East	Slough Borough Council	550	463	497	568	557	630	566	514	523
S East	Reading Borough Council	522	574	585	625	624	582	580	552	544
S East	West Berkshire District Council	563	558	564	579	618	549	n/a	563	576
S East	Bracknell Forest Borough Council	510	512	522	652	544	532	646	604	574
S East	Milton Keynes Council	447	453	446	543	545	544	575	576	595
S East	Buckinghamshire County Council	506	535	531	550	563	554	n/a	557	554
S East	Brighton and Hove Council	485	538	455	464	461	462	n/a	443	450
S East	East Sussex County Council	504	519	560	534	547	547	n/a	556	549
S East	Southampton City Council	472	498	495	508	541	532	n/a	563	534
S East	Portsmouth City Council	488	533	535	517	502	451	462	461	440
S East	Hampshire County Council	512	547	554	562	566	547	n/a	542	557
S East	Isle of Wight Council	485	582	560	586	606	607	570	580	599
S East	Medway Borough Council	479	502	484	545	535	546	561	560	544
S East	Kent County Council	508	534	542	563	586	597	n/a	592	586
S East	Oxfordshire County Council	497	503	493	517	527	503	n/a	501	539
S East	Surrey County Council	564	523	545	558	568	589	n/a	575	567
S East	West Sussex County Council	570	633	648	614	611	599	n/a	598	604
S West	Council of the Isles of Scilly	1,869	1,805	1,708	1,668	1,633	1,765	1,646	1,721	1,592
S West	Bath and North East Somerset Council	479	506	584	574	592	610	620	571	567
S West	Bristol City Council	460	485	485	507	528	516	501	478	446
S West	Cornwall County Council	517	539	556	571	584	602	n/a	624	624
S West	Torbay Council	485	499	479	640	532	538	626	616	604
S West	Plymouth City Council	624	604	666	711	690	652	n/a	670	626
S West	Devon County Council	504	532	545	573	587	570	n/a	584	591
S West	Poole Borough Council	588	644	647	669	688	631	704	703	711
S West	Bournemouth Borough Council	689	666	677	676	721	664	n/a	627	604
S West	Dorset County Council	536	528	536	544	565	550	n/a	559	575
S West	Gloucestershire County Council	468	481	487	491	503	511	n/a	541	565

Municipal waste to landfill, per person

Government region	*Authority*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
S West	North Somerset Council	513	543	560	604	612	581	616	584	547
S West	Somerset County Council	529	558	575	610	669	646	n/a	580	588
S West	South Gloucestershire Council	547	581	553	549	558	550	671	584	586
S West	Swindon Borough Council	432	452	459	558	453	495	519	501	527
S West	Wiltshire County Council	484	501	500	555	574	575	n/a	580	587

Source:
WasteDataFlow for 2004-5 onwards, Municipal Waste Management Survey for earlier years. ONS mid year population estimates. 2004-5 was a pilot year for WDF and hence data are not available for all authorities. Data are municipal waste collected and sent for disposal in landfill by each local authority.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum *(a)* loaded weight and *(b)* take-off weight is for all variants of the CH-47 helicopter used by British forces in Afghanistan. [196614]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The RAF currently operates two variants of CH47, the Mk2 and Mk2a. The maximum take-off mass is the same for both CH47 variants and is 22,700 kg for internal loads. When underslung loads are carried, the maximum take-off mass is increased to 24,500 kg. These figures are dependent upon prevailing environmental conditions and the altitudes.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum period is that UK forces in Afghanistan have subsisted on 24-hour operational ration packs alone. [197013]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, a recent study commissioned by the MOD found that there are no nutritional reasons why complete UK 24-hour operational ration packs should not be consumed indefinitely by deployed forces.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions forward operating bases in Afghanistan have gone for longer than a week without a resupply of fresh rations in the last 12 months; what the reasons were in each case; and if he will make a statement. [197016]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate effort. But we have had no reports of any significant shortages in the supply of food to UK service personnel in Afghanistan.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many forward operating bases in Afghanistan are supported by *(a)* the Royal Logistics Corps and *(b)* contract caterers. [197017]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 10 forward operating bases are currently supported by service catering personnel, predominantly, but not exclusively, drawn from the Royal Logistics Corps.

Two of these forward operating bases are also supported by UK contracted personnel who are employed on catering support tasks such as food preparation.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints his Department received from families of service personnel concerning medical treatment of armed forces' personnel in the last year. [192155]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* Armed forces personnel can receive a wide range of medical treatment, from life-saving care on the battlefield and in field hospitals, through in-patient treatment in NHS hospitals in the UK, to out-patient care at numerous military primary care facilities across the UK and overseas, including regional rehabilitation and mental health facilities. It follows from this that complaints about medical treatment can be made at a number of levels. For patients treated in a NHS hospital the complaint will be made to, and dealt with by, the operating NHS trust. As military patients can be treated in any NHS hospital, details of all complaints could be obtained only by contacting each NHS trust in the UK individually, and this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Complaints about primary health care provided at military medical centres across the country will usually be dealt with at a regional level. Details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces; Housing

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how his Department assesses the accommodation requirements of service personnel; how often this assessment is reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [196974]

Derek Twigg: Accommodation requirements are driven by personnel policy, including terms and conditions of service, societal trends (such as the increase or decrease in home ownership and marriage), changing force structures, including repatriation of forces and major initiatives such as the Defence Training Review.

Service living accommodation requirements are assessed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) at a strategic, command and local level to ensure that,

where ever possible, good quality living accommodation is provided to service personnel in the right locations to meet current and future defence requirements.

A worldwide audit for all accommodation, both single living accommodation (SLA) and service family accommodation (SFA) is carried out annually to confirm current take-up rates and grading data. Single service requirements are included in the MOD's estate development plans which are regularly updated. Moreover, on a unit-by-unit basis, future SLA requirements are updated on a six-monthly basis.

For SFA in Great Britain, requirements are constantly monitored at a local level by Defence Estates, while the service planning assumptions and policy changes that drive potential changes in future demand for SFA are reviewed quarterly.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1348-49W, on military housing, how many thefts have been reported in his Department's empty houses for *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service families accommodation in the last 12 months. [197101]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Military Decorations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-blood relatives of servicemen who had been posthumously awarded service medals received medals on their relative's behalf in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [195739]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the commitment bonus is *(a)* tax free, *(b)* tax free while serving in an area which qualifies for the operational allowance, *(c)* paid in full with one lump sum and *(d)* paid incrementally over a period of time. [196601]

Des Browne: The commitment bonus is paid to service personnel below officer level and is subject to income tax and national insurance contributions. This applies irrespective of where an individual is serving at the time that payment is made.

Currently, the commitment bonus is paid as a single lump sum of £5,500 or in two stages which, if an individual qualifies for both, total £5,500. Under the revised arrangements to be introduced next year, announced in my written ministerial statement on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 65-66WS, payments will range between £3,750 and £15,000 which can be claimed as a lump sum at different lengths of service from four (or five) to eight years, with higher payments the longer the individual has served. Those who take a payment before eight years, but then give additional service, will be allowed to take a second payment, but the overall amount received will be reduced to reflect the decision to take part of the payment early, thus providing the incentive to wait and take a larger sum later.

Armed Forces: Scotland

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officer recruiters are operating in Scotland; how many personnel are detached from the Field Army for unofficial recruiting duties in Scotland; and how many recruits successfully passed *(a)* into and *(b)* out of training last year in Scotland. [196238]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are currently 22 officer recruiters working in Scotland, and 122 Army personnel working in unestablished recruiting posts.

In 2006-07, 1,073 individuals, who had been recruited for the Army through an Armed Forces Careers or Army Careers Information Office in Scotland, commenced Phase 1 training or the combined Phase 1/Phase 2 Infantry training at Catterick. In the same year 485 recruits completed basic training and 463 recruits completed the combined Phase 1/Phase 2 Infantry training.

However there is no direct correlation between these inflow and outflow figures for some of those who completed their Phase 1 training or the combined Phase 1/Phase 2 Infantry training in 2006-07 will have commenced their training in 2005-06 or earlier. Moreover some of those who enlisted in 2006-07 will not have completed their Phase 1 training or the combined Phase 1/Phase 2 Infantry training within that year.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for procuring additional armoured cars. [195632]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am assuming "armoured cars" to mean lightweight armoured wheeled scout vehicles. We provide our forces with a range of vehicles spanning a wide spectrum of protection levels, mobility, profile and armament, depending on their tasks. Vehicles like the CVR(T), WMIK and Panther undertake the sort of tasks that armoured cars might have undertaken. We have no current plans to procure a light, armoured, wheeled scout vehicle.

Army: Deployment

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers were on active operations overseas in each year since 1997; and what percentage of the Army this represented in each year. [197373]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number and percentage of UK army personnel deployed on operations at a specific point in time.

	Number deployed on operations	Percentage of trained strength[1] deployed
4 January 2006	7,900	8.1
1 January 2007	9,200	9.7
3 January 2008	9,400	10.0

[1] Trained strength as at 1 January in each year.

Due to the manual nature of the data collection, comparable reliable figures are not available prior to December 2005 when a review of the data collation process was undertaken.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the anti-terrorist unit patrolling RAF Menwith Hill has cost the Ministry of Defence Police Agency in each year since such patrols began. [197049]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the cost of the Ministry of Defence police deployed at RAF Menwith Hill for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what date the space based infra-red system at RAF Menwith Hill became operational; [197050]

(2) on what date work began on the installation of equipment at RAF Menwith Hill as part of the US ballistic missile defense system. [197098]

Des Browne: Installation of ground terminal equipment at RAF Menwith Hill to allow missile early warning data to be received from the Space Based Infra Red Satellites (SBIRS) was initiated following the then Government's agreement to the plan in March 1997. The eventual operational date for the SBIRS system is a matter for the US Government.

The necessary components to allow the downlink at RAF Menwith Hill to route satellite early warning data to the US Ballistic Missile Defence system arrived in September 2007, and were installed in November 2007.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the component of the US ballistic missile defence system at RAF Fylingdales became operational. [197051]

Des Browne: The upgrade of the radar and associated systems at RAF Fylingdales to allow it to operate as part of the US ballistic missile defence system was completed on 9 August 2007.

Civil Servants: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's civil servants have been recipients of the Civil Service Injury Benefit Scheme in each year since 1997. [196612]

Derek Twigg: Information prior to 2000 is not available. The number of civil servants in the Ministry of Defence receiving awards under the scheme is as follows:

	Number
2000	95
2001	71
2002	47
2003	72
2004	54
2005	72
2006	46
2007	42

Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former residential properties of his Department in Colchester constituency were sold in each year since their acquisition by Annington Estates. [195979]

Derek Twigg: 1,394 properties in the Colchester area were included in the 1996 sale and leaseback agreement with Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL). Since 1996, the sale and timing of the sale of those properties has been a matter for the company, and the Department has no relevant information.

However, since 1996, we have returned properties to AHL as follows:

	Number returned to AHL
2002	136
2003	45
2004	40
2005	35

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many of his Department's residential properties there are in Colchester constituency; how many there were at the time Annington Estates acquired them; and on what date the acquisition was completed; [195980]

(2) what the average price was for his Department's dwellings in Colchester constituency paid by Annington Estates. [195981]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) sold the majority of its service families accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales to Annington Homes Ltd (AHL). The sale was completed on 5 November 1996. These properties were then leased by the MOD until it no longer has a use for them and they are returned to AHL for disposal on the open market.

Under the Sale Agreement, the 1,394 SFA properties in the Colchester area were sold to AHL in 1996 at an average cost of £24,888 per property. 1,093 of these properties are still leased by the MOD.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the proceeds from the sale of his Department's former housing and other land in Colchester constituency, subsequently sold by Annington Estates, were passed to the Government in each year since such sales have taken place; what this represented as a percentage of the sale price in each case; and if he will make a statement. [195982]

Derek Twigg: Under the terms of the 1996 Sale Agreement with Annington Homes Limited (AHL), the Exchequer receives a percentage of any profit the company makes on the subsequent disposal of houses and land returned to it.

The amounts received in each financial year since then are:

Financial year	*£ million*
1997-98	2.3
1998-99	3.5
1999-2000	6.8
2000-01	8.0
2001-02	16.8
2002-03	29.9
2003-04	29.9
2004-05	15.2
2005-06	18.4
2006-07	15.0
2007-08	18.20
Total	154.00

1 April to 31 December 2007

Information is not held in a way that allows the elements relating to individual areas to be separately identified.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much his Department paid Annington Estates in each year for improvements and modernisation of residential dwellings in Colchester constituency in each year since the company acquired the properties; [195984]

(2) how much his Department has paid Annington Estates in *(a)* rent and *(b)* costs of maintenance for residential dwellings in Colchester constituency in each year since the company acquired the properties. [195983]

Derek Twigg: The rental figures paid to Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) for properties in the Colchester area are as follows:

	£
1996	1,014,874
1997	2,528,528
1998	2,528,528
1999	2,672,679
2000	3,106,308
2001	3,103,571
2002	2,870,260
2003	2,762,019
2004	2,894,323
2005	3,482,606
2006	3,501,882
2007	3,556,308

After the sale of the houses to AHL in 1996, the Department retained responsibility for their maintenance and upgrade. Consequently no moneys are paid to AHL for such costs in regard to properties leased for Service use.

Defence Equipment and Support: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the effects of the merger of the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation have been on overall staff numbers. [196357]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The decision to merge the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation was not numbers driven and as such has had no direct impact on staff numbers. Since merger however, DE and S has been looking for ways to become more effective and as a result, this is likely to reduce the size of the organisation.

Defence Equipment and Support: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what targets have been set for Defence Equipment and Support; and how its performance against those targets will be reported. [196351]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: With the exception of the Departmental Public Service Agreement Target for Equipment Procurement to which Defence Equipment and Support (DE and S) contributes, no formal externally reported targets have been established for the first year of operation of DE and S. The first year of operation has been used to develop and test a performance management regime with associated shadow targets which will be used to inform formal targets as they are established for 2008-09. Performance against the individual measures and targets, once they are agreed, will be reported within the Department's performance reporting framework.

Departmental Empty Property

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many unoccupied properties are *(a)* rented and *(b)* owned by his Department in each constituency in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) England; when this figure was last updated; and if he will make a statement. [196970]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps Ministry of Defence police are taking to monitor his Department's empty properties and protect them against theft or vandalism. [197100]

Derek Twigg: Empty or void service family accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales is managed by Defence Estates through Modern Housing Solutions (MHS). MHS are required to monitor and carry out periodical inspections of void properties.

The Ministry of Defence police (MDP) will carry out random routine patrols and investigations where tasked to do so. This can take place in various ways, for example through unit beat officers patrolling SFA estates, by an establishment requesting particular policing services, or by MDP acting on specific local intelligence.

Departmental ICT

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 95W, on departmental ICT, when he expects the investigation into the details of all lost or stolen computers since 2003 to be completed; and when he expects to be able to write to hon. Members following collation of the information. [196718]

Des Browne: The investigation into details of computers and other electronic media lost/stolen since 2003 is continuing. When complete, the collated data will be provided to Sir Edmund Burton as part of his review and will form part of the evidence base for his report which is due to be submitted by the end of April 2008.

I will keep the House informed on the outcome of Sir Edmund's review once his findings have been consolidated.

Departmental Property

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedure is followed by his Department with regard to the sale of departmental accommodation; what role local consultation plays in this procedure; and if he will make a statement. [196973]

Derek Twigg: When the Ministry of Defence (MOD) no longer has a need for land and property it is first offered to other Government Departments and public bodies for alternate use. Otherwise, providing there are no former owner considerations under the "Crichel Down" rules, it is usual MOD policy to sell surplus land and property on the open market, in accordance with Treasury guidelines, using competition to achieve the best price. In order to maximise value, we will consult with the local planning authority and other stakeholders to achieve the optimum planning position for the site particularly where there is redevelopment potential, such as for housing or commercial use.

The majority of service family accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales were sold to a Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) in 1996 and then leased to the MOD until they are surplus to defence requirements and are handed back to AHL for disposal. Other surplus SFA in the UK is disposed of in accordance with Treasury guidelines at market value. Where the opportunity exists for a bulk sale of SFA at market value, the MOD will discuss the way forward with the appropriate local authorities, registered social landlords and, in Scotland, the Scottish Executive.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195884]

Derek Twigg: The overarching policy statement on Safety, Health, Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in the Ministry of Defence was approved by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 18 March 2008. I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Falkland Islands: Military Bases

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it cost to maintain the Falkland Islands garrison in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by category of expenditure. [196868]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In financial year 2006-07, the cost of maintaining the garrison on the Falkland Islands to the Chief of Joint Operations (CJO), who is responsible for maintaining UK forces there, was £65 million, broken down by category as follows:

	£ million
Personnel	31.3
Infrastructure	8.9
Stock/Other Consumption (including fuel costs)	15.9
Equipment Support	2.8
Other costs (including transport costs)	6.5

This is a much lower figure than that reported in previous years because, as a consequence of a change in MOD accounting policy, CJO is no longer responsible for reporting fixed asset depreciation costs and the cost of capital on fixed assets.

Gurkhas: Nepal

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Nepalese nationals have served in the Brigade of Gurkhas since 1997; [197023]

(2) how many Nepalese nationals have served in the Brigade of Gurkhas since 1978. [197024]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Including those who are still serving, approximately 17,840 Nepalese nationals have served in the Brigade of Gurkhas since 1978, of which 6,277 have served since 1997.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the oral answer of 22 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1138, on the al-Jameat police station, what reports he has received of the steps taken by the Iraqi Government against the members of the serious crime unit. [194544]

Des Browne: The Basra police continue to work to enforce and execute the arrest warrants issued for members of the former Serious Crimes Unit of the Basra police.

Prisoners of War: Compensation

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to reimburse protected personnel for deductions made from their pay while held as prisoners of war in Germany; and what criteria he uses to determine the entitlement of protected personnel to compensation for periods spent as prisoners of war during the Second World War. [197075]

Derek Twigg: The deductions made from the home pay accounts of Protected Personnel held in Europe during the Second World War were considered during a detailed review undertaken by MOD during the 1990s. The outcome of the review was announced by the then Under-Secretary of State on 24 July 1997, *Official Report*, column 720W, and a copy of the report of the review was placed in the Library of the House. Ministers ruled that there were no grounds to re-open the issue and no new aspects have since been raised to justify any change to this policy.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2712W, on Sudan: peacekeeping operations, which United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur troop contributing countries have (*a*) requested and (*b*) received assistance with (i) the provision of equipment and (ii) training packages; and if he will make a statement. [196866]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Some countries that have agreed to contribute troops to the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) require assistance to enable them to deploy. The UK will play its part in providing that assistance. In announcing the National Security Strategy, the Prime Minister confirmed that the UK will support with £4 million an international programme to train and equip African troops for UNAMID. The training and equipment needs have yet to be finalised, and we continue to work closely with the UN and partners to agree the full package needed.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what (*a*) the ceiling on personnel numbers and (*b*) the actual strength of the Territorial Army was in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196870]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The ceiling on personnel numbers has been determined to be the maximum number of personnel to be maintained as agreed by Parliament through the Votes A mechanism. The maximum numbers for each of the last 10 years and the actual strength of the Territorial Army for those years in which records are held, as at the 1 April of each year, are set out the following table:

	Maximum number of TA personnel	*Actual strength of TA personnel*
1998	59,000	
1999	51,820	
2000	47,795	
2001	47,000	
2002	47,000	
2003	47,000	
2004	47,000	38,320
2005	47,000	37,260
2006	47,000	38,460
2007	47,000	36,790

Note:
Figures for actual strength of TA personnel prior to 2004 are not held centrally.

Territorial Army: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army soldiers from Yorkshire and the Humber saw active service abroad in each year since 2001. [197137]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Type 23 Frigates: Costs

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 668W, on Type 23 Frigate, what the reasons are for the cost of (*a*) HMS Portland and (*b*) HMS Sutherland relative to the average cost of the other ships in the class; and if he will make a statement. [196353]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In order to establish the reasons for the variation in costs of HM Ships Portland and Sutherland from the Type 23 Class average, it would be necessary to investigate historic contract information that is no longer held centrally by the MOD and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Warships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the procedures are for deciding the basis on which (*a*) new classes of warship and (*b*) individual warships are named; [197536]

(2) if he will make it his policy to recommend that the Future Surface Combatant flotilla should consist of warships named after escort vessels with distinguished records of service in the two world wars; [197537]

(3) if he will make an assessment of the impact on the (*a*) continuity of naval tradition and (*b*) motivation of ships' companies of naming warships after predecessors with past battle honours. [197538]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ships Names and Badges Committee has the task of assessing all the possible names for new ships before making their recommendations through the First Sea Lord and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence for final approval by Her Majesty the Queen.

A new class of Royal Navy warships will have a theme as advised by the First Sea Lord in consultation with the Controller of the Navy. Names of individual ships will be informed by a number of guiding principles including: names associated with a long and illustrious heritage, tradition, Battle Honours and names classically associated with a type of vessel.

The Future Surface Combatant is in the early stages of concept design and a theme for the names will not be considered for some time. Nothing is being ruled out at this stage and names of escort warships with distinguished records of service in the two world wars would fall within the guiding principles for naming Royal Navy warships and will be considered.

Naval tradition is intrinsic to the values of the Royal Navy and this extends to the naming of its warships. The naming of Royal Navy warships associated with an illustrious heritage instils a sense of pride, tradition and esteem in today's Royal Navy personnel.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 685W, on departmental advertising, how much is represented by the percentages given. [197454]

Mr. Watson: Advertising costs since 1998-99 can be found in the following table:

	£000
1998-99	138
1999-2000	300
2000-01	454
2001-02	2,708
2002-03	395
2003-04	282
2004-05	340
2005-06	406
2006-07	475

The increase in advertising spend in 2001-02 was due to expenditure incurred by the Office of the E-Envoy (now known as Transformational Government) for the UK online advertising campaign, encouraging the public to use the internet, and offering help to those who wanted to do so.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office spent on domestic and international air travel in 2006-07, broken down by class of travel. [191080]

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on travel *(a)* within the UK and *(b)* overseas in the last year for which figures are available. [191171]

Mr. Watson: Expenditure incurred by the Cabinet Office on domestic and international air travel is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196588]

Mr. Watson: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether personal data for which his Department is responsible are *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if he will make a statement. [176026]

(2) what audits his Department carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years; [176475]

(3) what requirements his Department and its agencies place on contractors in relation to audit of personal data and IT equipment. [176630]

Mr. Watson: None of the personal data for which the Cabinet Office is responsible are stored or processed overseas.

The Cabinet Office operates in accordance with the Manual of Protective Security and the Data Protection Act. Measures are in place to monitor the personal data the Department holds. A full audit of centrally provided IT equipment was undertaken in January 2007, since then a monthly review is held to agree any changes. Information prior to January 2007 is not held centrally.

The Cabinet Office requires its contractors to comply with their obligations under the provisions of the Data Protection Act which includes taking appropriate technical and organisational measures against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data and ensures the security of such data.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196441]

Mr. Watson: From latest available figures as at 31 December 2007, there were 182 non-permanent staff (FTE) working in the Cabinet Office. This figure includes staff on a fixed term or short-term appointment, staff seconded in from outside the civil service, fee-paid staff, agency staff, consultants and contractors.

Rates of pay for non-permanent appointments are not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Furniture: 10 Downing Street

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* office furniture and *(b)* home furnishings in number 10 Downing street have been (i) bought and (ii) replaced since 1 October 2007. [197406]

Mr. Watson: Information on the cost of office furniture and furnishings will only be available when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Government Departments: Data Protection

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance his Department provides to Government Departments wishing to undertake a risk assessment of the security of new and existing IT systems; what obligations there are on Government Departments to follow that guidance; and if he will make a statement. [190731]

Mr. Watson: The National Information Assurance Strategy 2007 produced by the Cabinet Office states that Departments must have clear and accountable ownership of information risk management at board level.

Guidance is provided through the Manual of Protective Security issued by the Cabinet Office.

In publishing the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report (the written statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS), the Government announced that departmental accounting officers should explicitly include the systematic coverage of information assurance in their annual statements on internal control. A final report is expected in spring 2008.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance his Department issues to other Government Departments on their use of the Completely Automated Public Turing Tests to tell Computers and Humans Apart (CAPTCHAs); and which Departments' websites use CAPTCHAs. [196982]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office has issued no specific guidance on CAPTCHAs and it holds no central records of which departmental websites use them. Responsibility for information security and accessibility measures of individual websites lies with the individual Departments.

The overall policy for Government Departments on website registration is set out in the Registration and Authentication: e-Government Strategy Framework Policy and Guidelines (Version 3.0, September 2002):

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/csia/regandauthentn02v3.pdf

Government websites should also comply with the Government's website accessibility guidelines:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/government_it/consultations/pdf/delivering_inclusive_websites1.pdf

Copies of both these documents have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

ICT: Leasing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for what reasons the Cabinet Office negotiated an agreement for the early settlement of the lease for IT equipment with Hitachi Data Systems Ltd; and how many months there were before the natural termination of the lease. [191012]

Mr. Watson: The reason for early settlement of the Hitachi Data Systems (HDS) lease agreement was to allow the maintenance provisions to be separated from the underlying asset and to take advantage of a reduction to lease charges of £34,000. The maintenance provisions have been rescheduled so that they can be reused in other Government projects where HDS assets are involved at no additional cost. The lease was settled 21 months before it naturally expired.

Michael Ashcroft

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects the appeal procedure in respect of the Freedom of Information request from the hon. Member for Pendle in relation to the undertaking given by Michael Ashcroft prior to his elevation to the peerage will be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [197392]

Mr. Watson: The appeal procedure has now been completed and a response sent to the hon. Member.

Political Office: Prime Minister

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what sub-divisions of the Prime Minister's Office there are based in (*a*) No. 10 Downing Street, (*b*) HM Treasury, (*c*) the Cabinet Office and (*d*) elsewhere. [191100]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. All staff in the Prime Minister's Office are based in the Cabinet Office estate, which includes No. 10 Downing Street.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan Security

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the political and security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [196264]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, held a joint seminar at Lancaster House on 6 February 2008 and visited Afghanistan together on 7 February 2008. They discussed a full range of issues regarding our shared commitment to supporting the people and the Government of Afghanistan. Since their visit they have been in frequent contact to discuss all aspects of progress in Afghanistan. The UK holds regular dialogue with all our partners in Afghanistan as part of our undertaking to help the Government of Afghanistan build a peaceful and sustainable state.

Balkans: EC Accession

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on proposals for the European Union's further enlargement in the Balkans. [196207]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government remain committed to a future for the Western Balkans in the EU. Working towards EU accession will help the region move away from the conflicts and troubles that have held it back in the past, and consolidate peace and stability. Each state should move towards EU membership by demonstrating progress against the criteria set out in the Stabilisation and Association process and the priorities identified in their individual European or Accession Partnerships. The UK is working with countries in the region to help them make the necessary reforms. We welcome the Commission's 5 March 2008 communication reaffirming 2003 European Council conclusions for a European perspective for the region and proposing practical ways to deepen the EU's relations with the region within the existing €4 billion Instrument for Pre-Accession funding allocated to the Western Balkans between 2007-11.

Burma: Overseas Students

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will increase funding for scholarships in the UK for Burmese students. [196385]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Against an overall reduction in Chevening funding, the allocation for Burma for 2008-09 remains the same as for 2007-08. This has enabled 12 Burmese scholars to undertake Open university courses. We have no plans at present to increase this allocation, which has been made in accordance with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's global priorities.

Colombia

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Colombia on the proceedings against Diego Montoya. [196283]

Dr. Howells: The Government have not made representations to the Colombian government regarding the legal proceedings against Diego Montoya. We understand that the US authorities have issued a warrant to have Mr. Montoya extradited to the US—he was one of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 10 most wanted criminals.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring and evaluation of UK support provided to the Colombian military his Department conducts; by what mechanisms such monitoring takes place; and if he will make a statement. [196285]

Dr. Howells: UK assistance to Colombia, which includes support to a range of civil society organisations, the Colombian Government and the armed forces, is focused on improving the difficult human rights situation, preventing the amount of cocaine from reaching the UK's streets and reducing the threats that landmines pose to the Colombian people.

All British projects in Colombia, as elsewhere, undergo rigorous evaluation before funding is agreed, in areas such as value for money and effectiveness of implementing partners; and carefully monitored whilst projects are under way in terms of proper use of funds, achievement of objectives and outputs. UK staff continually and scrupulously supervise the use of British resources in Colombia to ensure that the highest operational, ethical and human rights standards are maintained in our human rights and counter narcotics work.

We evaluate that UK assistance is having a positive effect on the issues of most concern in Colombia. The UK has played a key role in working to institutionalise respect for human rights in the Colombian armed forces, so that they operate by the same high standards we demand of our own armed forces. Our counter-narcotics work is tightly focused on helping the Colombians tackle drugs production, trafficking organisations and networks. Our training in humanitarian demining has improved the Colombian Government's ability to remove the landmines that illegal armed groups place to harm innocent civilians.

Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who was consulted before the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals decided veterans should accept, but not wear, the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [196183]

Meg Munn: Ministers and officials in the Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office and staff of the Ceremonial Secretariat (Cabinet Office) and Buckingham palace were consulted before the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals took the decision that the medal could be accepted but not worn. The Malaysian authorities were also included in discussions prior to the decision being taken.

All members of the Committee itself took part in the discussions.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representations have been received from (*a*) veterans' organisations, (*b*) individuals and (*c*) hon. and right hon. Members calling on the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals to reconsider its advice to HM the Queen on not allowing veterans to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal. [196239]

Meg Munn: We have received many representations from individuals, veterans' organisations and hon. Members on this issue. To collate the exact number would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the rules governing the award of foreign honours, decorations and medals were last reviewed. [196240]

Meg Munn: The rules governing the award of foreign honours, decorations and medals have been reviewed and revised on a number of occasions over the last 150 years, and were last discussed early in 2007.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any past or present members of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals has been awarded and accepted an honour, decoration or medal from a foreign, Commonwealth or UK dependency government. [196245]

Meg Munn: The Honours and Decorations Committee dates back to the 1930s. It would incur disproportionate cost to check all potential awards to members dating back to its inception.

However we are aware of examples, in recent years, of when Her Majesty The Queen's Private Secretaries, who customarily serve on the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals, have received such decorations in their role as senior representative of Her Majesty The Queen in the context of close relations with or visits involving Her Majesty's Realms. As Her Majesty The Queen is Head of State in Realm countries, no permission is required to accept such awards.

EC President

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the proposed *(a)* responsibilities, *(b)* duties and *(c)* powers of the President of the European Council; if he will place in the Library copies of such representations; and if he will make a statement. [196092]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government strongly support a full-time President of the European Council, who will replace the current rotating President of the European Council, who changes every six months. The Lisbon treaty is clear (Article 1(16)(6), Consolidated Treaty Article 15(6) Treaty of the European Union) that the full-time President of the European Council will:

chair the European Council and drive forward its work;

ensure the preparation and continuity of the work of the European Council in cooperation with the President of the Commission, and on the basis of the work of the General Affairs Council;

endeavour to facilitate cohesion and consensus within the European Council;

present a report to the European Parliament after each of the meetings of the European Council;

ensure the external representation of the Union on issues concerning its common foreign and security policy, without prejudice to the powers of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; and

assist the General Affairs Council with ensuring follow-up to meetings of the European Council.

This broadly reflects the current role of the President of the European Council in practice. Having a full-time President of the European Council will bring greater coherence and consistency to the EU's actions; and will give member states greater capacity to give direction and momentum to the EU's agenda.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* members of the House of Lords and *(c)* members of the public will be able to submit nominations for the post of the President of the European Council; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [196093]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The full-time President of the European Council will be chosen by, and accountable to, the Heads of State or Government.

Having a full-time President of the European Council will bring greater coherence and consistency to the EU's actions; and will give member states greater capacity to give direction and momentum to the EU's agenda.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations have been received on procedures for the appointment of the President of the European Council; what criteria he proposes to adopt for nominating any candidate for the post of President of the European Council; and if he will make a statement. [196094]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government support a full-time President of the European Council to replace the current rotating President of the European Council, who changes every six months. He or she will be chosen by heads of state and Government by qualified majority, and will be accountable to them.

The full-time President of the European Council will not hold a national mandate and will be excluded from holding the post of President of the European Commission at the same time.

Having a full-time President of the European Council will bring greater coherence and consistency to the EU's actions; and will give member states greater capacity to give direction and momentum to the EU's agenda.

Eritrea: Ethiopia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the demarcation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea border; and if he will make a statement. [186869]

David Miliband: The Government regret the lack of any progress made by both Ethiopian and Eritrean Governments on agreeing to demarcate their border or proceeding to demarcation on the ground, as they committed to do when they signed up to the Algiers Agreements of 2000. We repeatedly remind both parties of their responsibility under the Algiers Agreements to make progress on demarcating their border.

In this regard, we fully support UN Security Council Resolution 1798, adopted unanimously on 30 January 2008, and expect the parties to implement fully all its provisions, including those relating to demarcation of the border.

European Union: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the UK's gross and net contribution to the EU in the most recent financial year for which figures are available; what has been the total gross and net contributions made by the UK since 1978; and what amount per head of UK population these figures represent. [195360]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The hon. Member will find estimates of the UK's gross and net contribution, and abatement, to the European Community Budget in the annual European Community Finances White Paper produced by HM Treasury. A copy of this document has been placed in the Library of the House. The Office for National Statistics produces population figures for the UK.

Gaza: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the ability of international humanitarian organisations to operate in the Gaza Strip in light of current Israeli military operations in the territory and *(b)* the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [192243]

David Miliband: The operations by the Israel Defence Force in Gaza between 27 February and 3 March made working conditions more difficult for humanitarian organisations. The Palestinian Ministry of Health was particularly stretched to deal with the large number of casualties; a clinic, pharmacy and ambulance of the Palestinian Medical Relief Society were destroyed; and two UN Relief and Works Agency schools were damaged. However, some humanitarian supplies and fuel continued to get into Gaza during this period. International humanitarian organisations currently report that they are able to import items required for immediate relief (e.g. food and medicine), but that items required for longer-term activities continue to encounter long delays or are not getting in at all (e.g. the UN Children's Fund supplies for schools and some spare parts for fixing the water supply system).

We remain gravely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Essential services, including water and sanitation, are close to breakdown and a number of essential medical items and drugs are out of stock. I have discussed this with the Israeli Defence Minister, Palestinian President and the UN Secretary-General. Department for International Development officials are monitoring the ongoing situation.

Human Rights

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries his Department lists as being jurisdictions where homosexuals are at risk of *(a)* execution and *(b)* other forms of persecution by (i) state sanctioned bodies and (ii) non-state sanctioned bodies; and if he will make a statement. [196292]

Meg Munn: The nine countries that have a maximum penalty of death for consenting same sex relations are Iran, Iraq, Mauritania, Nigeria (in 12 northern states where Sharia law operates), Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Yemen.

There are a number of other countries where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people may be at risk of persecution. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Travel Advice points to countries where there might be a risk of persecution. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also provides specific advice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people on the range of issues that they might face abroad. This can be found at: www.fco.gov.uk/travel

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office opposes any form of persecution of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, by whoever, and wherever it occurs. Foreign and Commonwealth officials have been active in promoting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the future of the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia after 2010; and if he will make a statement. [191979]

David Miliband: The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) currently estimates the completion of existing trials and appeals by 2011. The UK strongly supports the Tribunal's efforts to fulfil its mandate as efficiently and quickly as possible. At the same time, the UK is actively engaged in Security Council discussions to agree a coherent framework to deal with residual functions, including a mechanism to try fugitive indictees of ICTY and the other ad hoc tribunals following the completion of their work.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's ability to achieve the objectives of its completion strategy by 2010. [191980]

David Miliband: Since 2004 the president and prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) have provided twice-yearly reports to the UN Security Council on progress towards the completion strategy which envisages the completion of trials by the end of 2008 and appeals by the end of 2010.

The Government note that the ICTY president reported to the UN Security Council in December 2007 that more time is needed to complete its caseload as a result of the capture of fugitive indictees Zdravko Tolimir and Vlastimir Dordevic last May and June respectively. The ICTY currently estimates the completion of existing

trials and appeals by 2011. The transfer of the remaining four fugitive indictees will also have consequences for the projected timescales for the completion of the tribunal's work.

The Government welcome the steps taken by the tribunal to expedite the completion of cases such as greater use of written evidence and the introduction of multi-accused trials. The UK, together with EU and UN Security Council partners, regularly calls on the ICTY to continue to build on these measures to fulfil its completion strategy targets.

International Judicial Archives

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the location of international judicial archives in The Hague after 2010; and if he will make a statement. [191982]

David Miliband: The preservation and location of the archives of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals is a matter which the UN Security Council will consider in the context of other necessary residual functions following the completion of the tribunals' work. Discussions on residual issues is currently underway in the Security Council and involves a number of EU partners.

To assist the Security Council's consideration of this issue, an independent Advisory Committee on Archives has been tasked to prepare a comparative study on archiving solutions. The committee is due to submit its recommendations by the middle of this year.

Iran: Israel

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Government of Iran on President Ahmadinejad's recent statement on the Holocaust. [197447]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Iranian President Ahmadinejad's statements questioning the holocaust and calling for Israel to be 'wiped off the map' are deplorable and the Government have consistently condemned them. Although we have seen no reports of recent statements by President Ahmadinejad on the holocaust, we have made clear that such comments are wholly unacceptable and have no place in civilised political debate. These kind of comments damage Iran's reputation and undermine international confidence that Iran is willing to act as a respectable member of the international community. The Minister for the Middle East, my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) placed copies of statements condemning Iranian questioning of the holocaust and anti-Israeli comments in the Library of the House, following the written answer he gave to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1193W

Israel: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the government of Israel on suicide bombings in Israel; what recent representations he has received on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [196096]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary publicly condemned the suicide attack in Dimona on 4 February 2008. There can be no justification for attacks that deliberately target civilians. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary speaks regularly to Israeli Foreign Secretary Livni about issues relating to Israeli security, most recently on 6 March 2008. Our embassy in Tel Aviv has regular discussions with the Israeli government about issues relating to Israeli security.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he *(a)* has had recently and *(b)* plans to have with EU counterparts on the reported storage of (i) rockets and (ii) arms by Hamas in civilian areas in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [196143]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We have regular discussions with our EU partners on the subject of Israel's security. We condemn all terrorist activities. However, we have had no particular discussions with our EU counterparts on the storage of arms and rockets in civilian areas by Hamas. The UK condemns the storage of arms and rockets by Hamas in civilian areas. The UK urges all parties to adopt a peaceful, political resolution to the conflict.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with EU counterparts on reported comments by the President of the Palestinian Authority on the recognition by Hamas of the state of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [196148]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions with his EU counterparts on the subject of the middle east peace process, including on our position on Hamas, most recently at the informal Foreign Ministers' meeting (Gymnich). They will continue at the April EU General Affairs and External Relations Council. Our policy towards Hamas remains the same based on the three Quartet principles: recognition of Israel, acceptance of previous agreements and renunciation of violence.

Israel: Borders

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to the Government of Israel to open the border passes to the Gaza Strip. [196520]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The UK believes that the Gaza border crossings should be opened for both humanitarian and commercial activity. On 28 January 2008 my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, with his EU colleagues, announced

that the EU would be willing to redeploy the EU border assistance mission at Rafah when conditions allow. Our embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises this issue with the Israeli Government.

Malaysia: Honours

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Ministers were advised of or were asked to consider or approve the decision to set aside the rule preventing the wearing of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal during the anniversary celebrations of Malaysian independence. [196243]

Meg Munn: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply I gave him today (UIN 196244).

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs why the decision not to allow recipients of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal to wear the decoration on public occasions was set aside for the celebration coinciding with the anniversary celebrations of Malaysian independence. [196244]

Meg Munn: Ministers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence put forward a proposal to the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals that veterans exceptionally be allowed to wear the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal during the main independence celebrations in Malaysia because of the significance of the anniversary.

Morocco

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the referendum process in the Western Sahara with his Moroccan counterpart. [196352]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed Western Sahara with his Moroccan counterpart. However, when I met the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Mr. Taieb Fassi Fihri, during the UK-Morocco ministerial dialogue forum in July 2007, we discussed a wide range of issues relating to Western Sahara and expressed our hope that a mutually acceptable political solution would be found, which would provide for the self determination of the people of Western Sahara. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his personal envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum.

Written Questions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will answer question 186869, on the demarcation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea border, tabled on 7 February 2008. [196252]

David Miliband: I replied to the right hon. Member today.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Life Expectancy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average life expectancy of females of child bearing age in Africa was in (*a*) 1997 and (*b*) 2007. [197448]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations Population Division provides the following figures for average life expectancy at age 15 (taken as the beginning of their reproductive life) for women in sub-Saharan Africa:

1995-2000: 48.5 years;

2005-2010: 46.7 years.

China: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Chinese government on joint aid programmes. [196387]

Mr. Malik: In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Chinese Embassy have been discussing collaboration around mitigating the environmental and social impact of investments to reopen and upgrade roads infrastructure.

We have also been providing some informal assistance to the Ministry of Health in China as they develop their strategy for support to health programmes in Africa.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development at how many events held by his Department (*a*) wine and (*b*) Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196942]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not retain this information centrally, and it cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Our contracted catering company is required to supply Fairtrade or other ethically traded items if specifically requested to do so by the function organisers. In line with HMG policy, DFID is committed to improving market access to producers in developing countries through increased participation in fair and sustainable supply chains.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193561]

Gillian Merron: 201 members of staff in the Department for International Development (or 11.4 per cent. of the staff employed by the department) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2007. This has reduced to 188 members of staff (or 10.9 per cent. of those employed by the department) who were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2008.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial or other assistance his Department provides to Iraqi refugees in *(a)* Jordan and *(b)* Syria. [196086]

Mr. Malik: Since 2003, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £7.75 million to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), which leads the international response to the Iraqi refugee situation. Of this, £3 million has been committed for 2008. DFID has not earmarked contributions to UNHCR for specific countries, but has supported UNHCR's annual Iraq situation appeals. These appeals focus primarily on Jordan, Syria and Iraq, but also cover operations in Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Our support helps UNHCR provide assistance to Iraqi refugees (including food, cash assistance, legal aid and school materials) and support to health and education systems in countries that have taken in large numbers of people displaced from Iraq. DFID's contributions to UNHCR form part of our overall humanitarian assistance allocation for Iraq, totalling £147 million since 2003.

The UK, as a major contributor to the European Commission (EC), has also supported the EC's programmes in Jordan and Syria. Last year, the EC allocated €50 million in support of Iraqi refugees in the middle east region. This included an additional €9 million to their ongoing health sector modernisation project in Syria. This money will strengthen health services in areas with large Iraqi populations. In Jordan, the EC has allocated €26.7 million in budget support, which will build capacity in the Jordanian education sector to accommodate Iraqi refugee children.

Overseas Aid

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1144W, on overseas aid, which European Commission country strategy papers do not meet the criteria for adherence to the legal and policy base and alignment set out in partner countries' national plans. [196280]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development considers that all of the country strategy papers published to date have adhered to the legal and policy base and been aligned with the partner countries' priorities.

Overseas Aid: HIV Infection

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the funding required to ensure universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services by 2010; and how much of this he estimates is required to be met by *(a)* G8 members and *(b)* the UK. [196113]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South (Nigel Griffiths) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-84W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Enforcement

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many closure orders under section 169A of the Licensing Act 2003 for persistently selling alcohol to children had been made at the latest date for which figures are available; [193942]

(2) how many court orders have been made under section 147B of the Licensing Act 2003 to suspend a premises licence for the sale of alcohol. [194043]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not currently hold this data. Sections 147B and 169A of the Licensing Act 2003 relate to the new offence of persistently selling alcohol to children which came into force when Chapter 3 of Part 1 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") was commenced on 6 April 2007. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing, which includes information on licence suspensions, covers activity in the 12 months to 31 March 2007 and therefore pre-dates the persistent sales of alcohol to children offence coming into effect. However, we intend to repeat the data collection exercise this year and expect to publish a new Bulletin in the autumn to cover the period from 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Arts: Higher Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on creative industries of the reduction in funding for equivalent and lower level qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [197358]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has made no formal assessment of the likely effect on creative industries of the reduction in funding for equivalent and lower level qualifications. We have been in conversation with the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills (DIUS) to highlight some of the key issues for DCMS however, and how they intend to monitor the impact of the arrangements.

The first such review, which will be conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council England, is planned to take place in December 2008, in the light of entry data for the 2008-09 academic year.

Cage Fighting

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will introduce regulations on cage fighting. [196721]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: National governing bodies of sport are responsible for introducing their own regulations into their respective sports.

Cage fighting is not recognised as a sport by Sport England, UK Sport or any of the other home country sports councils. No application has ever been received for the activity to be recognised.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what research his Department has conducted into the safety of cage fighting; and if he will make a statement. [196722]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not carried out, or commissioned any research into the safety of Cage fighting.

Cage fighting is not recognised as a sport by Sport England, UK Sport or any of the other home country sports councils.

Cultural Heritage: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many children under the age of 16 years *(a)* participated in arts activity, *(b)* attended an arts event, *(c)* accessed a museum or gallery and *(d)* visited an historic environment site in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [194919]

Margaret Hodge: We do not have year on year data recording children's involvement with these cultural activities. However, our 'Taking Part' survey, conducted in 2006, showed that the following proportions of 11 to 15-year-olds:

(a) Attended an arts event: 74 per cent.

(b) Participated in an arts activity: 91 per cent.

(c) Visited a museum or gallery: 55 per cent.

(d) Visited a historic environment site: 72 per cent.

We do not hold data prior to this.

Culture: EU Countries

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what activities the UK will be participating in as its contribution to the 2008 European Year of Intercultural Dialogue; and what the projected cost of each activity will be. [196932]

Margaret Hodge: In the UK a number of bodies including Liverpool Capital of Culture, Bristol city council and the Victoria and Albert Museum, have planned programmes which tie in with the Year of Intercultural Dialogue. These are not directly funded by my Department. There are no plans at present for DCMS Ministers to attend any events marking the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue outside the UK. An official from my Department attended the launch event for the Year of Intercultural Dialogue hosted by the Slovenian EU presidency in Ljubljana on 6-7 January. The cost to my Department was £207.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196935]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not hold any management information regarding the use of wine at events. In particular the Department has no policy regarding the use of Fairtrade wine at departmental events.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196720]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has issued guidelines for staff on the use of social media and personal websites which states:

"If you want to start blogging, and your blog/website will say that you work for the DCMS you should tell your manager.

If your blog makes it clear that you work for the DCMS, it should include a simple and visible disclaimer such as "these are my personal views and not those of the DCMS."

Unless there are specific concerns about the nature of your job, you are free to talk about DCMS policies/projects and content on your blog. Consult your manager if in any doubt.

Don't reveal confidential information. This might include aspects of DCMS policy or details of internal DCMS discussions. Again, consult your manager if you are unclear about what might be confidential.

You should not use your blogs to attack or abuse colleagues."

All staff in my Department are also required to sign an Acceptable Use of the Internet policy before they are given access to the internet. Any activity that would bring the Department into disrepute is prohibited.

I am arranging to place a copy of my Department's guidelines on personal websites and blogs in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197059]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No staff (0) from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have attended the: *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training courses run by the National School for Government in the last 12 months. As a result nil costs have accrued.

Gambling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government have taken to tackle gambling addiction. [196888]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 March 2008]*: I refer my hon. Friend, the member for Coventry South, to the answer I gave him on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1305W.

The principal step that the Government have taken recently to address gambling addiction has been to implement the Gambling Act 2005, which from 1 September 2007 has introduced a range of licence conditions and codes of practice designed to protect children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling. The Gambling Commission and licensing authorities have been given wide-ranging powers to enforce these conditions, and all gambling operators must comply with the new rules or risk losing their licence.

Licensing

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* on-licences, *(b)* off-licences and *(c)* public entertainment licences have been issued in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [187136]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates issued under the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) and broken down by licensable activity as at 31 March 2007 for each Licensing Authority area is available from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7F01712CB2294A2FB313DF89D542E29C/0/TableQ2_revised9nov.xls

Source:

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Statistical Bulletin 2006/07

Prior to the implementation of the 2003 Act, data on the number of alcohol licences and certificates granted and renewed in England and Wales under the Licensing Act 1964 were collected by petty sessional divisions (magistrates court areas) on a triennial basis, in accordance with the three yearly cycle of licence renewals. On and off-licensed premises and other liquor licensing data, by petty sessional division as at 30 June 2004 can be found on Table 9 at this website address:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E96FD9EFC8174E07B1A46F4D4EA9F2A3/0/7138BLiquorReport.pdf

Source:

Liquor Licensing Statistical Bulletin 2003/04

No data were collected centrally on the number of public entertainment licences issued by local authorities prior to the implementation of the 2003 Act.

Motorsport Development UK

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments his Department made to Motorsport Development UK in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [197636]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department, through Sport England awarded £25,000 to the East Midlands Development Agency in 2006 to support 50 per cent. of the costs of producing the Motorsport Widening Participation Plan 2007 to 2013.

The actual amount paid was £19,858 and the award was made to EMDA in its role as 'host' agency for Motorsport Development UK.

National Lottery: Buildings

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been provided from National Lottery funding to date for new and refurbished buildings in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland in (i) grants and (ii) matching funding. [196867]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Some grants by almost all the lottery distributing bodies will have involved the construction of new buildings or the repair, maintenance or improvement of existing buildings. This will have included (but is not limited to) historic buildings and monuments, arts and sports venues and facilities, health facilities (for example, healthy living centres) and community buildings (such as village halls).

Olympic Games

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role his Department has in managing the procession of the Olympic Torch through London on 6 April. [197368]

Andy Burnham: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has had no role in managing the procession of the Olympic torch through London on 6 April.

The invitation for a city to host a section of an Olympic or Paralympic torch relay goes directly to that city and the National Olympic Committee. The Greater London Authority (GLA) has therefore been managing the operational details of the torch relay leg on 6 April. GLA has kept us updated as its plans have progressed.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies were in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189756]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has one agency, the Royal Parks Agency. The total annual costs of the press offices of the department and the Royal Parks Agency for each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

	DCMS (£)	*Royal Parks Agency (£)*
1996-97	236,524	37,395
1997-98		42,364
1998-99		43,559
1999-2000		52,157
2000-01	582,442	55,688
2001-02	657,139	57,275
2002-03	712,623	58,325
2003-04	814,244	59,395
2004-05	831,802	59,693
2005-06	861,799	60,723
2006-07	1,126,541	61,938

Costs provided for the Royal Parks Agency are an estimate based on current staffing levels.

Costs for the department for 1996-97 and 2000-01 have previously been provided in a written answer to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) on 10 April 2002, *Official Report*, column 319W.

Information for 2007-08 cannot be included as the current year's expenditure has not yet been audited.

Information regarding the cost of the department's press office from 1997-98 to 1999-2000, and the total annual cost of the press offices for the department's non-departmental public bodies from 1996-97 to 2006-07, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the funding earmarked for regeneration of seaside towns is to be divided between locations; and when these funds will be distributed. [197973]

Margaret Hodge: My Department's £45 million fund will allocate £15 million a year over three years to help catalyze the regeneration of seaside resorts through heritage and cultural projects.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will make an announcement on the funding proposals for year one of the programme shortly.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

8. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to tackle child poverty. [197197]

James Purnell: On Budget Day we published "Ending child poverty: everybody's business" with the Government's strategy for halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020. The measures announced in the Budget will invest an additional £950 million and reduce child poverty by a further 250,000 additional children by 2010-11. Combined with announcements in last year's Budget and pre-Budget report, that means an extra 500,000 children will be lifted out of poverty.

Personal Capability Test

12. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether unemployed registered blind people and others with serious disabilities are required to take the personal capability test; and if he will make a statement. [197201]

Mrs. McGuire: In the present personal capability assessment, blind people and those with certain other severely disabling conditions can be exempt from taking the medical test.

The new work capability assessment for employment and support allowance moves the emphasis from what people cannot do to what they can do, and how they can be helped to do even more.

Our aim is to support, encourage and enable people to move into work, and so to become and remain independent. We will require all those who claim ESA, except the most severely disabled, to take the new medical test.

New Deal

13. **Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on plans to reform the new deal; and if he will make a statement. [197202]

Mr. Timms: The new deal has led a major transformation in employment support by helping more than 1.85 million people into work.

We want to build on that success, and as announced in our recently published commissioning strategy, we will harness the expertise and innovation of the private, public and third sectors to help those who are still finding it difficult to find or sustain work.

Incapacity Benefit

14. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had been on incapacity benefit for more than five years at the latest date for which a figure is available. [197203]

20. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had been on incapacity benefit for more than five years at the latest date for which a figure is available. [197209]

23. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had been on incapacity benefit for more than five years at the latest date for which a figure is available. [197213]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave today to the hon. Member for Bexley Heath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett).

Carers

15. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of support available to carers; and if he will make a statement. [197204]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government are committed to improving the help available to carers.

The review of the national carers strategy is looking in depth at issues around carers' incomes in consultation with carers and organisations that represent them.

The review will be published in late spring.

Local Housing Allowance

16. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the implementation of the local housing allowance. [197205]

Mr. Plaskitt: The local housing allowance will roll out nationally from 7 April 2008 to all tenants who make a new claim for housing benefit in the de-regulated private rented sector.

It has already been successfully implemented and evaluated in 18 local authorities. The results of this evaluation have been extremely positive.

We have undertaken to review all aspects of the local housing allowance over the first two years of the scheme.

National Insurance Numbers

17. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to allocate national insurance numbers to people who are discovered to have been trafficked into the UK. [197206]

Mr. Timms: Trafficked people who have been granted leave to enter or remain in the UK, and have access to work or benefits, will be eligible to apply for a national insurance number.

18. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many migrant workers have been given national insurance numbers in (*a*) Northamptonshire and (*b*) England in the last three years. [197207]

Mr. Timms: Figures are available only for the last two years. In 2005-06, 8,400 national insurance numbers were issued to adult foreign nationals in Northamptonshire and 578,840 in England. In 2006-07, 8,170 numbers were issued in Northamptonshire and 614,780 in England.

Pensioner Benefits

19. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase take-up of benefit entitlements by pensioners. [197208]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We want every pensioner to claim the benefits they are entitled to which is why we have made claiming more straightforward. From October claims for state pension, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit can be made in one phone call with no forms to fill in and we are always looking at ways to make the application process simpler. As part of our drive to increase take up, I recently launched a communication campaign to target specific areas where take-up of entitlements is low. The campaign will explore partnership opportunities with Help the Aged, Age Concern, Citizens Advice and other partners.

21. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to enable pensioners to take up their benefit entitlements. [197211]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We want every pensioner to claim the benefits they are entitled to which is why we have made claiming more straightforward. From October claims for state pension, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit can be made in one phone call with no forms to fill in and we are always looking at ways to make the application process simpler.

Child Support Agency

22. **Mr. Andrew Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of the Child Support Agency was in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [197212]

Mr. Plaskitt: The cost of running the Child Support Agency for the 12 months to March 2007 was £520.3 million. In this period the Agency collected and arranged £898.1 million in maintenance payments benefiting almost 642,000 children.

Carers Allowances

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse would be of not offsetting carer's allowance against (*a*) the basic state pension and (*b*) other benefits. [195309]

Mr. Plaskitt: After adjusting for offsets in income-related benefits and pension credit, the estimated cost of exempting all pensioners with entitlement to carer's allowance from the overlapping benefits rule would be around £310 million.

This estimate does not take account of carers presently not claiming carer's allowance who might be encouraged to do so by a change in the rules.

The estimated cost of exempting all those of working age with entitlement to carer's allowance from the overlapping benefits rule after adjusting for offsets in income-related benefits would be around £90 million.

Child Support

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on child support, how much and what proportion of debt was collected in each year. [197350]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 31 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 20th March 2008, Official Report, column 1393W, on child support, how much and what proportion of debt was collected in each year. [197350]

The information that you have requested is not available. The Agency's current assessment of collectable and uncollectable debt is based on an annual debt analysis exercise. This exercise examines a sample of cases to determine collectability based on the Agency's past experience. It is an estimate and therefore subject to change as the Agency improves its debt collection and enforcement activities.

The Agency does not routinely categorise every individual case in this way and is therefore unable to supply the information that you have requested.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the procedures are for the Child Support Agency to make electronic copies of correspondence *(a)* received and *(b)* sent by it. [195836]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive.

He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 31 March 2008:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, what the procedures are for the Child Support Agency to make electronic copies of correspondence *(a)* received and *(b)* sent by it. [195836]

All written correspondence relating to a complaint, including those from either a client or a Member of Parliament, received by the Child Support Agency is scanned and stored electronically.

In addition, all correspondence relating to Child Support Agency issues addressed to the Chief Executive or to a Minister within the Department for Work and Pensions is scanned and stored electronically, as is any subsequent response.

The Agency does not routinely scan and electronically store correspondence received during the course of assessing an application or maintaining a case, but files this correspondence clerically. The Agency does however keep electronic copies of the letters and standard forms generated by the Agency's computer system.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2591 on IT projects, what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for the Child Support Agency Operational Improvement Plan, including IT elements; and if he will make a statement. [194128]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 31 March 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 5th March 2008, Official Report, column 2591 on IT projects, what is the (a) start date, (b) original planned completion date, (c) current expected completion date, (d) planned cost and (e) current estimated cost for the Child Support Agency Operational Improvement Plan, including IT elements, and if he will make a statement. [194128]

The Child Support Agency Operational Improvement Plan was announced in February 2006. The plan sets out a business recovery programme for the three years to March 2009. Key commitments to improve the performance of the Agency are supported by a programme to design, develop and implement a process of organisational change. This is underpinned by continuing remediation of existing computer systems and the introduction of further IT enhancements in preparation for the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

The Operational Improvement Plan was funded in the main from releasing existing resource agreed as part of the 2004 spending review, supplemented by an additional £120 million new investment from within the Department. The total original planned cost of the Operational Improvement Plan was £320m and our estimated cost remains £320m. The Agency remains on track to meet its Operational Improvement Plan commitments by March 2009.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the 24-hour overnight allowance for his Department's civil servants based outside London is when working in London. [197343]

Mrs. McGuire: The 24-hour overnight allowances payable to DWP employees is a national rate and therefore the same whether employees are working in London or in any other part of the country.

Applicable rates are as follows:

Actual costs for accommodation and breakfast booked via the hotel booking agent. When not booked via the agent, costs must be supported by a receipt and are limited to £45[1].

In addition, a flat rate amount of £21 is payable to cover the cost of lunch, evening meal and any incidental travel[2]. In exceptional circumstances, actual costs for meals and incidental travel is paid if expenses are incurred above the flat rate. Receipts will be required in these circumstances.

If the individual chooses to stay with friends or relatives, then a night subsistence allowance of £25 is payable for each day.

Additionally, £5 per night is paid to cover personal incidental expenses such as newspapers or phone calls home.

[1] Hotel accommodation is normally arranged through a booking agent who charge DWP directly. In exceptional circumstances, the individual may arrange their own accommodation but expenses for this are limited to £45 per night.

The rate reduces where individuals remain away from home for over 30 nights without a break of more than two weeks and remain in hotel accommodation. In these circumstances, the individual can claim the actual cost of the evening meal (excluding alcohol) up to £16.50.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what documents his Department, its associated agencies and non departmental bodies translate for people in the UK who do not speak English. [197587]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions translates a range of documents into other languages, as determined by each of the individual businesses and services. We have a range of policies to guide them, such as the Ethnic Language Standard, Welsh Language Scheme, Welsh Language Standard and our interpretation policy, which are based on legislation and best practice. When requested to do so by our customers, the Department is also required to provide customers with specific and personal communications, such as letters, in their preferred language.

The Department for Work and Pensions and non departmental bodies also produce all publications and services bilingually in English and Welsh, as both languages are treated equally under the Welsh Language Act.

Employment Benefits: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of (*a*) one and (*b*) more than one work-related benefit in (i) London and (ii) each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [195902]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information about out-of-work benefits has been placed in the Library.

Employment: Sight Impaired

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many registered blind people of working age there are in (*a*) each region and (*b*) Bolton, South-East constituency. [195533]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of working-age people registered as blind or partially sighted, broken down by region. Figures broken down into constituencies are not held centrally.

The numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

Number of people aged 18 to 64 (as at 31 March 2006)

	Registered as:	
	Blind	*Partially sighted*
England	33,420	29,310
North East	1,700	1,740
North West	5,350	5,240
Yorkshire and The Humber	4,490	3,490
East Midlands	2,780	2,375
West Midlands	3,665	3,335
South West	2,915	2,430
Eastern	2,925	2,915
London	5,335	3,950
South East	4,150	3,765

Note:

Registration onto the blind and partially sighted register is voluntary. Registration is not, however, a pre-requisite for certain social services concessions and this factor, combined with uncertainties about the regularity with which the councils review and update their records, makes it difficult to assign a degree of reliability to these registers.

Foreign Workers: EC Countries

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of job vacancies filled by migrant workers from other European Union member states in the latest period for which figures are available. [197189]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration is of a claim for jobseeker's allowance when the claimant maintains their claim (*a*) in person once a fortnight and (*b*) by post. [185881]

Mr. Plaskitt: No such breakdown is available because the normal expectation is that people will maintain their claim in person.

For jobseeker's allowance claims ending in January 2008, the median duration of claim was 9.4 weeks (Great Britain).

Notes:

1. Figures are based on computer held cases only.

2. The median indicates that half of the claims ending in January 2008 were shorter than 9.4 weeks and half were longer.

Source:

100 per cent count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Lone Parents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether lone parents on jobseeker's allowance may be sanctioned or have their claims disallowed if they refuse employment based up to one and a half hours travelling distance from their home. [192924]

Mr. Plaskitt: Jobseeker's allowance is designed to ensure that all jobseekers take every necessary step to get into work, it is not payable to anyone who has, without good cause, failed to take up a reasonable opportunity of employment.

Travelling time is taken into account in deciding whether there is good cause. After the first 13 weeks of entitlement to jobseeker's allowance, reasonable travelling time is normally one and a half hours or less each way. However, a person's health or caring responsibilities

will be taken into account in determining whether the time it would take to travel to work is unreasonable. This applies to all jobseekers, including those who are lone parents.

Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he plans to reduce the burden of regulation on small defined benefit schemes where all the fund's assets are held by an insurance company. [197349]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In May 2006, the Government announced a rolling deregulatory review with the aim of making the private pensions regulatory framework simpler and less burdensome. The current Pensions Bill includes, for example, measures to reduce the statutory cap which applies to the revaluation of deferred pension rights from 5 per cent. to 2.5 per cent. for all defined benefit rights which build up after the change is introdiseed. That change could potentially provide significant savings for all defined benefit pension schemes. We are taking forward other changes to ease the burden on all defined benefit schemes in secondary legislation and/or guidance, and would welcome further specific proposals for change.

Social Security Benefits

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent estimate he has made of the level of benefit uptake among (*a*) 16 to 30-year-olds, (*b*) 31 to 65-year-olds and (*c*) pensioners. [197348]

(2) what estimate he has made of the value of benefits not taken up by (*a*) 16 to 30-year-olds, (*b*) 31 to 65-year-olds and (*c*) pensioners in the last financial year for which figures are available. [197620]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up of the main income-related benefits are available in the Department's publication series entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up". These estimates cover income support, jobseeker's allowance, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit. Copies of the latest publication can be found in the Library. The latest report is also available online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/irb_0506_2.asp

Breakdowns by specific age group and information on the take-up of other DWP administered benefits are not available.

Social Workers: Labour Turnover

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many social workers left the profession in each of the last 10 years. [195964]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not collect this information centrally.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many (*a*) women and (*b*) men drew deferred state retirement pensions as a lump sum in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [195640]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table:

SP caseload as at 31 May 2007 where a lump sum amount is recorded and the deferment period ended in the 12 months to 31 May 2007

	Number
All	10,970
Female	7,500
Male	3,470

Notes

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Includes overseas cases.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Figures include inherited lump sums.
5. The option to take a lump sum was introduced in April 2006 but only for those deferring for a minimum of 12 months.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal study.

Tax Allowances: Pensioners

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with officials on extending the pensioners' tax allowance to women between the ages of 60 and 65 years. [196540]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions on a wide range of issues as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of these discussions.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of extending the pensioners' tax allowance to women between the ages of 60 and 65 years. [196541]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

Age related income tax personal allowances are available for people over 65 years of age. The cost of extending the age related income tax personal allowance to all men and women aged 60 to 64 would be around £1 billion in 2008-09. Introducing such a change for women only would cost approximately half this amount but would not be possible as it would discriminate on the basis of gender.

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes 2005-06, projected in line with Budget 2008 assumptions.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Prime Minister what visits he made to (*a*) Harrogate International Centre, (*b*) International Conference Centre, Birmingham, (*c*) Manchester Central, (*d*) Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, (*e*) Edinburgh International Conference Centre, (*f*) Bournemouth International Conference Centre, (*g*) the Brighton Centre, Brighton, (*h*) the Riviera Centre, Torquay, (*i*) Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, (*j*) Excel Conference

Centre, Docklands, London, and (k) Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197168]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Prime Minister if he will (a) follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and (b) display ICRA's label on 10 Downing Street's website. [191775]

The Prime Minister: The Government are committed to safety online for all users, including children. The Central Office of Information is preparing a new set of guidance for many aspects of the Government web estate.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Prime Minister what guidance is issued to members of his Office on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196745]

The Prime Minister: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website.

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he last travelled by rail on official business. [195949]

The Prime Minister: I travel, making the most efficient and cost-effective arrangements, including by rail. My travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the "Ministerial Code", and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers".

Jennifer Moses

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister on what policy area Ms Jennifer Moses provides advice to the Prime Minister. [198252]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 449W.

John McCain

Mr. Davey: To ask the Prime Minister what matters he discussed at his most recent meeting with US Senator John McCain. [198017]

Jo Swinson: To ask the Prime Minister whether he raised the issue of (a) the Israeli-Palestine conflict, (b) climate change, (c) Darfur and (d) Tibet in his recent meeting with Senator John McCain. [197614]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 20 March 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page15132.asp

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mayor of London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many official meetings he has had with the Mayor of London since 27 June 2007. [195852]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

National Register of Risks

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether the information to be published on the National Register of Risks will be made public in unredacted form. [197841]

The Prime Minister: The national register of risks will be written with the express purpose of informing the public of the risks that they face. It will include as much information as possible without prejudicing national security.

National Security

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his oral statement on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 925-29, on the national security strategy, when this capacity is planned to be available; whether the individuals will be contracted to serve in dangerous areas; how much has been allocated for the initiative; from what budget; whether the participants will be full-time or on standby; what the implications of the standby capacity for the Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit are; and what discussions the Government has had with (a) NATO, (b) the EU and (c) other countries on the development of this capacity. [198031]

The Prime Minister: As I announced to the House on 19 March, the UK supports a significant increase and acceleration in international capacity, and will lead this effort by building the UK's own capacity towards a target of 1,000 stand-by deployable civilians, including police, emergency service professionals, judges and trainers.

The Stabilisation Unit (formerly Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit), working with relevant departments leads on building capability to deploy civilians into countries emerging from violent conflict. Pre-deployment training and equipment is funded from the Stabilisation Unit's budget, with the costs of deployments themselves falling primarily to the Stabilisation Aid Fund, Conflict Prevention Pool and the Peacekeeping Budget.

The UK continues to discuss its arrangements to increase capacity with its international partners in the EU, NATO and the UN.

National Security Forum

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what criteria will be used in determining the membership of the new National Security Forum. [196832]

The Prime Minister: The National Security Forum will harness a wide range of expertise and experience. It will include representatives from central and local government, politics, academia, the private and third sectors, and other bodies, as well as people with relevant security experience.

Prime Minister: Visits

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many sporting events outside England he has attended in his official capacity since appointment; [195410]

(2) how many secondary schools he has visited in an official capacity since taking office. [195411]

The Prime Minister: A list of my UK visits will be published in the usual way following the end of the financial year. In addition, since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all overseas visits undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House.

Security: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what additional resources are being made available to support each new initiative in the new National Security Strategy; [196831]

(2) what annual budget has been allocated to monitoring the possibility of nuclear weapons or materials or technology falling into the hands of terrorists, as outlined at paragraph 3.12 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291. [197839]

The Prime Minister: The comprehensive spending review, published on 9 October last year, set out the Government's spending plans for national security.

These plans included details of increased resources covered in the National Security Strategy, including continued rising real-terms investment in the armed forces; increased resources for diplomatic engagement in key areas; more spending on conflict prevention and stabilisation; and more spending on security, intelligence and counter-terrorism, where the budget has doubled since 2001 and will grow to £3.5 billion by 2011.

The National Security Strategy sets out the framework for targeting those resources.

United Kingdoms: Borders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Prime Minister what geographical criteria he used in preparation of his article in *The Daily Telegraph* of 25 March 2008 entitled We must defend the Union. [197449]

The Prime Minister: The full article appears on the website of the *Daily Telegraph*, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

JUSTICE

Act of Settlement 1700

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which other Acts of Parliament would need to be amended if the Act of Settlement 1700 were amended to end the prohibitions on Roman Catholics within that Act. [197480]

Mr. Straw: Legislation that would need to be reviewed includes the Bill of Rights 1688, the Coronation Oath Act 1688, the Union with Scotland Act 1707, the Union with England Act 1707, the Princess Sophia's Precedence Act 1711, the Royal Marriages Act 1772, the Union with Ireland Act 1800, the Accession Declaration Act 1910, and the Regency Act 1937. Any change in legislation would among other things require the consent of member nations of the Commonwealth

Administration of Justice

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government have taken to clean up defunct and meaningless law as mentioned in his Department's press release of 18 March 2008. [197355]

Bridget Prentice: The Government introduced the Statute Law (Repeals) Bill into the House of Lords on 27 February 2008. It received its second reading on 18 March.

The Bill implements the recommendations made by the Law Commission and Scottish Law Commission in their joint report: Statute Law Repeals, Joint Report Law Com No 308/Scot Law Com No 210. The Bill repeals 260 whole Acts and parts of 68 other Acts. These statutory provisions no longer have any practical utility.

The Bill is the 18th Statute Law (Repeals) Bill drafted by the Law Commissions. The next Statute Law (Repeals) Bill is expected to be ready for introduction in 2012.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Children and Family Courts Advisory and Support Service no longer has key stakeholders. [189978]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his letter has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 12 March 2008:

I am writing to you in response to the Parliamentary Question that you tabled recently:

189978 Ms Susan Kramer to ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, for what reasons the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service no longer has key stakeholders.

Cafcass has not changed its policy or operational protocols in respect of our key stakeholders. We work in partnership with

other public sector organisations, particularly in the family justice system as well as with third sector and private companies who we either commission services from or work together with on specific projects and programmes. We regularly attend national and local Family Justice Councils, and all Local Safeguarding Children Boards in England. We have many active partnerships with organisations to develop joint policies or service agreements. Cafcass has an active Young Peoples Board, with membership drawn from children and young people who are either current or past service users. We are intending to extend this level of participation in the next financial year to focus on adult participation, building on the outcomes of focus groups we have held this year. Cafcass is proud of the high level of partnership working carried out throughout the organisation, and we aim to continue this policy. This includes a widely advertised open Board meeting every year, held in a different English city on each occasion.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

ClearSprings: Basildon

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department is directing ClearSprings to source property in Basildon District. [197959]

Mr. Hanson: ClearSprings are not currently seeking accommodation in the Basildon district. However, there is an identified need for housing in the Basildon area for those granted bail by the courts or released on home detention curfew.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in appointing an independent commissioner for victims under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004; and if he will make a statement. [196527]

Maria Eagle: A recruitment exercise for a commissioner for victims and witnesses was carried out in 2006; however, we were not successful in identifying a candidate with all of the appropriate skills necessary for the proposed role.

Since 2006, we have driven substantial improvements for victims and witnesses including: the introduction of the victims code of practice; the setting up of witness care units; the roll-out of an enhanced working model for Victim Support (Victim Support plus) and the provision of independent domestic violence advisers. We are therefore considering future options for the role of commissioner for victims and witnesses in the context of these developments.

Criminal Proceedings: Retail Trade

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2372W, on trials: measurement, how many of the prosecutions resulted in a conviction in each year; [197347]

(2) how many people have been convicted of offences related to the use of imperial weights and measures in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [197391]

Maria Eagle: The available information on offenders found guilty under the Weights and Measures Act 1985 for offences related to weights and measures provisions has been combined with the data provided in my previous answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2372W, on trials: measurement, and is provided in the following table. Data from 2002 to 2006 have been provided.

It is not possible from the data held centrally to identify the number of these prosecutions relating solely to the use of imperial weights and measures from other prosecutions under the Weights and Measurement Act 1985.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts under the Weights and Measures Act 1985 for offences related to weights and measures provisions, England and Wales 2002 to 2006[1] [2]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2002	47	39
2003	32	27
2004	54	50
2005	37	31
2006	28	17

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court Proceedings Database - Office For Criminal Justice Reform.

Debt Collection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government plan to take to consider the welfare of children in households which bailiffs have been instructed to visit. [197357]

Maria Eagle: The Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 will set out, through the provision of regulations, the training required by bailiffs to allow them to deal with all householders, including vulnerable debtors and others present at the premises in an appropriate manner. For example, withdrawing from the premises when only minors are present.

This training will ensure that all agents have a thorough working knowledge of all relevant areas of enforcement law and the associated national standards.

This training will be underpinned by the regulation of all enforcement agents who are not Crown employees via an enhanced and extended certification process. Granting of a certificate will be at the discretion of a county court judge, and will be dependent on the agent lodging application fees and securities, proof of their suitability to hold a certificate and the successful completion of a criminal record check.

Debt Collection: Standards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government have taken to protect householders from unscrupulous bailiffs. [197356]

Maria Eagle: The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 introduces a single piece of bailiff law which brings together in one place the legal structure for all warrant enforcement, written in terms that are easily understandable and which clearly outline the rights and responsibilities of creditors, debtors and enforcement agents. This unified single piece of enforcement agent law will apply across the board to all enforcement agents.

The package of measures in the Act will lead to a more highly qualified, better trained and professional industry, fairly rewarded for carrying out what can be a difficult task in trying conditions, performing to the best of their ability while remaining within the letter and spirit of the law.

The enhanced and extended certification process will be a major contribution towards a fully regulated, highly trained and professional enforcement industry.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers his Department employed in each year since its establishment. [182514]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice was formed in May 2007. As of 28 March, the Ministry of Justice employed 32 press officers. The MoJ does not have a 'communication officer' grade but does employ a number of communications specialist staff in a range of communications roles, including strategic communications, publicity and publications, web, and internal communications roles. The 'White Book' of Contacts in government departments and agencies contains listings for the Department and related offices and is updated twice yearly.

Information on the number of press officers for agencies of the MoJ is contained in the following table:

Organisation	*Number of press officers*	*Number of communications officers*
Parole Board	1	0
Office of the Public Guardian	0	5
OCJR	0	13
National Archives	5	2
Tribunal Service	1	5
Boundary Commissions for England and Wales	0	0
HMCS	3	11
YJB	3	0

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department paid in bonuses to press and communication officers in each of the last 10 years; and what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest such bonus was in each of those years. [182723]

Mr. Straw: The Department can award bonuses to staff under its reward and recognition scheme which started in 2003. This scheme is a means by which managers agree small bonuses and special bonuses throughout the year to recognise particular pieces of work well done. The totals relating to this award scheme are given in the following tables. Information is supplied only for press officers. The Ministry of Justice does not have a 'communication officer' grade but does employ a number of communications specialist staff in a range of communications roles, including strategic communications, publicity and publications, web, and internal communications roles.

It is also possible to reward staff under the performance bonuses scheme. These are given to those staff assessed as top performers throughout the year. It is not possible to give details of bonuses given under this scheme in a reliable way.

Information on bonus information for agencies of the MoJ is contained in the tables.

Reward and recognition award scheme Ministry of Justice Press Office

	Highest amount	*Lowest amount*	*Total* £
2003-04	750	20	3,212.98
2004-05	0	0	0
2005-06	500	30	735
2006-07	500	50	4,650

Organisation	*Highest bonus* £	*Lowest bonus* £	*Total* £
Parole Board	500	0	500
Office of the Public Guardian	0	0	0
OCJR	0	0	0
National Archives	0	0	0
Tribunal Service	200	0	0
Boundary Commissions for England and Wales	0	0	0
HMCS	[1]	[1]	
YJB	0	0	0

[1] No information

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195885]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice published its sustainable development action plan on 14 March 2008. It sets out the vision for sustainable development in the Ministry of Justice, how sustainable development will be incorporated into the operations and policy making of the department, the key commitments and how the plan will be delivered.

A copy of the report is available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/sustainable-development.pdf

Offenders: Education

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on providing education and skills for offenders *(a)* in custody and *(b)* serving community sentences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [196138]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

Since the transfer of responsibility for offender learning and skills from the Home Office in 2001, the Department for Innovation, Universities and its predecessors, have spent the following on education and training in prisons.

Financial year	*Total spend (£ million)*
2001-02	57
2002-03	73
2003-04	116
2004-05	126
2005-06	151
2006-07	156

The Learning and Skills Council also spent a further £30 million in European Social Funding for the two calendar years 2006 and 2007, and established a £13.9 million budget from EQUAL funding for the period December 2006 to March 2008 to meet additional provision for offenders both in custody and in the community.

The majority of education for offenders serving community sentences is funded and provided through the general education system available to all learners, although a further £10 million was provided in financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06 to support additional Skills for Life provision for offenders in the community.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding has been provided for education and skills enhancement for offenders *(a)* in custody and *(b)* serving community sentences for 2008-09, broken down by funding source; and if he will make a statement. [196139]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

We can protect the public by helping offenders become more productive members of society, and it is clear that an important way of doing that is to tackle the low skills and worklessness that can be major obstacle to an offender living free of crime. Thus the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills devotes significant resources to providing education and training in prisons and for offenders in the community.

In financial year 2006-07 we provided a total of £156 million to support offender learning including funding for Prison libraries and salaries for Heads of Learning and Skills in prisons, the majority of which was routed through the Learning and Skills Council as new offender learning planning and delivery arrangements were introduced across England from August 2006.

The Learning and Skills Council also spent a further £30 million in European Social Funding for the two calendar years 2006 and 2007, and established a £13.9 million budget from EQUAL funding for the period December 2006 to March 2008 to meet additional provision for offenders both in custody and in the community.

Prison Accommodation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department has had with the Ministry of Defence on using space at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester to accommodate civilian prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [196763]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have no plans to accommodate civilian prisoners at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester.

Prison Accommodation: Dorchester Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* remand and *(b)* convicted prisoners were accommodated at HMP Dorchester on the first Friday of each month for the last 12 months for which figures are available. [196403]

Mr. Hanson: Monthly prison population figures are published for the population as at the end of the month. The following table shows the population in HMP Dorchester as at the end of each month in 2007. For completeness the table shows the total population broken down into *(a)* untried remand; *(b)* convicted (broken into convicted unsentenced remand and immediate custodial sentenced); *(c)* fine defaulters and non-criminal prisoners.

2007

	Untried remand	*Convicted unsentenced remand*	*Sentenced (excl fine defaulters)*	*Fine defaulters and non- criminals*	*Total population*
January	45	38	159	2	244
February	43	38	163	1	245
March	47	35	155	7	244
April	48	48	145	4	245
May	49	43	128	4	224
June	66	40	131	4	241
July	69	42	120	3	234
August	56	43	127	3	229
September	60	49	114	5	228
October	58	50	113	8	229
November	61	38	121	5	225
December	67	33	116	3	219

These figures are taken from the F1032 tables which were made available to the House of Commons Library at time of issue.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Rights

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of prisoners in each prison in England and Wales were on the *(a)* basic, *(b)* standard and *(c)* enhanced privilege level of incentives and earned privileges scheme in each of the last five years. [196291]

Maria Eagle: The data for the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme (IEPS) is recorded on the Prison Service management information system (PSIMON). PSIMON is independent of the system recording population data, this is why there is a shortfall against the published population data. The information is only used to provide indicators for monitoring, and at a national level, the operation of the system.

The variation between the totals of reported IEP levels and the population summary is due to the two sets of data being recorded at different times. There may also be an element of misreporting.

Copies of the requested data have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what percentage of people convicted of a third class A drug trafficking offence under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 received the mandatory sentence established by the Act in each of the last seven years, broken down by age group; and what the average sentence of those convicted of a third class A drug trafficking offence under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 was in each of the last seven years; [197744]

(2) how many and what percentage of people convicted of a third domestic burglary offence under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 received the mandatory sentence established by the Act in each of the last seven years, broken down by age group; and what the average sentence of those convicted of a third domestic burglary offence under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 was in each of the last seven years. [197745]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody under the Powers of Criminal Courts (sentencing) Act (2000, 2000-2006), by age and offence.

Persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, 2000-2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

	Age	Section 110 Minimum 7 years for third class A drug trafficking offence	Section 111 Minimum 3 years for third domestic burglary
2000	10 to 17		
	18 to 20		
	21 and over	2	
	Total	2	0
2001	10 to 17		
	18 to 20	1	
	21 and over		6
	Total	1	6
2002	10 to 17		
	18 to 20		2
	21 and over		
	Total	0	2
2003	10 to 17		
	18 to 20		4
	21 and over	3	9
	Total	3	13
2004	10 to 17		
	18 to 20	1	15
	21 and over	3	31
	Total	4	46

Persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, 2000-2006, England and Wales

Number of persons

	Age	Section 110 Minimum 7 years for third class A drug trafficking offence	Section 111 Minimum 3 years for third domestic burglary
2005	10 to 17		
	18 to 20		18
	21 and over	3	71
	Total	3	89
2006	10 to 17		
	18 to 20		33
	21 and over	7	196
	Total	7	229

[1] Principal offence basis

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale record.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people aged under 16 years living in (*a*) Ribble Valley constituency and (*b*) Lancashire received a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years. [198027]

Mr. Hanson: The court proceedings database does not contain details of offender address. We are unable to say where an offender was living when they received a custodial sentence.

HEALTH

Abortion: Finance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public funding was provided to clinics performing abortions in (*a*) Lancashire and (*b*) England in each year since 1998. [198029]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Abortion: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed in Lancashire in each year since 1998. [198028]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for abortions performed in Lancashire are not available. Data for abortions for women resident in Lancashire are shown in the following table.

Abortions to residents of Lancashire[1] 1998-2006

Health authority (HA) 1998-2001	East Lancashire HA	North West Lancashire HA	South Lancashire HA	Total
1998	1,413	1,371	701	3,485
1999	1,444	1,226	762	3,432
2000	1,461	1,274	711	3,446
2001	1,342	1,227	709	3,278

Strategic health authority (SHA) 2002-05 Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	Total
2002	4,571
2003	4,826
2004	4,804
2005	4,749

Primary care trust (PCT) 2006	Total
Central Lancashire PCT	1,223
East Lancashire PCT	1,147
North Lancashire PCT	768
Blackpool PCT	495
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	477
Total Lancashire PCTs	4,110

[1] Boundaries for Lancashire changed in 2002 and 2006 and totals cannot be compared between groups.

Source:
Department of Health

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of admitting a patient to hospital through the accident and emergency department was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [197413]

Mr. Bradshaw: The specific information requested cannot be provided, as the average cost of admission through accident and emergency (A and E) departments is not collected. However, information is available on the average cost of treating patients in A and E departments who are subsequently admitted. This information is collected each year through the national health service reference cost collection exercise. The following table sets out the information reported for 2006-07. A copy of the national schedule of reference costs for 2006-07 has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_082571

National schedule of reference costs 2006-07 NHS trusts A and E services leading to admitted

Accident and emergency services	Number of attendances	National average unit cost (£)	Number of data submissions
Any investigation with category 5 treatment	107,805	102	92
Category 3 investigation with category 4 treatment	10,459	338	95
Category 3 investigation with category 1-3 treatment	82,486	151	127
Category 2 investigation with category 4 treatment	80,381	182	107
Category 2 investigation with category 3 treatment	134,832	158	120
Category 1 investigation with category 3-4 treatment	41,097	123	116
Category 2 investigation with category 2 treatment	166,338	140	117
Category 2 investigation with category 1 treatment	1,274,236	123	124
Category 1 investigation with category 1-2 treatment	629,947	90	127
Dental Care	72	477	5
No investigation with no significant treatment	920,579	71	126
Emergency and urgent care: Dead On Arrival	490	186	-

Notes:
1. National average unit costs are calculated on a weighted basis.
2. 2006-07 data are not directly comparable to 2005-06 due to the change from the HRG3.5 currency in 2005-06 to the HRG4 currency in 2006-07.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of admissions to hospital accident and emergency departments for incidents related to excessive alcohol consumption occurred (*a*) between 6.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m., (*b*) between 10.00 p.m. and midnight and (*c*) between midnight and 4.00 a.m. [197415]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Allergies: Food

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to improve (*a*) identification and treatment of food related allergies and (*b*) raise awareness of such allergies in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [194523]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people diagnosed with food related allergies in (*a*) England and (*b*) North West Cambridgeshire, broken down by type of allergy. [194524]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number of people diagnosed with food related allergies.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to commission services to meet the needs of their local population, this includes those with food related allergies. For most patients treatment would involve advice on avoiding the allergen, with the most severely affected patients being referred to a specialist allergy centre.

Following the recent departmental review of allergy services, we have taken action on a number of the next steps identified, including:

asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to consider the development of definitive clinical guidelines for allergic conditions;

commissioned Skills for Health to develop with stakeholders a national competence framework for allergy;

commissioned the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to scope the development of care pathways for children with allergic symptoms;

endorsed the need for more training numbers for allergy as part of the annual review process;

asked deaneries and trusts to consider the possibility of increasing local training posts for allergy; and

invited key research funders to note the gaps in the research evidence highlighted in the review.

Ambulance Services: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the (*a*) fastest, (*b*) slowest and (*c*) mean response time of emergency ambulances to incidents occurring in Ribble Valley constituency was in each of the last three years. [198030]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, the hon. Member might want to contact the North West Ambulance Service directly to explore if these data are locally available.

The ambulance response time data that are collected, and which includes the number of emergency calls received by ambulance trusts across England and their performances against the targets set, are published annually. The latest statistical bulletin, "Ambulance Services, England, 2006-07" was published in June 2007. Copies of the bulletin are available in the Library.

Blood Transfusions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Kettering of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1298W, on blood transfusions, what methodology his Department will use to assess the costs and benefits of implementing prion filtration; what the timetable is for the conduct of such an assessment; and if he will make a statement. [195778]

Dawn Primarolo: Prion filtration is one of a number of possible variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease risk reduction measures which will be considered by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood Tissues and Organs, during 2008. Independent efficacy and safety studies of the only prion filter currently on the market are being conducted, based on advice from the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and the Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs. An impact assessment of the introduction of prion filtration will be conducted when adequate data from these studies are available.

The guidance on producing impact assessments can be found on the website of the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, at:

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44544.pdf.

Blood: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on marketing to increase the number of blood donors in London in (*a*) 2003-04, (*b*) 2004-05, (*c*) 2005-06, (*d*) 2006-07 and (*e*) 2007-08, broken down by primary care trust. [195118]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to break down the marketing costs by primary care trust or by region. However, the following table gives the marketing spend to promote blood donation across England and north Wales by the National Blood Service (NBS).

Financial year	NBS marketing spend (£ million)
2003-04	7.8
2004-05	8.8
2005-06	7.7
2006-07	8.4
2007-08 (for 11 months)	8.1

Bowel Cancer: Screening

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he issues on bowel cancer screening services in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [197633]

Ann Keen: Advice to the national health service to participate in Wave 1 (2006-07) and Wave 2 (2007-08) of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (NHS BCSP) was issued in July 2005 and February 2007 respectively. Advice to the NHS for bids to participate in Wave 3 (2008-09) of the NHS BCSP will be issued shortly.

Copies of this advice, and all NHS BCSP guidance and quality standards, have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been screened for bowel cancer in each year since 1997. [197634]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available prior to July 2006.

Roll out of the national NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme only began in April 2006, with the first invitations sent out in July 2006. Full national implementation is expected by December 2009.

Between July 2006 and 14 March 2008, 1,019,915 testing kits were sent out, of these 552,577 kits have been returned, and there have been 9,768 positive results.

British Association of Immediate Care Doctors: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he allocated to the support of British Association for Immediate Care doctors in each of the last five years. [197848]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not allocated any funding to support the British Association for Immediate Care doctors in each of the last five years.

British Association of Immediate Care Doctors: Standards

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the (*a*) performance and (*b*) contribution of British Association for Immediate Care doctors in the treatment of severe trauma; and if he will make a statement. [197852]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department acknowledges the valuable support that British Association for Immediate Care (BASICS) doctors offer to the national health service locally, recognising that the availability of medical advice and assistance can bring added advantages to some seriously injured patients. However, it is a matter for the NHS locally to decide how they use BASICS doctors, and where they are in a position to provide this support, close links will be made to ensure that they are used to the greatest advantage.

Caesarean Sections

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of women opted to have a caesarean section in the last year for which figures are available. [194438]

Ann Keen: In 2005-06 there were 593,400 deliveries in national health service hospitals in England. Of these 139,449 were by caesarean section. Elective caesarean accounted for 9.3 per cent. (12,969) of the total.

Cancer

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the survival rates for (*a*) breast, (*b*) colon and (*c*) cervical cancer were in the latest period for which figures are available. [196551]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the survival rates for (a) breast, (b) colon and (c) cervical cancer were in the latest period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. [196551]

The latest available survival rates for 21 common cancers among adult patients in England diagnosed during 1999-2003 and followed up to the end of 2004 are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=192

One- and five-year survival rates relating to (a) breast, (b) colon and (c) cervical cancer are given in the table below.

One and five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival for adult patients[2] diagnosed during 1999 to 2003, England, major cancers by sex

Cancer[3]		One-year relative survival	Five-year relative survival
			Percentage
Breast	Women	94.2	81.0
Colon	Men	68.6	49.6
	Women	68.5	50.8
Cervix	Women	81.5	63.0

[1] As cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the relative rates for all ages (15-99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures.
[2] Aged 15-99 years.
[3] Cancers registered in 1999 to 2003 are defined by codes in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD10). Therefore, breast cancer is defined by code C50, colon cancer by code C18 and cervical cancer by code C53.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Cancer: Expenditure

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department has incurred on *(a)* prostate, *(b)* breast, *(c)* testicular and *(d)* ovarian cancer in each of the last five years. [194323]

Ann Keen: Information on expenditure by cancer type is not available.

In 2006-07, 5.2 per cent. of all NHS spending was spent on cancer. In 2006-07, £4.35 billion was spent on cancer services.

Available figures for earlier years were £3.4 billion in 2003-04, £3.8 billion in 2004-05 and 4.3 billion in £2005-06.

Cancer: Females

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in the London Borough of Havering were diagnosed with *(a)* breast cancer, *(b)* cervical cancer and *(c)* bowel cancer in each of the last five years. [196554]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many women in the London Borough of Havering were diagnosed with (a) breast cancer, (b) cervical cancer and (c) bowel cancer in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. [196554]

The most recent available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer registered in England are for the year 2005. Figures for female patients diagnosed with (a) breast cancer, (b) cervical cancer and (c) bowel cancer in the London Borough of Havering for the years 2001 to 2005 are in the table below.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases for selected cancers, females, London borough of Havering, 2001 to 2005

Cancer[1]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005[2]
Breast	169	138	195	168	119
Cervical	7	8	10	11	8
Colorectal	45	72	59	55	62

[1] Cancers registered in 2001 to 2005 are defined by codes in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD10). Therefore, breast cancer is defined by code C50, cervical cancer by code C53 and colorectal cancer by codes C18-C20.
[2] The fall in the number of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer in 2005 suggests that there was under-registration in that year. This is likely to be due to a delay in registration as a result of a boundary change between the Thames Cancer Registry and the Eastern Cancer Registration and Information Centre.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease. [194416]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham), on 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1191-92W.

Care Homes

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes have been *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each of the last 10 years. [195810]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is available from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) for the years from 2002-03, when the National Care Standards Commission began work. Prior to this, data on total numbers of homes were collected by local councils, but figures on numbers opening and closing are not held centrally.

CSCI has provided information on registrations and de-registrations of care homes, which is shown in the following table. The number of de-registrations exceeds the number of permanent closures because homes may deregister temporarily, for example, for refurbishment, on change of ownership or when a new manager is appointed. The numbers of permanent closures cannot be identified separately.

Number of new registrations and de-registrations of care homes by year

	De-registrations	New registrations
2002-03	2,443	1,910
2003-04	2,941	2,495
2004-05	1,811	1,374
2005-06	1,921	1,578
2006-07	1,681	1,456
2007-08[1]	1,204	1,063

[1] 1 April 2007 to 4 March 2008
Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database as at 4 March 2008

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes with *(a)* 10 or fewer, *(b)* between 10 and 20, *(c)* between 30 and 50, *(d)* between 50 and 100 and *(e)* more than 100 residents have (i) opened and (ii) closed in each of the last 10 years. [196564]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is available from the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) for the years from 2002-03, when the National Care Standards

Commission began work. Prior to this, data on total numbers of homes were collected by local councils, but information on numbers opening and closing is not held centrally.

CSCI has provided information on the numbers of new registrations and de-registrations of care homes, which are shown in the tables. The number of de-registrations exceeds the number of registrations because homes may de-register temporarily, for example, for refurbishment, on change of ownership or when a new manager is appointed. The numbers of permanent closures cannot be identified separately.

Number of new registrations of care homes by financial year and number of registered places[1]

	Financial year					
Number of registered places	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[2]
10 or fewer	778	629	466	561	510	389
Between 10 and 20	306	471	263	285	267	199
Between 21 and 29	257	453	237	237	189	146
Between 30 and 50	459	801	304	336	269	231
Between 51 and 100	102	137	100	148	205	118
More than 100	14	4	4	11	16	4
Total	1,916	2,495	1,374	1,578	1,456	1,087

[1] The number of registered places denotes the maximum capacity of the home, not the number of residents at any given time.
[2] To 4 March 2008.

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database as at 4 March 2008.

Number of de-registrations of care homes by financial year and number of registered places

	Financial year					
Number of registered places	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[1]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[2]
10 or fewer	1,557	1,353	651	693	557	392
Between 10 and 20	443	631	432	408	354	262
Between 21 and 29	205	427	326	304	252	196
Between 30 and 50	193	438	351	400	337	271
Between 51 and 100	41	90	51	112	168	81
More than 100	4	2		4	13	2
Total	2,443	2,941	1,811	1,921	1,681	1,204

[1] To 4 March 2008.

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database as at 4 March 2008.

Care Homes: Qualifications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered care homes have more than 50 per cent. of employees with qualifications at NVQ level 2 or above. [195809]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection that, during the year ending 31 March 2007, it inspected 10,093 care homes against standard 28 of the national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes for older people. In total 7,782, or 78 per cent. of homes were found to be either meeting or exceeding the standard, which deals with the numbers of trained staff in each establishment.

Comparable information is not available for homes inspected against the NMS for care homes for younger adults.

Carers

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to encourage *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts to nominate a lead person for carers' services; and how many nominations have been notified to this Department. [196772]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Although the Department has not specifically required councils and primary care trusts to inform us when they have nominated a carer's lead, we are aware that a significant number have done so since the publication of the White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say".

We will consider how such appointments can be further encouraged in the work that is currently under way to revise the Prime Minister's strategy on carers.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cervical cancer screenings took place in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [195227]

Ann Keen: The following table shows cervical screening coverage in the areas requested. We are unable to identify Jarrow separately. Jarrow constituency is within South Tyneside Primary Care Trust (PCT), for whom information has been provided.

Coverage is the percentage of eligible women who have had a cervical screening test result in the previous five years.

Cervical screening programme: coverage of the Target Age Group (25-64) for specified organisations, 31 March 1997 to 2007

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
England						
	Eligible population [1]	12,240,749	12,582,054	12,453,118	12,604,246	12,667,226
	Women screened (less than 5 years since last adequate test) [2]	10,033,255	10,378,399	10,254,930	10,337,759	10,304,331
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	82.0	82.5	82.3	82.0	81.3
of which						
	North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA)					
	Eligible population [1]	632,702	635,844	637,230	638,030	636,156
	Women screened (less than five years since last adequate test) [2]	539,659	541,229	534,130	533,106	527,402
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	85.3	85.1	83.8	83.6	82.9
of which						
QDG	Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority(HA)					
	Eligible population [1]	88,069	87,847	86,676	86,680	86,228
	Women screened (less than five years since last adequate test) [2]	74,563	74,079	71,965	71,561	70,636
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	84.7	84.3	83.0	82.6	81.9
5KF	Gateshead PCT					
	Eligible population [1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Women screened (less than five years since last adequate test) [2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5KG	South Tyneside PCT					
	Eligible population [1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Women screened (less than five years since last adequate test) [2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

		2002 [3]	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
England							
	Eligible population [1]	12,714,779	12,680,444	12,804,840	12,886,373	13,099,159	13,192,905
	Women screened (less than 5 years since last adequate test) [2]	10,368,952	10,305,215	10,325,821	10,346,486	10,418,583	10,442,737
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	81.6	81.2	80.6	80.3	79.5	79.2
of which							
	North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA)						
	Eligible population [1]	632,024	630,064	631,995	634,377	638,387	640,091
	Women screened (less than five years since last adequate test) [2]	524,359	520,264	518,820	518,261	516,756	515,142
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	83.0	82.6	82.1	81.7	80.9	80.2
of which							
QDG	Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority(HA)						

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	Eligible population[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Women screened (less than five years since last adequate test)[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
581	Gateshead PCT						
	Eligible population[1]	50,287	49,598	49,518	49,711	50,034	51,220
	Women screened (less than five years since last adequate test)	41,289	40,653	40,419	40,632	40,381	40,623
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	82.1	82.0	81.6	81.7	80.7	79.3
580	South Tyneside PCT						
	Eligible population[1]	36,838	36,609	36,583	36,497	36,641	37,031
	Women screened (less than five years since last adequate test)	30,249	29,917	29,708	29,338	29,071	29,000
	Coverage (less than five years since last adequate test) (%)	82.1	81.7	81.2	80.4	79.3	78.3

n/a = not available
1 This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall coded for clinical reasons
2 Data prior to 2002 are estimates, original data were based on last test with a result, not last adequate test (as used currently) and have been adjusted to allow for

Notes:
1. National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, those aged 50 to 64 every five years).
2. Jarrow constituency is within South Tyneside PCT, we are unable to identify Jarrow separately.
3. Data prior to 2006 have been estimated to match current SHA boundaries.
4. Data from 2002 to 2006 have been estimated to match current primary care organisation boundaries.

Source:
Table A2 and A3, The Information Centre for health and social care

Chemicals: Health Hazards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on the (i) neurotoxic, (ii) genotoxic, (iii) mutagenic and (iv) carcinogenic effects of long-term exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls on (A) human foetuses, (B) young children and (C) adults. [196776]

Dawn Primarolo: The World Health Organisation' International Programme on Chemical Safety, with funding from the Department, has recently reviewed the data on the toxicity of polychlorinated biphenyls in their Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents Series. This is available at:

www.inchem.org/documents/cicads/cicads/cicad55.htm

Human studies have identified associations between exposure to polychlorinated biphenyl mixtures and adverse reproductive effects (effects on sperm motility, foetal growth rate and development and neurological function in the offspring), and cancer. However, the human studies are restricted by limited exposure data; inconsistency among some results, and the presence of confounding factors; these make it impossible to use them as a basis for risk estimations and thus cannot be assessed.

Data from animal and related experiments indicate that polychlorinated biphenyls do not have any significant mutagenic or genotoxic properties but they are carcinogenic. Neurodevelopmental effects have been observed in several animal species after exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls.

Coeliac Disease: Food

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances' process is for reviewing the quality, range and availability of gluten-free food products on prescription for people with coeliac disease; [197760]

(2) which commercial and patient groups the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS) has consulted in the last six months; and when the ACBS next plans to meet such groups to discuss the provision of gluten-free food on prescription for people with coeliac disease. [197761]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not within the remit of the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS) to review the quality, range and availability of gluten-free food products on prescription for people with coeliac disease, or to meet with stakeholders to discuss the provision of gluten-free food on prescription for people with coeliac disease.

The ACBS's primary function is to advise general practitioners on the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to prescribe particular non-medicinal products—mainly foods such as enteral feeds and foods specially formulated for use by people with given medical conditions.

The ACBS have not met or consulted any commercial or patient groups over the last six months. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and the Department, however, have been in discussions with

the Infant and Dietetic Foods Association in conjunction with a review currently taking place of the ACBS and its activities.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the provision of gluten-free food in hospital for people with coeliac disease; and if he will make a statement. [197772]

Ann Keen: As set out in Standards for Better Health (Core Standard C15(b)), patients' individual nutritional, personal and clinical dietary requirements should be met. Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

Patients who follow a gluten-free diet should be treated in exactly the same way as any other patient who, whether for clinical, religious or cultural reasons, requires a special diet. The way these needs are identified and met is a matter for local resolution.

However, effective admission or pre-admission procedures should ensure appropriate food can be provided as quickly as possible.

Dental Services: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in (*a*) Bexley and (*b*) London are not accepting new NHS patients. [194153]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of dentists accepting new national health service patients is not collected centrally.

Departmental Pay

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 24-hour overnight allowance for civil servants working for his Department and based in Leeds is when working in London. [197342]

Mr. Bradshaw: Accommodation in a hotel or guesthouse is usually booked through the Department's travel agent (Expotel). The normal rate for a hotel room under the contract is £95.00 for London. In addition, a meal allowance of up to £22.50 can be claimed for each full 24 hours.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Disabled: Children

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated to primary care trusts for services (*a*) to meet the needs of disabled children and their families and (*b*) to meet the additional needs of children with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [196663]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2393W.

Headaches

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the percentage of the population that experience regular and severe migraine and other headache-related disorders; [194203]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of headache disorders on absenteeism in the NHS; [194204]

(3) what assessment he has made of the provision of NHS services for those who experience regular and severe headache disorders; [194205]

(4) how many specialist headache clinics there are. [194207]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the percentage of the population who experience regular and severe migraine and headaches.

No assessment has been made of the effect of headache disorders on the national health service.

No assessment has been made of the provision of NHS services for those living with regular and severe headache disorders. The provision of services to meet the needs of those living with migraine and headaches is specifically covered by the National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term Conditions. The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the number of specialist headache clinics is not collected.

Headaches: Health Services

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many headache (*a*) medical and (*b*) nursing specialists operate within the NHS. [194206]

Ann Keen: Medical and nursing staff working in the national health service who specialise in treating or diagnosing headaches are not identified in the NHS Workforce Census. There are a variety of causes of a headache and if a cause can be identified then the care of the patient will follow the appropriate clinical pathway.

In April 2003 the College of General Practitioners and the Department issued joint guidance "Guidelines for the Appointment of General Practitioners With Special Interests in the Delivery of Clinical Service - Headaches". This guidance has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of (*a*) his Department's and (*b*) NHS expenditure central budgets held at (i) his Department and (ii) strategic health authorities have represented in each of the last five financial years. [191455]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table details the level of centrally controlled expenditure as a proportion of total national health service revenue expenditure over the past five years.

	Total NHS revenue	Funding not allocated as part of Revenue Allocations	NHS bundle' funding under direct control of strategic health authority (SHA)		Departmental centrally controlled funding	
	£ billion	£ billion	£ billion	Percentage	£ billion	Percentage
2003-04	61.866	16.839	n/a	n/a	16.839	27
2004-05	66.874	17.546	n/a	n/a	17.546	26
2005-06	74.169	20.244	n/a	n/a	20.244	27
2006-07	78.467	14.157	5.400	7	8.666	11
2007-08	87.528	17.173	6.946	8	10.228	12

n/a = Not applicable

2003-04 to 2006-07 figures are outturn (the actual year end position); 2007-08 is the estimated outturn position

(1) Funding is the revenal centrally controlled funding after excluding the allocations to primary care trusts that were announced for 2003-04 to 2005-06 on 18 December 2002, and for 2006-07 and 2007-08 on 9 February 2005

(2) As part of the central budget setting for 2006-07 a strategic decision was to taken to transfer responsibility for a significant proportion of central budgets to the SHAs. This would allow them to be set at levels better aligned to meet local needs

Health Services: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the level of health service provision in the London Borough of Havering. [196668]

Mr. Bradshaw: No assessment has been made of the level of health service provision in the London borough of Havering. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission health services for their local population based on an assessment of local need. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this with the chief executive of Havering PCT.

Health Services: Immigration

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which (*a*) bodies and (*b*) individuals his Department has issued guidance on the effect of management of applications from non-EEA nationals based on their immigration status. [196516]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has issued guidance to its Executive agencies (human resources (HR) managers in the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency) and within the Department to the HR director, HR managers, HR operational teams, the learning and development team, the procurement team (who engage suppliers and contractors) and the peripheral workforce team (working to manage and improve the use of contractors and agency staff).

Health Services: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions in Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency. [194434]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Barnsley PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from Barnsley PCT.

Health Visitors

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on increased recruitment of midwives on the (*a*) training, (*b*) recruitment and (*c*) retention of health visitors; [194321]

(2) if he will take steps to recruit more health visitors to provide support through the pre-school stage of children's lives; [194322]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to change the number of training places for health visitors available (*a*) this year and (*b*) in the next three years. [194329]

Ann Keen: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made a commitment to recruit more specialist nurses and health visitors to tackle public health issues in deprived communities.

It is the responsibility of local organisations to commission and develop services to respond to local needs, including the recruitment of health visitors and midwives. The Operating Framework for 2008-09 highlights the importance of maternity and children's services and the need for local organisations to commission and provide the necessary services and work force.

Hidradenitis Suppurative

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in improving the treatment of hidradenitis suppurative; and if he will make a statement. [194745]

Ann Keen: No assessment has been made.

Home Births

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many home births there were in each of the last 10 years. [197338]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 March 2008:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many home births there have been in each of the last 10 years. (197338)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. The table below shows the number of women who gave birth at home in England and Wales in the years 1997-2006.

Number of women who gave birth at home, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

	Number
1997	14,412
1998	13,815
1999	13,271
2000	12,803
2001	12,115
2002	12,697
2003	13,590
2004	14,506
2005	16,501
2006	18,109

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met representatives of the Catholic Church to discuss the content of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. [197451]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State (Patricia Hewitt) met Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor on 21 June 2006 to discuss a range of issues including the Government's review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act. Written correspondence relating to the provisions of the Bill has also taken place. In addition, organisations such as the Guild of Catholic Doctors and the National Board of Catholic Women submitted evidence on the review of the existing law and the Government's legislative proposals to the Department's 2005 public consultation and to the joint Pre-Legislative Scrutiny Committee.

Malaria

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of malaria there have been in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by region. [195745]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of cases of malaria by region are shown in the following table, with data from 2002 to 2006. Data for 2007 are not yet published.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Northern	7	4	5	17	8
North west	61	12	44	66	70
York/ Humber	79	63	67	74	57
West Midlands	86	47	53	65	55
East Midlands	34	22	18	43	47
East Anglia	43	33	34	25	37
South east	312	322	296	363	367
South west	60	50	54	53	56
Channel Islands	5	1	2	1	4
London	1,194	1,077	907	984	981
England total	1,881	1,631	1,480	1,691	1,682

Note:
Data are not collated in the format requested. However, they are presented by calendar year.
Source:
Malaria Reference Laboratory, Health Protection Agency, 19 March 2008.

Medical Records: Data Protection

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information he plans to give to patients on the *(a)* procedures relating to and *(b)* format of data relating to them in the limited data sets of the secondary users service; and if he will make a statement. [195842]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Care Record Guarantee identifies some of the uses to which limited, commissioning, data sets may be put. The formats of the data are accessible on the NHS Connecting for Health website at:

www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/web_site_content/navigation/commissioning_data_sets_menu.asp?shownav=1

Mental Health Act 2007

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 748W, on the Mental Health Act 2007, when the code of practice will be finalised; when the secondary legislation will be laid before Parliament; and what the timetable is for *(a)* the introduction and *(b)* the implementation of the programme by the Care Services Improvement Partnership. [197010]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We intend that the majority of changes to the Mental Health Act 1983 (the 1983 Act) made by the Mental Health Act 2007 will be brought into force in October this year. Shortly after the Easter recess we intend to make secondary legislation needed in connection with those changes and to lay before Parliament a revised code of practice for the 1983 Act. The Care Services Improvement Partnership is already working with commissioners, providers, and practitioners to prepare them for the implementation of the changes.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps will be taken to safeguard the provision of mental health advocacy services not linked to the operation of the Mental Health Act or Mental Capacity Act. [189262]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "Putting People First: a shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care" sets out, for the first time, the vision, ambitions and components of the future system in one place. In particular, it recognises the need to empower citizens to shape their own lives, the support they receive, and the role that access to universal information and advocacy will play in making this a reality.

The Social Care Reform Grant provides three years of ring-fenced funding to support councils to undertake the necessary reforms to deliver this transformation. Councils will be expected to have made significant steps towards redesigning and reshaping their adult social care services (in the light of their Joint Strategic Needs Assessments), to have the core components of a personalised system in place by 2011.

One of the core components of a transformed adult social care system is a universal, joined-up information and advice available for all individuals and carers, including those who self-assess and fund. The grant determination is clear that links to advocacy and support services will need to be considered where individuals do not have a carer or in circumstances where they require support to articulate their needs and/or utilise the personal budget.

Mental Health Services: Sexual Offences

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sexual assaults have taken place in NHS mental health accommodation in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [178667]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect information on sexual assaults centrally.

We take the issue of safety very seriously. We have made £130 million capital available over the past three years for improvements to the environment in psychiatric intensive care units and adult acute mental health wards. This includes £30 million for acute wards, particularly for women service users. On 5 February, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made a renewed commitment in the House to eradicate mixed-sex accommodation in mental health care.

The environment plays one part in ensuring safety; equally important are policies, procedures and training. We will be publishing guidance for mental health trusts on sexual safety later this year, as part of the revised management of violence guidance.

We are also improving advocacy services to make sure that service users can more easily bring up issues relating to their personal safety.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department agreed planned levels of NHS spending from 2008-09 to 2010-11 with HM Treasury. [196817]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department agreed planned levels of national health service spending from 2008-09 to 2010-11 with HM Treasury on 9 October 2007 on receipt of the 2007 comprehensive spending review settlement letter.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of Choose and Book *(a)* Phase 1 release 1, *(b)* Phase 1 release 2 and *(c)* Phase 2 release 1 deliveries have been made for the (i) NHS IT National Data Spine and (ii) local services in (A) the North Eastern cluster, (B) London, (C) Eastern and East Midlands, (D) North West and West Midlands and (E) Southern. [195853]

Mr. Bradshaw: Choose and book is a national service and Release 1.0 was originally delivered on 2 July 2004.

This was against the version of the Spine that was then known as Phase 1 Release 1 (P1R1).

Since this time, there have been a number of functional and patch releases, all to the National Choose and Book Service and all compliant with the National Spine and Patient Demographics Service. The most recent of these was a Release 3.6.3 delivered on 26 January 2008 and this is the current live version for all users, nationally.

The next release, 4.0, is a major release due in April 2008 and this will deliver exciting new functionality such as free choice of secondary-care provided services and the ability for service providers to describe their services using SNOMED clinical terminology.

The clusters A to E have now been superseded by 10 regional strategic health authorities. The original plan was for local service providers in each of these areas to make local General Practitioner and Hospital Patient Administration Systems (PAS) available to integrate with choose and book and the National Spine. The deliveries from each of these are ongoing but all acute trusts in England have services published on choose and book, over 140 of which do so using a compliant PAS system. These are provided in the main by existing systems suppliers that have aligned their systems with the choose and book application and that local acute trusts have chosen to retain.

NHS: Performing Arts

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was paid by the NHS to the Performing Right Society for small premises licence tariffs in each of the last five years for which data are available. [197570]

(2) how many NHS premises held Performing Right Society small premises licences in each of the last five years for which data are available. [197580]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally.

Nurses: Schools

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* school nurses and *(b)* whole time equivalent school nurses have been employed in each of the last five years. [186740]

Ann Keen: The annual national health service workforce census collected accurate information on the number of school nurses employed by the NHS in England for the first time in 2004. The number of school nurses from 2004-06 is shown in the following table.

The 2006 census showed there were 2,968 qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work, an increase of 559 or 23.2 per cent. since 2004. Of these there were 1,129 school nurses with a post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 273 or 31.89 per cent. since 2004.

School nurse numbers, England

Headcount

	2004	*2005*	*2006*[1]	*Increase 2004-06*	*Percentage increase since 2004*
School nursing service nurses	2,409	2,887	2,968	559	23.20
Of which:					
Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	856	943	1,129	273	31.89
Full-time equivalent					
School nursing service nurses	1,619	1,913	2,053	443	26.76
Of which:					
Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	607	665	815	208	34.31

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than one per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care, Non-Medical Workforce Census, general and personal medical services statistics.

Obesity: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps have been taken to address childhood obesity. [197354]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's long-term ambition on obesity is to be the first major nation to reverse the rising tide of obesity and overweight in the population, by enabling everyone to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Our initial focus is on children: by 2020, we aim to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children to 2000 levels.

We have mapped out the first steps in delivering this ambition in a new £372 million cross Government strategy, "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England" which was launched in January this year. A copy of the strategy is available in the Library.

From April 2008, tackling child obesity will be a national priority for primary care trusts (PCTs), working with their local partners. This was set out in the NHS Operating Framework in December 2007.

"Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: guidance for local areas" was published on 19 March. It sets out actions PCTs and local authorities, in conjunction with their third and private sector partners, will want to consider to deliver their child obesity goals.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government has taken to increase choice for patients. [197353]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since March 2007 the Government have significantly increased choice for patients. In April 2007, the Department published "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service". A copy of this publication is available in the Library. It introduces new national choice guarantees for women so that by the end of 2009 all women should have choice over where and how they have their baby.

In June 2007 the Government launched NHS choices, a website that helps patients make choices, including providing more information to inform those choices.

The 2008-09 "Operating Framework for the NHS in England" includes a generic choice model for people with long-term conditions. A copy of the framework is available in the Library.

From April 2008 the implementation of 'free choice' means that patients will be able to choose to be referred to over 350 hospitals across England. A series of national health service branded advertisements will run in regional newspapers and on regional radio, designed to raise awareness of choice and to help patients make informed decisions about their choice of provider.

Royal Lancaster Infirmary: MRSA

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many in-patients have contracted MRSA in the Royal Lancaster Infirmary in the last 12 months. [194018]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format.

Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1194W, on screening, when developmental work to identify an integrated set of tests will *(a)* start and *(b)* be completed. [184233]

Ann Keen: It is expected that vascular risk assessment will involve a number of well-evidenced tests for cardio-vascular disease and diabetes risk factors such as blood pressure and cholesterol measurement, body mass index and blood glucose testing (where clinically indicated).

The developmental work required is to work out the most cost and clinically effective way of offering an integrated set of tests. This is currently under way. Departmental staff expect to be in a position soon to bring forward proposals for discussion with a wide range of stakeholders.

Waiting Lists: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were waiting for operations in Hemel Hempstead constituency on 1 January 2008. [196865]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of people waiting for operations is not collected by constituency.

Information is collected by national health service organisations. As at 31 January 2008 there were 7,104 people waiting at the West Hertfordshire primary care trust, which serves the Hemel Hempstead area, compared to 9,247 people waiting at the end of January 2007.

Watford Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the private finance initiative redevelopment of Watford General Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [197658]

Mr. Bradshaw: The prospective £280 million private finance initiative scheme being undertaken by West Hertfordshire Hospital NHS Trust is tied to the wider redevelopment plan for Watford town centre and the football stadium. The trust is presently working on the options appraisal for their outline business case.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to answer Questions 188518 and 188519 on aortic aneurysms, tabled on 20 February 2008. [197389]

Ann Keen: Answers will be issued shortly. I regret the delay in replying which is due to an administrative error.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 31 March 2008

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adults completed *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time level 3 courses in each year since 2001. [195310]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the number of full level 3 achievements by adults in Further Education, Work-based Learning and Train to Gain for each year since 2002/03, the earliest year for which information is available. Breakdowns by full- and part-time are not readily available.

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Further Education	55,400	59,600	67,700	78,100
Work-Based Learning	11,900	12,100	13,200	17,100
Train to Gain				
Total	67,300	71,700	80,900	95,200

Source
Learning and Skills Council

Chevening Scholarship Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has held with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the changes in funding for the Chevening and Commonwealth scholarship programmes. [196622]

Bill Rammell: I have had no discussions with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on this issue. The FCO will be managing a consultation process with other Government Departments and business to inform the implementation of these changes and DIUS officials will participate in that exercise.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197151]

Mr. Denham: I have visited the following venues:

Date	*Centre*	*Reason*
8 November 2007	Queen Elizabeth Centre, London	To attend the Technology Strategy Board
22 November 2007	International Conference Centre, Birmingham	To attend the Association of Colleagues conference

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women of each Civil Service grade are employed by his Department. [172728]

Bill Rammell: The Department employs 784 staff in a wide variety of roles. It was formed as part of the 28 June 2007 machinery of government changes, taking in staff from the former Department for Education and Skills and Department of Trade and Industry. The following table sets out the numbers and proportions of men and women now employed in each of the general salary bands (percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number):

Grade	*(a) men*	*Proportion men (percentage)*	*(b) women*	*Proportion women (percentage)*	*Total*
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Officer	37	5	44	6	81
Executive Officer (EO) and equivalents	45	6	74	9	119
Higher Executive Officer (HEO) and equivalents	92	12	127	16	219
Senior Executive Officer (SEO) and equivalents	64	8	51	7	115
Grade 7 and equivalents	85	11	75	10	160
Grade 6	24	3	17	2	41
Senior Civil Service (SCS)	33	4	13	2	46
Special Adviser	1	0	1	0	1
DIUS Total	382	49	402	51	784

Education: Prisons

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of the hours of education provided in prisons in 2005-06 were in a structured classroom setting. [196636]

Bill Rammell: The information requested in not collected centrally. Proposals for developing offender learning delivery arrangements were published in September 2007 in "Developing the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service: The Prospectus". The Prospectus described an intention to expand the provision of learning in prison settings outside a traditional classroom environment. In particular, the Prospectus outlined an intention to deliver more learning in production workshops, prison industries and other regime activities such as catering and horticulture

where, although learning is not the primary purpose of the activity, it is possible to acquire and put into practise new skills.

English Language: Further Education

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of courses for qualifications in English for speakers of other languages were taught in further education colleges in the last 12 months. [195658]

Bill Rammell: The information is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Further Education: Elderly

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on the provision of recreational courses for older people in colleges of further education; what funds have been made available *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Gloucestershire, for providing recreational courses for older people at colleges of further education in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [196162]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* We recognise the many wider benefits of participation in learning and its vital contribution to personal health and wellbeing, community involvement and quality of life as people age. Learning helps older people to fulfil themselves as active citizens and as members of their families and communities. People who keep mentally and physically active not only live longer, but live happier and more fulfilled lives and pursuing informal adult learning can play a real part in this. We remain fully committed to ensuring that older learners in every area can benefit from a wide range of informal adult learning opportunities, including learning for its own sake, for personal fulfilment and to sustain an active role in the community, through further education colleges and other learning providers, including the Third Sector. We have also safeguarded funding for learning for personal and community development at £210 million through to 2010/11.

In Gloucestershire, Informal Audit Learning programmes for older people are managed by Gloucestershire county council using funding provided by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). These programmes are funded from the safeguarded Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) budget. It is up to local LSCs and their partners to determine the most appropriate balance and mix of provision for their communities, including opportunities for older learners, in the light of local needs and circumstances and national priorities.

Gloucestershire county council contracts with a range of providers, including FE colleges, private providers and voluntary and community groups, to ensure that county-wide provision across the county meets the needs of older learners in a large rural county. The following table shows total funding and participation figures across all providers for learners aged 51 and over engaged in informal adult learning programmes in Gloucestershire for the three years 2004/05 to 2006/07 for which information is readily available, together with the respective national budgets.

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Total number of learners	14,924	11,550	10,573
Number of older learners (51+)	7,163	5,811	4,913
Percentage of older learners	48	50	46
Expenditure on older learners 51+ (£)	1,262,400	1,278,200	1,083,700
National budget[1] (£ million)	[2]234	[2]232	[3]210

[1] PCDL was developed by restructuring Adult and Community Learning (ACL). The two are not directly comparable.
[2] Adult and Community Learning
[3] PCDL

Overall Government investment in the further education sector has increased by 52 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2007. Participate funding for adults will increase to around £3.6 billion in 2010-11, an increase of over 17 per cent. compared with 2007-08. We have continued to realign funding towards basic literacy and numeracy, full level 2 and full level 3 qualifications providing skills for employment and further progression in learning away from, for example, very short or low quality courses. This has enabled us to support significant increases in participation for young people and adults in these key programmes, providing them with the education and skills they need to fully participate in an economically successful and socially cohesive society.

We want to develop a new vision for informal adult learning for the 21st century. In January, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, launched a wide ranging consultation, "Informal Adult Learning: Shaping the Way Ahead", which re-affirms our commitment to this kind of learning and its importance in meeting the basic human need for creativity and stimulation—as well as improving health and well-being in our communities. We want to look at the many different ways in which Government and other organisations support adult learners and to understand what learners from all parts of society actually want. We have been greatly encouraged by the tremendous response of our partners, stakeholders and learners in taking this important consultation forward. I would strongly encourage individuals and organisations, both in Gloucestershire and across the country, to take this opportunity to contribute their views and ideas.

Higher Education: Admissions

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many university students *(a)* in England and *(b)* at each university in the North East region were (i) mature students, (ii) part-time students and (iii) part-time students aged over (A) 21 years and (B) 40 years in each academic year from 2001-02 to 2007-08. [191664]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The latest available information is given in the following table. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Number of higher education enrolments in English and North East higher education institutions, postgraduate and undergraduate students: academic years 2001/02 to 2006/07

	Of all enrolments				Of part-time	
		Mature[2]				
Higher Education Institution	All enrolments[1]	PG	UG	Part-time	Over 21[3]	Over 40[3]
English Higher Education Institutions						
2001/02	1,726,840	302,395	809,540	708,725	673,830	257,395
2002/03	1,807,665	315,300	850,130	735,495	699,935	267,325
2003/04	1,868,415	328,600	873,705	756,880	718,985	270,860
2004/05	1,895,825	332,675	879,695	760,045	719,225	269,135
2005/06	1,936,420	338,185	885,905	762,870	719,105	268,580
2006/07	1,957,195	343,115	882,585	769,555	717,850	266,770
Of which						
University of Durham						
2001/02	14,230	2,965	2,760	2,710	2,675	965
2002/03	15,315	3,200	2,685	2,740	2,715	900
2003/04	16,185	3,320	2,660	2,825	2,810	980
2004/05	16,980	3,565	2,670	3,055	3,025	1,010
2005/06	17,320	3,370	2,990	2,950	2,910	920
2006/07	17,410	3,485	3,125	2,910	2,855	915
University of Newcastle Upon Tyne						
2001/02	19,395	3,800	6,075	5,500	5,390	3,100
2002/03	18,915	4,105	4,315	3,465	3,340	1,335
2003/04	18,335	3,680	3,990	2,400	2,350	625
2004/05	18,510	3,575	4,325	2,170	2,050	505
2005/06	19,150	3,660	4,330	2,080	2,030	455
2006/07	19,700	3,810	4,360	2,295	2,240	515
University of Northumbria at Newcastle						
2001/02	22,775	3,165	11,225	7,690	7,270	2,290
2002/03	24,280	3,470	11,845	8,175	7,785	2,535
2003/04	25,070	3,780	11,710	7,935	7,580	2,490
2004/05	25,535	3,910	11,515	7,895	7,445	2,465
2005/06	27,285	3,985	12,525	8,650	8,130	2,760
2006/07	29,630	4,810	13,085	9,890	9,095	3,010
University of Sunderland						
2001/02	12,665	1,405	6,110	3,895	3,610	1,235
2002/03	16,115	1,440	9,405	6,985	6,465	3,450
2003/04	17,845	1,660	10,660	8,340	7,810	4,115
2004/05	18,635	1,760	11,425	9,735	8,905	4,370
2005/06	20,365	2,015	12,500	10,770	9,715	4,455
2006/07	20,215	2,185	12,185	10,400	9,365	4,210
University of Teesside						
2001/02	18,115	1,535	11,545	10,040	9,080	3,510
2002/03	19,780	1,715	12,965	11,410	10,430	4,170
2003/04	21,145	1,780	14,030	11,995	11,080	4,485
2004/05	20,430	1,870	13,195	10,970	10,080	4,055
2005/06	21,570	1,770	14,300	12,025	10,910	4,395
2006/07	23,535	2,115	15,765	13,860	12,540	4,820

[1] Includes both full-time and part-time students from the UK and overseas.
[2] The definition of mature students differs between levels of study. Postgraduate mature students are aged 25 and over, and undergraduate mature students aged 21 and over. These figures include a small number of students whose age was unknown.
[3] Contain double counting of students (i.e. figures for students aged over 40 are also included in those for students aged over 21). These figures include a small number of students whose age was unknown.
Note:
Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people went into higher education from *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* Enfield North in each of the last 10 years. [190259]

Bill Rammell: The latest information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Entrants to undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions from Enfield local authority and Enfield, North parliamentary constituency: academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic year	Enfield	Enfield, North
1997/98[1]	2,385	635
1998/99	2,625	720
1999/2000	2,875	750
2000/01	2,990	850
2001/02	3,210	925
2002/03	3,435	1,010
2003/04	3,470	1,070
2004/05[2]	3,695	1,185
2005/06	3,780	1,200
2006/07	3,540	1,125

[1] Figures for 1997/98 exclude the Open University because there are no figures available for enfrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University by parliamentary constituency or local authority for this year.
[2] Figures for the Open University for 2004/05 have been included but there are known to undercount entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants who have been accepted for entry in 2007, rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000, the highest ever. Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008, show that applicants from England are up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2007.

Overseas Students

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution to the UK economy made by students from overseas at educational institutions in the last five years. [195101]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 18 March, 2008]:* The Department has made no specific assessment of the contribution to the UK economy made by students from overseas at educational institutions. However, global value surveys commissioned by the British Council estimate the total value of international students to the UK economy as nearly £8.5 billion in

2003-04, compared with £7.5 billion in 2002-03 and £6.2 billion in 2001-02. Information on later years is not available.

Particle Accelerators

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects on university physics departments and the physics community of withdrawal from the International Linear Collider. [193278]

Ian Pearson: I am informed that the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) expects that it will continue to provide support for generic accelerator R and D at a reduced level. The precise level will be determined once it has completed its current review of its programme priorities.

Qualifications: Prisoners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many prisoners gained an (*a*) academic and (*b*) vocational qualification in each year since 1992. [191211]

Bill Rammell: Data on qualifications are set out in the following annexes. Data are labelled as academic and vocational, but some data are a mix of the two.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and its predecessors has been responsible for policy on offender learning and skills since 2001, with responsibility prior to then resting with the Home Office. Since the creation of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2007, responsibility has been split, with this Department taking the lead on offenders aged 18 and over.

In England the Learning and Skills Council has been responsible for planning and funding offender learning through the Offender Learning and Skills Service since August 2005. This was introduced through a phased transition starting in three regions. As the period covered by the question includes the transition to these new arrangements, data collection has been from a variety of sources and therefore taken some time. Further information about the changes to the delivery arrangements is set out in the Annex D.

Annex A

LSC OLASS data

Adult Skills for Life qualifications for the period August 2005 to July 2006: (Offender Learning and Skills Service Development Regions only: south-west, north-west and north-east):

Skills for Life (academic qualifications)

	Number
Entry level	1,975
Level 1	8,309
Level 2	1,018
Total	11,302

Adult achievements in 'All Remaining Provision' for the period August 2005 to July 2006: (development regions only):

All remaining provision (a mix of academic and vocational qualifications)

	Number
Entry and level 1	2,391
Level 2	3,791
Level 3	112
Other	6,703

Adult Skills for Life qualifications for the period August 2006 to July 2007

Skills for Life (academic qualifications)

	Number
Pre-entry level	161
Entry level 1	3,005
Entry level 2	4,376
Entry level 3	7,188
Level 1	17,512
Level 2	10,650
Total	42,892

Adult achievements in 'All Remaining Provision' for the period August 2006 to July 2007

All remaining provision (a mix of academic and vocational qualifications)

	Number
Below level 1	10,851
Level 1	55,048
Level 2	28,956
Above level 2	2,848
Other provision not covered in above	9,127
Total	106,830

Through OLASS, (GCSEs are now reported separately and the following have been recorded from 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007

GCSE, AS/A-level achievements (academic qualifications)

	Maths	English	Other	Total
AS/A level	0	0	18	18
GCSE A*-C	18	29	107	154
GCSE below C	91	56	162	309
Total	109	85	487	681

Annex B

Data from Her Majesty's Prison Service

The Prison Service data on GCSEs and AS/A level achievements by offenders in custody since 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007 reflects only the GCSEs delivered by the establishments and not those examinations taken by young people in custody, on transfer from schools. In this case the school which has registered the young person will record the qualification.

The Prison Service estate reported 118 GCSEs and one AS/A level achievements by offenders in custody since 1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007.

Prior to OLASS, Her Majesty's Prison Service annual reports and the Prison Service Information for Managers Online (PSIMOn) data collection system recorded the following number of achievements:

Basic skills (academic qualifications)

April to March	Entry level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
2000-01			12,764	12,764
2001-02			16,133	16,133
2002-03	9,179	16,989	15,145	41,313
2003-04	12,529	17,864	13,338	43,731
2004-05	20,372	23,816	14,759	58,947
2005-06	15,808	20,080	12,381	48,279
2006-07	5,355	6,724	4,233	16,312

The figures in 2005-06 are for public prisons only, excluding those who transferred to the LSC as part of the implementation of GLASS In August 2005 (north-east, north-west, south-west, Frankland and Manchester completions for these prisons are included April to July 2005).

The figures for 2006-07 are for all public prisons April to July 06, excluding those who transferred to the LSC as part of the OLASS pilot activity in August 2005. Thereafter, the totals include Welsh public prisons only due to the full transfer of responsibility to the LSC.

Work skills (vocational qualifications)

April to March	Total
2000-01	
2001-02	56,320
2002-03	89,201
2003-04	103,583
2004-05	162,966
2005-06	146,053
2006-07	48,198

The figures in 2005-06 are for public prisons only, excluding those who transferred to the LSC as part of the implementation of GLASS In August 2005 (north-east, north-west, south-west, Frankland and Manchester completions for these prisons are included April to July 2005).

The figures for 2006-07 are for all public prisons April to July 06, excluding those who transferred to the LSC as part of the OLASS pilot activity in August 2005. Thereafter, the totals include Welsh public prisons only due to the full transfer of responsibility to the LSC.

Contracted Prisons

Basic skills (academic qualifications)

April to March	Entry level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
2006-07	2,024	2,404	1,544	5,972

Basic skills (academic qualifications)

April to March	Entry level	Level 1	Level 2	Total
2005-06	1,895	2,123	1,553	5,571
2004-05	1,977	1,570	1,169	4,716
2003-04	971	1,047	895	2,913

Work skills (vocational qualifications)

April to March	Total
2006-07	16,572
2005-06	10,131
2004-05	7,674
2003-04	5,654

Annex C

Data from the Open University

Open University (OU) courses open to prisoners are agreed by the Offenders Learning and Skills Unit (OLSU) working in collaboration with the OU and the Prison Service. Where a prisoner does not have sufficient funds to meet their own learning costs, the OLSU will fund an openings course and/or a first course for a prisoner accepted onto a programme of study leading to an undergraduate qualification. OLSU delivers this funding though an administrative arrangement operated on its behalf by the Prisoners Education Trust. The OLSU also meets the additional tutorial costs the OU incurs in delivering local support to prisoners. This latter support, unlike course fee support, can continue into second and subsequent courses leading to a qualification at undergraduate level.

Latest data available from the Open University show the following awards to offenders in custody, in England only:

Open University

Award level	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Certificate	15	31	34	73	116	134	121
Degree with honours	4	12	13	8	12	16	14
Degree without honours	1	2	4	2	12	11	7
Diploma	17	12	28	18	20	32	20
Masters	1	0	1	1	2	0	1
Grand total	38	57	80	102	164	193	163

Annex D

It may be helpful to provide some additional background to contextualise the information presented in annexes A to C.

Transfer of responsibility for planning and funding offender learning provision to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) from HM Prison Service was carried out in two stages. The LSC took responsibility for delivery in three development regions from July 2005, with HM Prison Service retaining responsibility in the remaining regions. Having trialled the new delivery arrangement in those three regions, the new service was implemented across England as a whole on 31 July 2006.

The following illustrates the changes and their timing:

	Responsibility
2005-06	HMPS managed Development regions[1]
2006-07	Development regions LSC managed
2007-08	(OLASS)

[1] Development regions - north-east, north-west, south-west

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the variable threshold bands are for EU graduates who move abroad and who owe money to the Student Loans Company. [191164]

Bill Rammell: We have put in place variable threshold bands to provide a fair system to enable graduates who move abroad to contribute to the costs of their education. The bands are dependent on where the borrower lives and take account of differences in living costs.

The following table shows what the thresholds are for 2008-09 in other European countries as well as some other common destinations after graduation. The thresholds are updated each year to take account of price changes. This table is reproduced in the annual 'Student Loans: A Guide to Terms and Conditions' booklet and full details can be found at:

http://www.slc.co.uk/thresholds/index.html

Band	*Price level index (UK=100)*	*Repayment threshold (UK=£15,000)*	*Countries using the latest available price level index figures*
A	Less than 30	3,000	Currently does not apply to any countries but may change depending on price changes compared to the UK
B	More then 30 but less than 50	6,000	Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia
C	More than 50 but less than 70	9,000	Poland, Slovakia, Turkey, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Malta, Slovenia
D	More than 70 but less than 90	12,000	Portugal, Greece, Spain, Cyprus, USA
E	More than 90 but less than110	15,000	Italy, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Netherlands, France, Luxemburg, Finland, Sweden, Japan
F	More than 110 but less than 130	18,000	Ireland, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland
G	130 or more	21,000	Currently does not apply to any countries but may change depending on price changes compared to the UK

Students: Identity Cards

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) whether Scottish-domiciled higher education students will have to be in possession of an identity card in order to access student loans or other state or Institution-determined support related to their studies at English higher education institutions in 2009-10 or in any subsequent years; [195301]

(2) whether Welsh-domiciled higher education students will have to be in possession of an identity card in order to access student loans or other state or Institution-determined support related to their studies at English higher education institutions in 2009-10 or in any subsequent years. [195303]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to require students to have an ID card to apply for a student loan or any other form of student support.

Students: Loans

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what notification is required to be given to recipients of student loans on changes in the interest rates charged on such loans. [190343]

Bill Rammell: In accordance with the requirements of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 the Student Loans Company (SLC) publishes details of the forthcoming change in the interest rate payable for Mortgage Style (MS) Student Loans before the new rate takes effect on 1 September each year. There is no similar requirement for advance notification for Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) Student Loans which have exemption from arrangements governing consumer credit agreements.

However, the SLC publishes notices of the change of interest rates affecting all student loan borrowers in national newspapers before 1 September each year. The change is also published on the SLC's and Government websites.

Borrowers with MS loans are individually informed of the change by the SLC and private sector debt owners before 1 September. This is important as a change in interest rate for these borrowers changes the payments they are required to make. Borrowers with ICR loans receive notification of the change with their annual statements. For the majority these are issued between September and December.

While any change in the interest rate applied adds to the overall balance of the outstanding loan it does not alter the income-related repayments of these borrowers.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make an estimate of the cost to the public purse of introducing thresholds and rates of student loan repayments of *(a)* 0 per cent. on incomes below £20,000, *(b)* 5 per cent. on incomes of £20,000 to £29,999, *(c)* 7.5 per cent. on incomes of £30,000 to £41,225 and *(d)* 12 per cent. on incomes over £41,225; and if he will make a statement. [196030]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* Introducing repayment thresholds of £20,000, £30,000 and £41,225 with corresponding repayment rates of 5 per cent. 7.5 per cent. and 12 per cent. would have an estimated one-off resource cost of £2 billion (for existing loans) and on ongoing resource cost of £700 million per year (for new loans).

The income threshold is one of the main features of the income contingent loan scheme. This protects borrowers when they need it as they only pay their loan back once they earn over the threshold. Borrowers currently repay nothing until they earn over £15,000. This strikes the right balance, making payments affordable to the individual and student loans affordable to the public purse. We are committed to maintaining the repayment threshold at £15,000 until 2010 when we will review it.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns: Injuries

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many injuries caused by firearms in each of the last five years were caused by airguns or airsoft guns. [193955]

Jacqui Smith: Available information relates to offences in which Air weapons and BB guns/Soft air weapons caused injury by being fired or used as a blunt instrument in crimes recorded in England and Wales.

Air weapon injuries from 2002-03 up to and including 2006-07 are given in the following table. Separate BB guns/Soft air weapons data are not available centrally for 2002-03 and 2003-04. Data for these weapons are only given from 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Injuries due to Air weapons and BB guns/Soft air weapons in crimes recorded by the police, England and Wales 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Air weapons	*BB guns/Soft air weapons*
2002-03[1]	2,377	[2]
2003-04	2,395	[2]
2004-05[3]	1,498	1,844
2005-06	1,182	1,534
2006-07	1,054	1,013

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002 Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

[2] These data are not available centrally. BB guns/Soft air weapons were separately collected from 1 April 2004. Figures prior to this date were included within 'imitation firearms'.

[3] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Asylum

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether guidance has been issued to safer neighbourhood police panels on the role of councillors on such panels. [192319]

Mr. McNulty: The Metropolitan Police Service has issued a guidance document titled 'Guidance on Setting Up and Maintaining Neighbourhood Panels' which also contains advice on the role of councillors on such panels.

Asylum: Repatriation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the voluntary assisted return and reintegration programme. [195546]

Jacqui Smith: The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) commenced in 2002 as a development from the Voluntary Assisted Return Programme (VARP). The total cost of VARRP to 31 July 2007 is £37,803,669.80.

VARRP is co-funded with the European Refugee Fund. These figures include both Home Office and ERF funding.

As the VARRP 2007 is currently ongoing, the overall cost of this programme is not yet available.

British Crime Survey

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to transfer responsibility for the British Crime Survey to the Office for National Statistics, as recommended by the Statistics Commission. [193578]

Jacqui Smith: There are currently no plans to transfer responsibility for the British Crime Survey to the Office for National Statistics.

The Statistics Commission recommendation was part of a package of proposals to increase public trust in Home Office crime statistics and address any perception that there was a lack of independence in their production. The same issues were considered by the independent Smith review which included cross-party nominees. The Smith review concluded the Home Office should retain responsibility for the survey but recommended some changes to the governance of crime statistics.

Since the recommendation by the Statistics Commission was made, more fundamental changes to the governance of official statistics are taking place. The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, which comes into effect on 1 April 2008, provides a new statutory framework to ensure the independence of National Statistics of which the British Crime Survey is a part.

To further strengthen these arrangements, on the same date within the Home Office, responsibility for the production of statistics from the British Crime Survey and other statistics will transfer to the Chief Statistician who has direct professional accountability to the National Statistician for the political independence of such statistics.

Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the winners of the Reducing Bureaucracy Awards Scheme were in each month since its inception. [176056]

Mr. McNulty: The Reducing Bureaucracy Awards Scheme was launched in 2003. The awards were held annually and were presented at the Police Federation annual conference. The winners and runners-up for each year are listed as follows:

2004

1st Inspector John Clucas, Lancashire Constabulary

2nd DC Andrew Tomlinson, Metropolitan Police Service, and Sgt Ian Robertson, Metropolitan Police Service, (joint 2nd prize)

3rd DS John McKee, Thames Valley Police.

2005

1st Chief Inspector Steve Radcliffe, Gloucestershire Constabulary

2nd Inspector John Clucas, Lancashire Constabulary

3rd David Kerr, Greater Manchester Police.

2006

1st Michael Lombardelli, Metropolitan Police Service

2nd Inspector John Clucas, Lancashire Constabulary

3rd Mark Crampton, Hertfordshire Constabulary

Special Award: Dorset Police.

Departmental Accountancy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 930W, on accountancy, how many distinct budget lines relating to her Department's expenditure and forecasts were reported to the Treasury in each month of 2007-08. [196890]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 26 March 2008]*: The following table provides the number of data lines the Home Office uploaded on to HM Treasury's Combined On-line Information System (COINS), per month, for financial year 2007-08.

The change in the number of data lines from June to July is a result of a machinery of government change, the transfer of the National Offender Management Service and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform from the Home Office to the Ministry of Justice.

The data on COINS is the source of the numbers found in the tables that are published in both the departmental report and the supply estimates.

	Number
April	591
May	600
June	610
July	370
August	372
September	385
October	385
November	385
December	385
January	385

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of her Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192231]

Mr. Byrne: The following table outlines Home Office advertising spend over the last five years, broken down by year and by policy area.

	Campaign	Total media (£)
2002-03	Child Protection on the Internet	705,194
	Drug Misuse	19,878
	Firearms Amnesty	506,283
	Police Recruitment	4,222,741
	Tackling Drug Abuse	38,014
	Vehicle Crime Reduction	4,362,887
2003-04	Child Protection on the Internet	736,878
	Domestic Violence	805,140
	Drugs (Including FRANK campaign)	2,184,499
	Police Recruitment	400,608
	Vehicle Crime Reduction	4,296,931
	Youth Offenders On Line	38,014
2004-05	Acquisitive Crime Reduction	6,100,808
	Antisocial Behaviour	366,553
	Child Protection on the Internet	290,225
	Clean Up Campaign 2005-06	25,722
	Domestic Violence	432,263
	Drugs (Including FRANK campaign)	2,049,593
	Gun Crime	162,042
	Police Specials Recruitment	1,885,559
2005-06	Acquisitive Crime Reduction	4,123,311
	Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign	92,204
	Antisocial Behaviour	396,475
	Child Protection on the Internet	862,229
	Clean Up Campaign	39,819
	Crime Stoppers	82,182
	Domestic Violence	534,587
	Drugs (Including FRANK campaign)	1,524,701
	Park Mark Car Parks	94,260
	Police Specials Recruitment	1,389,166
	Rape	66,153
2006-07	Acquisitive Crime Reduction	3,266,192
	Alcohol Binge drinking	1,975,005
	Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign	231,713
	Child Protection on the Internet	46,824
	Domestic Violence	800,384
	Drugs (Including FRANK campaign)	3,467,021
	Immigration	790,860
	Knife Amnesty	137,083
	PCSO Recruitment	1,748,743
	Rape	280,022
	Single Non-Emergency Number	780,325
	Stop and Search	134,501

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (*a*) consultants and (*b*) agency staff were employed by her Department at the end of (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07 financial year. [192504]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not hold a central record of the number of (*a*) consultants and (*b*) agency staff deployed, and to assemble the requested details from individual contract records would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on (*a*) consultants and (*b*) agency staff in the financial years (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [192620]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes and, where more cost effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is allocated across a wide range of firms, from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organizations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU Procurement Directives based on value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants provides the Department with

specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available. Some expenditure is on consultants to whom we have outsourced services, such as IT.

Expenditure on *(a)* consultants in the financial years (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07 is as follows:

£

Financial year	HO headquarters	IPS	CRB	Total spend
2004-05	55,991,869	4,486,183	729,000	61,207,052
2005-06	128,000,000	10,912,741	50,462	138,963,203
2006-07	118,080,000	29,870,522	144,235	148,014,757

The Home Department uses a variety of externally resourced staff to fill roles in the Department that cannot readily be filled by permanent staff. The figures given are drawn from our financial reporting systems and represent various categories of agency and other externally resourced staff, but exclude consultancy services.

Expenditure on *(b)* agency staff in the financial years (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07 is as follows:

£

Financial year	HO headquarters	IPS	CRB	Total spend
2004-05	37,000,000	5,626,207	703,756	43,329,963
2005-06	38,000,000	7,746,589	354,756	46,101,345
2006-07	40,000,000	26,612,732	301,998	66,914,730

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* press and *(b)* communications officers her Department employed in each of the last 10 years. [182518]

Mr. Byrne: Press and Communications Officers in the Home Office are employed at the Information and Senior Information Officer grades. The following table provides information on the numbers of staff employed or managed by the Communication Directorate during the past 10 years. Data on staff numbers in earlier years and the rest of the department are not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

	Press Officers	Communication Officers	Total
1999	13	12	25
2000	16	15	31
2001[1]	31	19	50
2002	35	24	59
2003	39	18	57
2004	43	27	70
2005	38	20	58
2006[2]	34	23	57
2007	35	21	54
2008[3]	32	23	56

[1] Prison Service and Core Home Office Press Office merged.
[2] The total number of Press officers for 2006 onwards includes two part timers, who are employed as a job share.
[3] Machinery of Government changes May 2007, 11 Press Officer posts transferred to the Ministry of Justice. The total also includes 5 Borders and Immigration Agency Regional Press Officers, whose posts were created in 2007.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what make and model of car *(a)* she and *(b)* each Minister in her Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192380]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) gave to him on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Departmental Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff work in her Department's parliamentary branch; and what proportion of their time is spent on dealing with *(a)* Parliamentary Questions and *(b)* correspondence from hon. Members and Peers. [174965]

Mr. McNulty: There are seven staff in the Parliamentary Team, three of whom deal exclusively with parliamentary questions, two other post holders deal with parliamentary questions as part of their duties equating to approximately one post. Staff in the Parliamentary Team do not deal with Members or Peers correspondence.

Departmental Written Questions

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it is her Department's practice to attach to Written Answers hard copies of earlier replies cited in such Answers where these were previously given to hon. Members other than the hon. Member to whom the Answer is addressed. [167791]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 November 2007]:* It is now the practice of the Department to provide hon. Members with hard copies of earlier replies referred to in answers where that reply was sent to another Member.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Zimbabwean nationals in detention pending deportation were detained because they were found to be working illegally; [196538]

(2) how many Zimbabwean nationals were in detention centres pending deportation at the most recent date for which figures are available. [196539]

Mr. Byrne: National statistics on persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at the last Saturday of each quarter are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

The decision to detain is made on a case by case basis and may be appropriate in one or more of the follow circumstances: to effect removal; to establish a person's identity and claim; where a person presents a risk of abscond or where the application is capable of being considered quickly.

Information specifically on the number of those who are detained for the purpose of removal from the UK is not centrally collated and could be obtained through examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to be able to deport Zimbabwean nationals in detention centres pending deportation. [196537]

Mr. Byrne: On 29 November 2007 the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) promulgated the determination that Zimbabweans who have claimed asylum in the United Kingdom (UK) and who return to Zimbabwe, voluntarily or otherwise, are not at risk of mistreatment just because they have claimed asylum in the UK or otherwise been in the UK for an extended period. The Border and Immigration Agency will continue to defer enforced returns until the application for permission to appeal the AIT's determination is disposed of.

Domestic Violence: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the step-by-step guide for women in black and minority ethnic communities who are victims of domestic violence. [196765]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The step-by-step guide for women in black and minority ethnic (BME) communities who are victims of domestic violence, which will provide practical advice on steps which victims can take to protect themselves and their children, will be published in spring this year and made accessible to local agencies and community groups.

We recognise that more work needs to be done, and are currently developing a national BME Working Group of Government, statutory agencies and the third sector which will promote a partnership approach to issues such as domestic and sexual violence, forced marriage, so called 'honour' crimes and female genital mutilation. The group will identify and develop actions and practical tools to assist victims and potential victims.

Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on bottled water in the latest year for which figures are available. [189807]

Mr. Byrne: There are no central records of spend on bottled water held by the Home Department. However our facilities supplier estimates that the cost of bottled water included in official hospitality supplied by them at the Home Office HQ in 2 Marsham Street was £16,125 during 2006-07.

Genetics: Databases

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether people who voluntarily present themselves at police stations routinely have their details added to the national DNA database. [192073]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 6 March 2008]:* The police may, as part of their investigation of a crime, ask a participant in an intelligence-led screen, a victim, a witness, or some other person who has had legitimate access to a crime scene, to give a DNA sample voluntarily so that their DNA profile can be eliminated from those profiles found at the crime scene. Whether a person presenting themselves voluntarily at a police station is asked for a volunteer DNA sample will depend on the circumstances of the case.

Identity Cards

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the findings of the Crosby Review of identity assurance in respect of the Government's identity card proposals; and what further consideration she has given to the Government's policy on identity cards in the light of the Review. [193699]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* On 6 March I published the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan 2008. This reflects the priorities I have set out – national security, public protection; convenience for the individual and cost-effectiveness.

In developing this plan the Government have benefited greatly from Sir James Crosby's review.

Sir James Crosby strongly supports a universal identity scheme, including a role for identity cards, and makes a strong case for speedy and consumer-led introduction. He also argues that wherever possible the Government should use the market to deliver aspects of the scheme and this is reflected in our delivery plan.

Government will need to retain control of the overall quality and security of the scheme, as well as the ultimate decision on whether or not to issue an official identity document to any given individual.

But the private sector will be better placed to provide services relating to enrolment, such as fingerprint biometrics and digitized photographs, and the distribution of completed identity documents.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 4 in the Identity Cards Scheme Cost report published in November 2007, (1) if she will provide a break down, by main budget heading of the costs which make up the £2,964 million in spending common to passports and ID cards; [182358]

(2) if she will provide a breakdown by main budget heading of the costs which make up the £1,005 million in spending specific to identity cards; [182366]

(3) if she will provide a breakdown by main budget headings of the costs which make up the £1,461 million in spending specific to passports. [182368]

Jacqui Smith: Providing a further breakdown of common, passport specific and identity card specific cost estimates set out in the Cost Report is commercially sensitive information.

The Identity and Passport Service is currently engaging in discussions with suppliers for the procurement of services required to operate the National Identity Scheme.

Many of these services are aligned to the same level of cost information that would need to be provided to answer these questions.

Illegal Immigrants: Compensation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for compensation were made by illegal immigrants held in immigration removal centres in England and Wales in each year between 2000 and 2007; and how much compensation was paid. [195545]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained through examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were recorded as having made a claim for asylum to a police constable in each of the last five years, broken down by police area. [196675]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate is of the number of failed asylum seekers who are resident in the UK. [196698]

Mr. Byrne: No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and this includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

Exit controls were phased out from 1994. As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by Christmas 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore) which already covers over 30 million passenger movements and has led to 18,000 alerts and more than 1,500 arrests.

This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

Immigration Controls: Working Holidays

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people holding working holiday visas who wish to continue their current employment under the proposed points-based system. [196676]

Mr. Byrne: Details on the number of working holiday makers granted leave to enter the UK are published annually within the Control of Immigration statistics. No record is kept of the employment of WHM during their stay nor their future employment intentions. Copies of the Immigration statistics are in the Library of both houses and can also be found at:

www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm71/7197/7197.pdf

Any person wishing to transfer from the Working Holiday Scheme into the Points Based System will be expected to return home to make their application.

Immigration: Biometrics

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when foreign nationals issued with biometric immigration documents will have their details entered on to the National Identity Register; [182354]

(2) whether foreign nationals already in possession of a biometric visa will be required to apply for an identity card. [182367]

Jacqui Smith: The Border and Immigration Agency will begin issuing identity cards in the form of biometric immigration documents to foreign nationals subject to immigration control later this year and this could include foreign nationals who already have had fingerprints recorded for the issue of a visa.

Foreign nationals details will not be recorded on the National Identity Register until biometric immigration documents are designated under the ID Cards Act 2006. This will take place when the National Identity Register is established.

Immigration: Children

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of children under 16 years of age who have been brought to the UK by parents on a visitor's visa from *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* elsewhere and left with relatives settled in the UK while the parents returned home since 1978; and if she will make a statement. [196225]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available.

Immigration: Gurkhas

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Ministers in her Department have had meetings with *(a)* Gurkha and *(b)* other ex-servicemen's organisations on the immigration status of Gurkhas and their right to apply for British citizenship. [197020]

Mr. Byrne: There have been no recent meetings between Home Office Ministers and Gurkha and other ex-servicemen's organisations on the immigration status of Gurkhas and their right to apply for British citizenship.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Gurkhas who served in the Brigade of Gurkhas before 1997 have been granted UK *(a)* residency and *(b)* citizenship; [197021]

(2) how many Gurkhas who retired from the Brigade of Gurkhas since 1997 have been granted UK *(a)* residency and *(b)* citizenship; and what percentage of eligible persons this represents. [197022]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend's reply of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 935-36W.

Immigration: Housing

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 806W, on immigration: housing, how many individual agreements have been reached with local authorities; what the cost of such agreements has been; how many schemes to prevent homelessness have been included in the reimbursement package; what the cost of such schemes has been; how many units of social housing have been occupied by households moving from asylum support as a result of the legacy exercise, broken down by housing sector; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the measures outlined in the answer. [196267]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: In recent months the Border and Immigration Agency has worked with the Local Government Association, Council of Scottish Local Authorities and Welsh Local Government Association, as well as individually with relevant local authorities to agree an approach to the family cases we have recently prioritised who have been allowed to remain in the UK.

The agreements themselves do not hold a particular cost. A 'transitional costs fund' has been made available where unavoidable, additional expenses have occurred. Local authorities need to submit claims to this fund. Claims will then be assessed on an individual basis and local authorities will be reimbursed appropriately. As yet, this work is not complete.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193962]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the Home Department and its agencies payments to Ipsos Mori in the last 24 months is as follows:

Department/Agency	*Total payment in last 24 months (£)*
Home Department	1,453,199
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)	13,659
Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)	110,000

Ipsos MORI has provided a wide variety of services to the Home Department in the last 24 months. They include Quarterly Opinion Polling on Crime and Immigration, Telephone Survey, facilitation of Young Witness Workshop, Local Victim and Witness Satisfaction Survey, Survey with Focus Group on Home Office Priorities, Arrestee Survey Review, EEA Nationals Survey and Multivariate Analysis of British Crime Survey (BCS) dataset.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) used Ipsos MORI for the 2006 staff survey and subsequent report.

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) used Ipsos MORI for both staff surveys and customer surveys.

Last Resort Fund

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was allocated to the Last Resort Fund to assist women who have experienced domestic violence in 2007-08; and how much is to be allocated in 2008-09. [196724]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: As a short-term remedy for victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds, the Government made special provision over 2004-05 and 2005-06, with grants of £145,000 to Women's Aid to bolster their 'Last Resort Fund'.

However, the Government want to see sustainable local solutions for those in need and, in February 2006, circulated a letter to local authorities alerting them to the key issues experienced by these women and how they can be helped.

Soon we will be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be able to have their housing and living costs met. This will be linked to indefinite leave to remain criteria.

Local Government Services: South West

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the terms of the agreement between Southwest One and Avon and Somerset police are; and if she will make a statement. [194157]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the outsourcing of local services in the South West to a joint venture partnership; and if she will make a statement. [194158]

Mr. McNulty: There has been no discussion between my right hon. Friends, the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the outsourcing of local services in the south west. The terms of any agreement between Avon and Somerset police authority and Southwest One are a matter for the authority.

It is important that police forces and authorities identify and implement ways to increase value for money. To assist them in this, we have recently agreed with the Association of Police Authorities and the Association of Chief Police Officers a new efficiency and productivity strategy for the police service. In pursuit of this strategy it is appropriate for forces and authorities to seek ways to improve the delivery of corporate service functions. This may include implementing internal improvements, exploring outsourcing, or collaborating with other forces and authorities, or with other organisations.

Migrant Workers: EC Enlargement

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the number of self-employed workers from *(a)* Romania and *(b)* Bulgaria who arrived in Britain in 2007; [191194]

(2) how many seasonal agricultural workers' cards were issued to workers from (a) Romania and (b) Bulgaria in 2007; [191195]

(3) how many workers from (a) Romania and (b) Bulgaria were issued with a registration certificate in 2007. [191196]

Mr. Byrne: The Government publish quarterly figures on applications under the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006 from Bulgarian and Romanian nationals. The publications provide a breakdown of the various schemes operating under the regulations.

The most recent publications, relating to the last quarter of 2007, were published on 26 February 2008. Each of the quarterly reports from 2007 are available on the Border and Immigration website:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

Copies are available in the House Library.

Drinking Water

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many litres of bottled water were purchased by her Department in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [191257]

Mr. Byrne: There are no central records of what volumes of bottled water are purchased by the Home Department. However our 2 Marsham Street HQ building purchased 7,500 litres during the 2006-07 financial year.

Offensive Weapons

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) warnings, (b) cautions and (c) charges have been brought against persons for possession of knives in each of the last 10 years. [194275]

Mr. Coaker: The number of persons given a final warning, caution, or 'proceeded against' at magistrates courts for offences involving the possession of knives in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006 is shown in the following table. Court proceedings data for 2007 will not be available until the autumn of 2008. Charging data is not held centrally, so information on the number of individuals proceeded against has been provided in lieu of charging data.

Number of persons given a final warning, caution, and proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences involving the possession of knives in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Final warning	Caution	Proceeded against
1997[4]	n/a	1,629	4,888
1998[4]	n/a	1,976	4,566
1999	28	1,618	4,566
2000[5]	375	1,222	4,625
2001	519	883	5,823
2002	453	1,131	6,963
2003	433	1,070	6,928
2004	578	1,441	7,352
2005	736	2,094	7,319
2006	777	2,300	7,699

n/a = not applicable

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions: Criminal Justice Act 1988 s139(1) and (6): Have blade/article which was sharply pointed in public place. Criminal Justice Act 1988 s.139A(1): Having an article with a blade or point on school premises.

[4] The scheme of reprimands and warnings under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 was piloted for 18 months from 30 September 1998 in a few selected areas. The scheme was rolled out nationally and replaced police cautions for juveniles from June 2000. Data for juvenile reprimands and final warnings are included in the 'total cautioned' figures presented in the table.

[5] Staffordshire police force were able to submit sample data only for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. These data are therefore excluded from the table.

Source

Court proceedings data held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice. Our ref: IOS 165-08 (Table) [Contribution for PQ 194275]

Police

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition is used of (a) operational and (b) policy issues in relation to the police service and its accountability to local communities, with reference to Sir Ron Flanagan's review of policing. [174225]

Mr. McNulty: Day to day operational policing issues in forces are the responsibility of each Chief Constable, who is in turn responsible to that force's police authority for their conduct. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), which represents Chief Officers, has defined best practice in areas such as recruitment practices and the conduct of certain kinds of operations. Policy on policing more generally is decided by the tripartite—the Home Secretary, Chief Officers and Police Authorities—in consultation. The final report of Sir Ronnie Flanagan's independent Review of Policing in England and Wales reinforced the importance of this distinction.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of complaints against the police were (a) upheld, (b) dismissed and (c) dropped by the complainant in each year since 1997. [195699]

Mr. McNulty: The responsibility for the collation and publication of complaints against the police rests with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which (a) police forces and (b) other agencies will receive the portable knife arches and search wands referred to in her Department's Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-11. [194276]

Mr. Coaker: Search arches and wands are currently being supplied to the police in the Tackling Gangs Action Programme areas (London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool) to supplement existing provision. We have committed to provide further search equipment to police and delivery partners across England and Wales over the next three years and arrangements for this are currently being finalised.

Police: Discipline

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress she has made in implementing the Taylor review on police force discipline; and if she will make a statement. [195686]

Mr. McNulty: Much progress has been made and the new arrangements were recently approved by the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales. The new arrangements are designed to modernise the procedures for dealing with issues of misconduct and unsatisfactory performance in a proportionate and timely manner. The procedures are based on the ACAS principles for good employment practice. Provisions to enable the introduction of the new misconduct and unsatisfactory performance arrangements for all police officers in England and Wales are included in the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill currently before Parliament. Once the Bill receives Royal Assent, the new Police (Conduct) Regulations 2008 and Police (Performance) Regulations 2008 that set out the detailed arrangements will be laid before Parliament to enable implementation of the new arrangements. Work is at an advanced stage with the National Police Improvement Agency to provide training to support the new arrangements.

Police: Pensions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on the reform of police pensions; and if she will make a statement. [195688]

Mr. McNulty: Police pensions policy is kept under regular review and has only recently been subject to major changes. We have introduced the New Police Pension Scheme which applies to new entrants joining on or after 6 April 2006. We have also reformed the way police pensions are financed by introducing on 1 April 2006 a system based on employer contributions which takes away from police authorities the financial burden of meeting the cost of pensions in payment. There have been no specific discussions regarding reform beyond these developments.

Police: Vacancies

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer vacancies of all ranks there were within *(a)* the Metropolitan Police Force and *(b)* other constabularies in each year since 1997. [195618]

Mr. McNulty: This information has not been collected since 1995 following the introduction of the Police and Magistrates Courts Act 1994 which abolished Home Office authorised establishments. It is a matter for the police authority and Chief Officer of Police to determine the number of police officers that each force has.

Racial Hatred: Internet

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought under section 21 of the Public Order Act 1986 for using the internet to distribute or play threatening, abusive or insulting images for the purposes of inciting racial hatred in each of the last five years. [195544]

Jacqui Smith: The Government take the view that the courts should prosecute the offence, and not the medium through which it is committed. Therefore no separate statistics are kept for offences committed over the internet. Since the Public Order Act 1986 was introduced, there have been a total of 86 prosecutions under the offence of racial hatred, resulting in 60 convictions.

Rape: Prosecutions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms the Rape Performance Group will use to monitor local performance in relation to rape prosecutions. [194278]

Mr. Coaker: The Rape Performance Group uses a range of indicators spanning the criminal justice process. These are:

The rate of recorded rape offences per 1,000 of the population (a low rate of offences per 1,000 in a force may indicate a low level of reporting);

The proportion of offences that are categorised as 'no crime';

The proportion of recorded offences that result in a sanction detection;

The proportion of charged cases that are subsequently discontinued by the CPS; and

The proportion of cases going to trial that result in a conviction.

Its focus is on the system as a whole, with an assumption of shared police and CPS responsibility for the delivery of outcomes. Where the data suggests that the performance of a particular area differs significantly from the national and peer-group averages, the Rape Performance Group will raise this with the relevant chief constable and chief Crown prosecutor to seek further information on the approach to the investigation and prosecution of rape in that area and to offer support, where appropriate, in addressing any performance issues. These performance monitoring arrangements are complemented by the support functions of the joint ACPO/Home Office operational support team and CPS Rape Prosecutions Delivery Unit.

Serious Crime Prevention Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to bring serious crime prevention orders into effect. [196839]

Jacqui Smith: The Serious Crime Act 2007 (Commencement No. 2 and Transitional and Transitory Provisions and Savings) Order 2008, which was made

on 17 March, will bring the serious crime prevention order provisions of the Act into force on 6 April 2008.

Sexual Offences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders there were in each police authority area in each year since 2004; and how many offenders were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* charged for failing to comply with the notification requirements of the Sexual Offenders Act 2003 in that period. [195016]

Mr. Coaker: Table 1 gives the number of registered sex offenders in each police authority area for every year since 2003-04.

The Government do not routinely collect data on the number of sex offenders cautioned for failing to comply with their notification requirements. However, the Government do collect data on the number of sex offenders who were:

charged with a serious further offence;

found in breach of their licence conditions; and

found in breach of a Sexual Offence Prevention Order.

Tables 2 to 4 give these figures (in relation to sexual offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3) for each of the aforementioned categories, by area, for every year since 2003-04.

Table 1: Registered sex offenders by area

Area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	671	674	787	809
Bedfordshire	270	335	394	323
Cambridgeshire	322	353	387	407
Cheshire	425	474	537	577
County Durham	265	306	327	348
Cumbria	231	253	260	280
Derbyshire	479	554	628	689
Devon and Cornwall	725	808	879	920
Dorset	333	352	379	415
Dyfed-Powys	232	275	308	299
Essex	542	680	802	735
Gloucestershire	231	284	311	311
Gwent	319	365	391	406
Hampshire	999	1,035	1,118	1,190
Hertfordshire	280	328	428	400
Humberside	584	645	715	653
Kent	780	954	941	983
Lancashire	726	980	941	998
Leicestershire	484	508	543	534
Lincolnshire	328	380	401	414
London	2,272	2,657	3,113	3,151
Greater Manchester	1,388	1,800	1,643	1,722
Merseyside	791	941	970	975
Norfolk	484	547	637	546
North Wales	308	389	395	405
North Yorkshire	283	315	338	359
Northamptonshire	246	310	344	355
Northumbria	750	851	898	870
Nottinghamshire	651	708	712	747
South Wales	606	765	680	695
South Yorkshire	682	911	791	830
Staffordshire	458	538	627	676
Suffolk	309	368	393	413
Surrey	371	371	390	426
Sussex	581	752	804	789
Teesside	339	393	354	357
Thames Valley	763	822	936	982
Warwickshire	183	231	232	259
West Mercia	565	689	635	655
West Midlands	1,647	2,158	1,925	1,850
West Yorkshire	1,431	1,669	1,373	1,387
Wiltshire	234	266	316	356
Total	24,572	28,994	29,983	30,416

Table 2: Sex offenders charged with a serious further offence (SFO)

Area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	1
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0
County Durham	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	2	0	0	0
Derbyshire	2	3	2	0
Devon and Cornwall	1	0	0	1
Dorset	0	1	1	1
Dyfed-Powys	1	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	3	4	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0
Kent	1	1	0	3
Lancashire	1	0	0	0
Leicestershire	1	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0
London	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	2	6	2	0
Merseyside	2	1	0	1
Norfolk	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	1	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	2	0
South Wales	1	2	1	2
South Yorkshire	1	4	0	1
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0
Surrey	1	0	0	0
Sussex	0	4	0	0
Teesside	2	0	1	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0

Table 2: Sex offenders charged with a serious further offence (SFO)

Area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	2	4	0	0
West Midlands	2	1	1	0
West Yorkshire	1	0	0	1
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0
Total	26	32	12	13

Table 3: Sex offenders found in breach of licence by area

Area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	1	0	3	4
Bedfordshire	1	3	6	4
Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	1
Cheshire	6	5	5	2
County Durham	1	2	2	0
Cumbria	5	0	1	1
Derbyshire	5	4	4	7
Devon and Cornwall	9	11	7	5
Dorset	2	4	1	6
Dyfed-Powys	3	1	4	4
Essex	2	2	2	5
Gloucestershire	2	4	2	1
Gwent	6	0	2	5
Hampshire	2	8	6	7
Hertfordshire	0	2	1	2
Humberside	0	2	10	3
Kent	9	6	11	7
Lancashire	5	2	6	3
Leicestershire	5	10	14	7
Lincolnshire	5	6	5	8
London	4	8	2	4
Greater Manchester	30	38	26	34
Merseyside	6	11	7	12
Norfolk	14	1	3	5
North Wales	2	5	6	4
North Yorkshire	3	2	4	4
Northamptonshire	7	6	6	0
Northumbria	7	7	13	14
Nottinghamshire	2	3	5	2
South Wales	0	11	12	8
South Yorkshire	12	16	1	6
Staffordshire	2	4	2	9
Suffolk	3	1	2	2
Surrey	3	0	0	0
Sussex	16	8	6	9
Teesside	4	2	2	3
Thames Valley	9	6	5	2
Warwickshire	1	1	4	1
West Mercia	8	3	7	8
West Midlands	32	12	6	7
West Yorkshire	33	3	14	2
Wiltshire	1	1	1	0
Total	269	222	226	218

Table 4: Sex offenders found in breach of SOPO by area

Area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	1	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0
County Durham	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	1	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	2	1	1
Dorset	1	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	1	0	1	0
Essex	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	1	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	1	0	3	1
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	2	1	1
Lancashire	4	0	1	1
Leicestershire	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	1
London	0	1	0	0
Greater Manchester	1	1	8	0
Merseyside	1	0	0	0
Norfolk	1	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	2	1	1	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	2	0	2
Nottinghamshire	4	2	1	1
South Wales	0	0	0	1
South Yorkshire	0	0	1	2
Staffordshire	0	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0
Teesside	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	2	1	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	1
West Mercia	0	1	0	0
West Midlands	5	1	0	2
West Yorkshire	1	1	0	0
Wiltshire	1	0	0	0
Total	26	15	21	17

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders in each police authority area *(a)* failed to comply with the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and *(b)* were found not to be residing at their registered address in each year since 2004. [195019]

Jacqui Smith: Data on the number of offenders convicted of a failure to comply with the notification requirements is not collated by police force area. Data on the number of offenders not residing at their permanent address is not collated centrally.

Figures by area for breaches of licence requirements, sexual offence prevention orders (SOPOs) and for those charged with a serious further offence (SFO) are provided in the following tables in relation to sexual offenders managed at MAPPA levels 2 and 3.

Sex offenders found in breach of SOPO by area

Area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0
County Durham	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	1	0
Devon and Cornwall	2	1	1
Dorset	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	1	0
Essex	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	1	0
Gwent	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	3	1
Hertfordshire	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0
Kent	2	1	1
Lancashire	0	1	1
Leicestershire	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	1
London	1	0	0
Greater Manchester	1	8	0
Merseyside	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	1	1	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0
Northumbria	2	0	2
Nottinghamshire	2	1	1
South Wales	0	0	1
South Yorkshire	0	1	2
Staffordshire	0	1	0
Suffolk	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0
Teesside	0	0	0
Thames Valley	1	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	1
West Mercia	1	0	0
West Midlands	1	0	2
West Yorkshire	1	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0
Total	15	21	17

Sex offenders found in breach of licence by area

Area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	0	3	4
Bedfordshire	3	6	4
Cambridgeshire	1	0	1
Cheshire	5	5	2
County Durham	2	2	0
Cumbria	0	1	1
Derbyshire	4	4	7
Devon and Cornwall	11	7	5
Dorset	4	1	6
Dyfed-Powys	1	4	4
Essex	2	2	5

Sex offenders found in breach of licence by area

Area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gloucestershire	4	2	1
Gwent	0	2	5
Hampshire	8	6	7
Hertfordshire	2	1	2
Humberside	2	10	3
Kent	6	11	7
Lancashire	2	6	3
Leicestershire	10	14	7
Lincolnshire	6	5	8
London	8	2	4
Greater Manchester	38	26	34
Merseyside	11	7	12
Norfolk	1	3	5
North Wales	5	6	4
North Yorkshire	2	4	4
Northamptonshire	6	6	0
Northumbria	7	13	14
Nottinghamshire	3	5	2
South Wales	11	12	8
South Yorkshire	16	1	6
Staffordshire	4	2	9
Suffolk	1	2	2
Surrey	0	0	0
Sussex	8	6	9
Teesside	2	2	3
Thames Valley	6	5	2
Warwickshire	1	4	1
West Mercia	3	7	8
West Midlands	12	6	7
West Yorkshire	3	14	2
Wiltshire	1	1	0
Total	222	226	218

Sex offenders charged with a serious further offence (SFO)

Area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	1
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0
County Durham	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0
Derbyshire	3	2	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	1
Dorset	1	1	1
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	4	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0
Kent	1	0	3
Lancashire	0	0	0
Leicestershire	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0
London	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	6	2	0
Merseyside	1	0	1
Norfolk	0	0	0
North Wales	0	1	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	0	0	0
Northumbria	1	0	0

Sex offenders charged with a serious further offence: NE43

Area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07*
Nottinghamshire	0	2	0
South Wales	2	1	2
South Yorkshire	4	0	1
Staffordshire	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0
Sussex	4	0	0
Teesside	0	1	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0
West Mercia	4	0	0
West Midlands	1	2	0
West Yorkshire	0	0	1
Wiltshire	0	0	0
Total	32	32	33

Statistics

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of written answers by her Department were later found to contain erroneous statistics in the latest period for which figures are available. [163171]

Mr. McNulty: Records from the start of the current Parliamentary Session show that three parliamentary questions answered by the Department contained erroneous errors in respect of statistics which have since been corrected in the *Official Report*. This represents 0.1 per cent. of the 2,892 parliamentary questions tabled to the Department as of 17 March 2008.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer question 182622 on the national DNA database, tabled on 24 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central, and if she will make a statement. [192955]

Meg Hillier: The question was answered on 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 273W.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the demand elasticity with respect to the price of (*a*) wine, (*b*) spirits, (*c*) strong beer, lager and cider, (*d*) normal strength beer, lager and cider, (*e*) fortified wine and (*f*) alcopops as defined by the Office for National Statistics; and if he will make a statement. [197608]

Angela Eagle: Demand elasticities with respect to the price of alcoholic beverages are based on research published in a Government Economic Service (GES) Working Paper (no. 140) in May 2003, available at:

http://www.customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_PROD_008459

Bank of England: Banking Supervision

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will re-instate to the Bank of England responsibility for banking supervision. [196518]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 established the Financial Services Authority as the UK's sole financial regulator and supervisor. The Act introduced a risk-based regulatory regime based on statutory independence, transparency, proportionality and rigorous assessment of cost and benefits, replacing the fragmented, overlapping and burdensome self-regulatory system that *had previously governed the financial services sector*.

The Tripartite authorities are, in the light of recent instability in financial markets, consulting on reforms to banking supervision and depositor protection. However, the Government and other authorities remain firmly committed to the existing regulatory framework.

Bowel Cancer: Death

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the survival rate for persons diagnosed with bowel cancer is; and what information he holds on survival rates in (*a*) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, (*b*) EU member states and (*c*) other countries. [197632]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking what the survival rate for persons diagnosed with bowel cancer is; and what information he holds on survival rates in (*a*) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, (*b*) EU member states and (*c*) other countries. [197632]

Bowel cancer usually refers to the large bowel (colon and rectum) rather than the small bowel (small intestine). Bowel cancer survival is usually reported separately for the colon and rectum.

The latest available survival figures for 21 common cancers among adult patients in England diagnosed during 1999-2003 and followed up to the end of 2004 are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=192

One and five-year survival for colon and rectum cancer for England is tabulated in the following table:

One and five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival[2] percentages for adult patients[3] diagnosed with colon and rectum cancer during 1999-2003: England, by sex

Cancer[4]	Patients diagnosed during 1999-2003: England		
		One-year relative survival percentage	Five-year relative survival percentage
Colon	Men	69	50
	Women	69	51
Rectum	Men	76	52
	Women	77	55

[1] As cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the relative survival figures for all ages (15-99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures.
[2] Aged 15-99 years.
[3] Cancers registered in 1999-2003 are defined by codes in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Colon cancer is defined by code C18 and rectum cancer by codes C19 - C21.

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Information on five-year survival for colorectal cancer in (a) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries is published in 'OECD Health Data 2007: Statistics and Indicators for 30 Countries' and available online at:

http://www.caliban.sourceoecd.org/vl=3345605/cl=36/nw=1/rpsv/health2007/6-3.htm

Information on cancer survival in (b) 17 EU member states (including the UK) and three other European countries is provided by the EUROCARE-4 study. The published data cover each of the four constituent countries of the UK. The most recently published results from this study provide information on survival up to five years after diagnosis for patients diagnosed with cancer during 1995-99 and followed up to the end of 2003. These results were published in:

Berrino F, De Angelis R, Sant M, Rosso S, Lasota M B, Coebergh J W, and Santaquilani M. 'Survival for eight major cancers and all cancers combined for European adults diagnosed in 1995-99: results of the EUROCARE-4 study'. Lancet Oncology 2007; 8: 773-783.

In addition, period analyses to predict cancer survival up to 10 years for patients diagnosed as recently as 2002 were published in:

Verdecchia A, Francisci S, Brenner H, Gatta G, Micheli A, Mangone L, Kunkler I. 'Recent cancer survival in Europe: a 2000-02 period analysis of EUROCARE-4 data'. Lancet Oncology 2007; 8: 784-796.

Information on survival for cancer in (c) other countries is currently being produced by the CONCORD project. This will compare survival among over two million patients diagnosed with cancer of the breast, bowel or prostate during 1990-94 and followed up to 1999 in 31 countries OB five continents. Results from the CONCORD project will be published later in 2008.

Mr. Bone: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from bowel cancer in each year since 1997. [197635]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 March 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from bowel cancer in each year since 1997. (197635)

The numbers of deaths where bowel cancer was the underlying cause in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006, the latest year for which data are available, are included in the following table:

Deaths from bowel cancer: England and Wales, 1997–2006[2]

	Number of deaths
1997	15,226
1998	14,980
1999	14,564
2000	14,230
2001	14,163
2002	14,289
2003	14,087
2004	14,163
2005	14,115
2006	14,022

[1] Underlying cause of death selected using International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 153-154 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C18-C21 for the years 2001 to 2006. The introduction of ICD-10 for coding cause of death in 2001 means that figures are not comparable with data for years before this date. Comparisons between the data before and after 2001 should therefore be interpreted with caution. An article examining the effects of the change in classification for cancer trends was published in Health Statistics Quarterly 23.* This estimated that the introduction of ICD-10 resulted in an increase in bowel cancer deaths of 1.5 per cent. when compared to ICD-9. *Brock A, Griffiths C, Rooney G (2004) The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on cancer mortality trends in England and Wales. Health Statistics Quarterly 23, 7-17. [2] Deaths registered in each calendar year.

Civil Servants: Location

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the proposed relocation of civil servants as recommended by the Gershon review is progressing according to plan; and if he will make a statement. [197384]

Angela Eagle: As reported by the Chancellor on 12 March, 15,710 civil service posts have been relocated so far against the Government's commitment to relocate 20,000 posts by end March 2010. This represents strong *progress by Departments and demonstrates* that the initiative is being delivered according to plan.

Construction: Recruitment

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people were recruited into the construction industry in each year since 1997; [197444]

(2) how many people were employed in the construction industry in each year since 1997. [197445]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people have been recruited into the construction industry in each year since 1997 and how many people were employed in the construction industry in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (197444, 197445)

The definitive source for the number of people employed is normally the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the Workforce Jobs Survey is preferred for industry breakdowns of employment and has been used in the attached Table.

While estimates of the number of recruitments are not available explicitly, figures from surveys enable comparisons to be made of net changes in jobs from year to year.

Table 1, attached, provides an estimate of jobs in Construction (Standard Industrial Classification (1992) section F) in the United Kingdom for the month of June for each year from 1997 and the net change on the previous year.

Workforce Job statistics are published as part of the Labour Market Statistics First Release and can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=8286

As with any survey, results from the Workforce Jobs Surveys are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Workforce jobs in construction industries[1]: United Kingdom seasonally adjusted

		Thousand
	Level	Net change on previous year
June 1997	1,780	
June 1998	1,835	55
June 1999	1,854	19
June 2000	1,900	46
June 2001	1,917	17
June 2002	1,948	31
June 2003	1,997	49
June 2004	2,069	72
June 2005	2,119	50

Table 1: Workforce jobs in construction industries: United Kingdom seasonally adjusted

		Thousand
	Level	Net change on previous year
June 2006	2,165	46
June 2007	2,230	65

Standard Industrial Classification (1992) section F

Notes:

1. Workforce Jobs figures are a measure of jobs rather than people. For example, if a person holds two jobs, each job will be counted in the Workforce Jobs total.

2. Workforce Jobs figures come from a variety of sources, and where possible from the employer rather than the individual. Employee Jobs (which is the largest component of Workforce Jobs) come from quarterly surveys of employers carried out by ONS.

3. Other data sources are as follows:

Self-employment Jobs are provided by the Labour Force Survey.

HM Forces figures are provided by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

Government-supported trainees are provided from Administrative Sources.

Debts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average debt (*a*) excluding and (*b*) including mortgages of (i) women and (ii) men aged between 22 and 29 years in each income decile. [196641]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 March 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on what estimate has been made of the average debt (*a*) excluding and (*b*) including mortgages of (i) women and (ii) men aged between 22 and 29 years in each income decile (196641).

Although the UK National Accounts include balance sheet estimates of total financial liabilities of the household and non profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors, it is not possible to separate these two sectors. Examples of institutions included within the NPISH sector are charities, trade unions, universities, churches and political parties.

It is possible to identify loans secured on dwellings by banks, building societies and other types of financial institutions, but it is not possible to break this down by gender, age or income decile.

The estimates in the following table show total debt including and excluding loans on dwellings and averages using total population estimates. The balance sheet estimates are available up to 2007 and are consistent with data published on the 28th March 2008. Population estimates for 2007 are as yet not available so average debt is shown up to 2006.

Year	Total population (thousand)	Total financial liabilities (£ million)	Average financial liabilities per head of population (£)	Loans on dwellings by banks (£ million)	Loans on dwellings by building societies (£ million)	Loans on dwellings by other financial institutions (£ million)	Total financial liabilities less loans on dwellings (£ million)	Average financial liabilities less loans on dwellings (£)
1987	56,304	270,188	4,798	35,450	111,556	15,305	87,184	1,549
1988	56,616	321,144	5,672	45,335	155,276	22,178	100,355	1,773
1989	57,076	375,402	6,578	59,162	192,556	24,922	118,630	2,079
1990	57,237	418,581	7,313	85,677	176,661	31,013	125,172	2,187
1991	57,479	450,412	7,836	90,372	194,228	32,057	140,755	2,449
1992	57,585	466,499	8,101	90,470	211,352	30,384	128,293	2,228
1993	57,714	482,432	8,360	108,554	219,556	26,580	125,742	2,179
1994	57,862	504,605	8,721	115,474	231,170	27,457	129,634	2,241
1995	58,025	528,927	9,117	119,400	253,237	26,557	130,733	2,253
1996	58,164	550,108	9,456	158,206	253,805	26,195	111,902	1,924
1997	58,314	580,658	10,196	405,887	97,578	26,414	150,780	2,585
1998	58,475	625,134	10,691	420,562	106,331	29,109	169,132	2,892
1999	58,684	675,599	11,511	345,031	113,497	34,326	182,745	3,114
2000	58,886	734,760	12,481	386,334	106,991	41,142	199,724	3,392
2001	59,113	810,665	13,711	418,644	113,413	58,181	220,427	3,729
2002	59,323	923,144	15,562	467,601	121,638	78,151	255,754	4,311
2003	59,557	1,046,913	17,578	511,949	142,312	139,570	253,082	4,249
2004	59,840	1,172,032	19,587	543,063	161,116	172,673	296,180	4,949
2005	60,238	1,249,393	20,742	558,615	167,643	212,670	311,067	5,164
2006	60,587	1,406,464	23,213	586,644	182,367	237,574	360,179	5,945
2007		1,532,445		668,662	194,277	147,860	385,646	

Source:

United Kingdom Economic Accounts 2007 quarter 4

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1864

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer at how many events held by his Department (*a*) wine and (*b*) Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years, and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196948]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury have held 147 events from January 2005 to December 2007 at which wine supplied by the PFI provider has been served. No Fair Trade wines were served at any of these events.

Fair Trade wine can be ordered on request by the event organiser. The Treasury encourages the PFI provider to make Fair Trade products available.

Departmental Conflict of Interests

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials notified his Department that they intended to work for (*a*) British Aerospace, (*b*) British Airways, (*c*) BP, (*d*) Shell, (*e*) Rolls Royce, (*f*) HSBC, (*g*) Standard Chartered, (*h*) RBS (*i*) HBOS, (*j*) Barclays and (*k*) another company on leaving his Department in each of the last five years. [195562]

Angela Eagle: Information on the future employer of officials is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on (*a*) alcohol and (*b*) entertaining in the last 12 months. [187954]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury and its agencies do not separately record amounts spent on alcohol within official entertainment or hospitality spending and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The amounts spent on official entertainment and hospitality in 2006-07 were as follows: HM Treasury (inc. OGC) £193,000; DMO £4,000; ONS £208,000; VOA £48,000; Royal Mint £323,000; GAD £4,000; NS and I £424,000; and OGCbuying.solutions £34,000. All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money".

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of overnight accommodation for (*a*) civil servants, (*b*) special advisers and (*c*) Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193538]

Angela Eagle: The latest audited data available on overnight accommodation was set out in the answer I gave the hon. Member on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1485-86W.

Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196459]

Angela Eagle: Data are not held in such a way to allow access to hourly rates of all non-permanent staff. To attempt to gather these data would represent a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on speech coaching and related consultancy for Ministers in his Department in each of the last 24 months. [197473]

Angela Eagle: Speech coaching is not recorded as a separate category of expenditure within the Treasury's accounting system, so the information on spending, if any, is not held.

Emigration

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people emigrated from (*a*) the UK and (*b*) Merseyside between 2001 and 2007. [196924]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question about how many people emigrated from (a) the UK and (b) Merseyside between 2001 and 2007. I am replying in her absence. (196924)

The latest available estimates of Total International Migration (TIM) are for the calendar year 2006. In the six-year period, 2001 to 2006, emigration of UK residents from the UK for at least a year is estimated to have totalled 2,127,000.

TIM estimates are not available on this basis for geographical areas below the level of Government Office Region. However figures on international migration, used to calculate the annual mid-year population estimates, are available for local areas. These cover the period from one mid-year to the next. Between mid-2001 and mid-2006, emigration of UK residents from Merseyside for at least a year is estimated to have totalled 30,000 (compared to 1,768,000 from the UK as whole in this five-year period).

Employment Agencies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1365W, on Employment Agencies, what recruitment agencies his Department has used in each of the last 10 years. [189367]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1496W by the then Financial Secretary my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (Mr. Healey).

Employment: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were in employment in Vale of Clwyd constituency in each of the last 11 years. [196176]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were in employment in Vale of Clwyd constituency in each of the last 11 years. I am replying in her absence. (196176)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people aged 16 and over, resident in the Vale of Clwyd constituency, who were in employment in each of the last 11 years. Estimates are obtained from the annual LFS for each 12 month period from 1997 to 2004. For time series comparisons, the APS estimates from 2005

to 2007 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in March, but the most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 month period ending in June 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, APS and annual LFS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. These are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas the regional and national estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures, so the two are not directly comparable.

Table 1: People of 16+ in employment in Vale of Clwyd constituency for the past 11 years

12 months ending	*Thousand In employment*
February 1997[1]	23
February 1998[1]	24
February 1999[1]	25
February 2000[1]	27
February 2001[1]	29
February 2002[1]	28
February 2003[1]	27
February 2004[1]	29
March 2005[2]	30
March 2006[2]	31
March 2007[2]	30
June 2007[2]	30

[1] Labour Force Survey data.
[2] Annual Population Survey data.

Employment: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* full and *(b)* part-time jobs there were in the City of York in each year since 1997. [197132]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many *(a)* full and *(b)* part-time jobs there were in the City of York in each year since 1997.1 am replying in her absence. (197132).

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS), following International Labour Organisation definitions. This is the preferred source for estimates at the detailed level requested. Employment estimates are distinct from the number of jobs, which come from the Annual Business Inquiry.

Table 1 attached provides estimates based on people aged 16 and over, in full and part-time employment, resident in the City of York.

Estimates based on the most recent parliamentary constituency boundaries are only available from 2001. Figures for 2001-2004 are for the twelve months ending February that year. Figures for 2005-2007 are for the twelve months ending March the same year.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, APS and annual LFS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. These are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas the regional and national estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures, so the two are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Full-time[1] and part-time[2] employment for people aged 16 and over, resident in the City of York[3]

Thousand

12 months ending	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
February 2001[4]	36	15	51
February 2002[4]	36	15	51
February 2003[4]	37	16	54
February 2004[4]	37	16	53
March 2005[5]	35	14	48
March 2006[5]	37	15	52
March 2007[5]	37	16	53

[1, 2] Includes those full-time and part-time on New Deal.
[3] 2005 parliamentary constituency boundary revision.
[4] Based on annual Labour Force Survey (LFS).
[5] Based on Annual Population Survey (APS).

Notes:
1. In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, APS and annual LFS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. These are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas the regional and national estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures, so the two are not directly comparable.
2. As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.
3. Due to rounding the totals may not sum.

Source:
Annual Population Survey and annual Labour Force Survey.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual cost to the Exchequer of resuming the rolling exemption from vehicle excise duty for historic vehicles over 35 years of age in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [197404]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 403W. Licensing data does not completely disaggregate by applicable vehicle excise duty rate the population of vehicles manufactured prior to 1974, 1975 and 1976. It is therefore not possible to determine the cost to the Exchequer of extending the exemption on a rolling 35-year basis.

Food: Expenditure

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the average annual salary was spent on food at the most recent date for which figures are available. [196200]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what percentage of the average annual salary was spent on food at the most recent date for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (196200)

Figures on the percentage of the annual average salary spent on food are not available. However, information on household income and expenditure is available. In 2005/06 the average United Kingdom household spent 9 per cent of their disposable income on food and non-alcoholic drinks.

This estimate is based on data collected through the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering

approximately 7,000 households in the UK. Spending on food and non-alcoholic drinks excludes expenditure on take-away meals and snacks, and meals purchased in restaurants. Disposable income includes income from all sources including salaries, self-employment income, benefits, and pensions after the deduction of income tax, council tax and employees' national insurance contributions.

Foreign Workers: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers in Enfield North constituency in each of the last 10 years. [196799]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what the most recent estimate is of the number of migrant workers in Enfield, North in each of the last ten years. I am replying in her absence. (196799)

The Office for National Statistics compiles statistics on migrant workers for local areas from the Annual Population survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). The National Statistics method for estimating the number of migrant workers employed in the UK is routinely based on the number of people at a given time who were born abroad, are of working age (16-64 for men, 16-59 for women), and in employment. This question has been answered on this basis. It means, for example, that some people who are UK nationals will be included in the total of "foreign born" and that people who are working but are above state pension age are not included.

The table attached shows the numbers of people of working age in employment who were not born in the UK and were resident in Enfield, North Parliamentary Constituency. Estimates are obtained from the annual LFS for each 12 months period ending in February from 1998 to 2004. For time series comparisons, the APS estimates from 2005 to 2007 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in March, but the most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 month period ending in September 2007.

When interpreting these figures, it is important to bear in mind that the APS is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, APS and annual LFS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. These are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas the regional and national estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures, so the two are not directly comparable.

Number of migrant workers[1] in employment resident in Enfield, North constituency in the last ten years

12 months ending	*Thousand Migrant workers[1]*
February 1998	[2]
February 1999	5
February 2000	7
February 2001	7
February 2002	10
February 2003	11
February 2004	10
March 2005	8
March 2006	7
March 2007	13
September 2007	14

[1] Includes males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59 born outside the UK. Does not include respondents who did not answer the question on country of birth.

[2] Data on migrant workers not available for this period

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to margin of uncertainty.

It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the APS may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas

It excludes certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.

It excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent.

It excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (eg hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)

It is grossed to population estimates which exclude migrants staying for less than 12 months.

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey

HM Revenue and Customs: Bonuses

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 537W, on HM Revenue and Customs: bonuses, how many HM Revenue and Customs staff received *(a)* zero, *(b)* minimum (£3,000), *(c)* medium (9 per cent. of base salary) and *(d)* high (15 per cent. of base salary) bonuses in each of the last five years. [196644]

Jane Kennedy: These categories of bonus apply to the SCS grades in HMRC and data is available for the last three performance years.

Performance year	*Zero*	*Minimum*	*Medium*	*High*
2004-05	102	49	153	109
2005-06	149	19	124	82
2006-07	126	56	127	82

HM Revenue and Customs: Fraud

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his Answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on fraud in HM Revenue and Customs, what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the 35 investigations into suspected fraudulent activity by staff which have taken place since 1 April 2007. [193314]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of migration *(a)* into and *(b)* out of Britain by (i) British citizens, (ii) non-British EU citizens and (iii) non-EU citizens in each age cohort was in each of the last 10 years. [196652]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the level of migration (a) into and (b) out of Britain by (i) British citizens (ii) non-British EU citizens and (iii) non-EU citizens was in each age cohort in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (196652)

The most recent figures on levels of migration by citizenship and age are for 2006. Figures in the attached table are for the ten years 1997 to 2006 and are based on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS).

The IPS has been used to provide information requested by citizenship and age because detailed cross tabulations such as these are not available using Total International Migration (TIM), the most comprehensive measure of long-term international migration into and out of the UK. This is due to the nature of the different data sources used to compile TIM estimates.

International migration, estimates from International Passenger Survey: time series, 1997 to 2006, citizenship by age, Great Britain

Thousand

			Estimate				
Direction		*Age*	*All citizenships*	*British*	*Non-British*	*European Union*[1]	*Non-European Union*
Inflow	1997	All ages	270	89	181	62	119
		Under 15	38	17	21	6	15
		15-24	111	19	92	40	52
		25-44	99	40	60	15	45
		45-59/64	17	10	7	1	5
		60/65 and over	5	3	2	[2]—	2
	1998	All ages	317	103	214	70	144
		Under 15	32	13	19	6	12
		15-24	110	23	87	28	59
		25-44	155	54	101	34	67
		45-59/64	14	7	7	1	6
		60/65 and over	6	6	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
	1999	All ages	351	112	239	59	180
		Under 15	32	15	17	3	14
		15-24	125	21	104	27	77
		25-44	171	61	109	28	81
		45-59/64	18	11	7	[2]—	7
		60/65 and over	5	4	1	[2]—	1
	2000	All ages	355	99	256	58	199
		Under 15	25	7	18	1	16
		15-24	124	25	99	27	72
		25-44	176	48	128	28	100
		45-59/64	26	16	10	1	9
		60/65 and over	5	4	2	[2]—	2
	2001	All ages	368	106	262	53	208
		Under 15	32	12	20	2	18
		15-24	122	19	102	25	78
		25-44	183	59	125	24	101
		45-59/64	25	11	14	3	11
		60/65 and over	6	5	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
	2002	All ages	382	97	285	55	229
		Under 15	26	10	16	2	14
		15-24	136	30	105	17	89
		25-44	192	44	148	34	114
		45-59/64	19	7	12	2	10
		60/65 and over	9	6	3	[2]—	3

International migration, estimates from International Passenger Survey: time series, 1997 to 2006, citizenship by age, Great Britain

Thousand

			Estimate			
Direction		*Age*	*All citizenships*	*British*	*Non-British*	*European Union[1]*	*Non-European Union*
	2003	All ages	423	97	326	61	265
		Under 15	32	8	24	4	20
		15-24	173	20	154	36	117
		25-44	179	46	134	20	114
		45-59/64	31	18	13	1	12
		60/65 and over	8	5	3	[2]—	3
	2004	All ages	515	84	431	105	326
		Under 15	31	12	19	3	16
		15-24	195	15	180	42	138
		25-44	248	40	209	54	154
		45-59/64	30	12	18	6	12
		60/65 and over	11	5	6	[2]—	6
	2005	All ages	491	90	401	118	283
		Under 15	20	6	15	1	14
		15-24	195	21	174	49	125
		25-44	244	45	199	67	132
		45-59/64	27	13	13	2	11
		60/65 and over	5	5	1	[2]—	1
	2006	All ages	521	76	445	132	313
		Under 15	41	18	22	5	17
		15-24	191	11	180	51	129
		25-44	254	34	220	68	152
		45-59/64	30	9	21	7	14
		60/65 and over	5	4	1	[2]—	1
Outflow	1997	All ages	229	133	96	31	65
		Under 15	24	15	9	2	7
		15-24	68	35	33	12	21
		25-44	115	68	48	15	32
		45-59/64	16	10	6	2	4
		60/65 and over	6	5	1	[2]—	1
	1998	All ages	202	112	90	26	65
		Under 15	20	12	8	1	7
		15-24	53	20	33	11	22
		25-44	106	63	43	13	30
		45-59/64	17	10	6	1	6
		60/65 and over	6	6	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
	1999	All ages	243	113	130	47	83
		Under 15	23	13	10	1	10
		15-24	66	24	42	15	27
		25-44	125	57	68	27	41
		45-59/64	23	16	7	2	5
		60/65 and over	6	4	2	1	1
	2000	All ages	274	138	136	46	91
		Under 15	22	15	7	[2]—	7

International migration, estimates from International Passenger Survey: time series, 1997 to 2006, citizenship by age, Great Britain

Thousand

			Estimate			
Direction		*Age*	*All citizenships*	*British*	*Non-British*	*European Union[1]*	*Non-European Union*
		15-24	65	25	40	16	24
		25-44	155	71	83	28	55
		45-59/64	28	22	6	2	5
		60/65 and over	4	4	[2]	[2]	[2]
	2001	All ages	248	131	117	40	77
		Under 15	22	14	7	2	6
		15-24	58	24	34	15	19
		25-44	128	59	70	22	48
		45-59/64	32	27	5	1	3
		60/65 and over	7	6	1	[2]	1
	2002	All ages	304	163	141	42	99
		Under 15	20	14	6	1	5
		15-24	74	33	41	14	27
		25-44	160	77	83	24	59
		45-59/64	41	31	10	4	6
		60/65 and over	9	7	1	[2]	1
	2003	All ages	309	166	143	41	101
		Under 15	29	18	11	3	8
		15-24	67	26	41	11	30
		25-44	164	79	84	27	57
		45-59/64	41	35	5	[2]	5
		60/65 and over	8	7	1	[2]	1
	2004	All ages	308	182	126	34	92
		Under 15	24	16	8	1	6
		15-24	69	29	40	13	27
		25-44	156	82	73	19	55
		45-59/64	49	46	3	[2]	3
		60/65 and over	11	9	2	1	1
	2005	All ages	327	173	154	47	107
		Under 15	24	20	4	[2]	4
		15-24	72	22	50	18	32
		25-44	174	90	85	25	60
		45-59/64	36	25	11	1	10
		60/65 and over	20	16	4	3	2
	2006	All ages	368	196	172	59	113
		Under 15	26	18	8	2	6
		15-24	77	25	52	22	30
		25-44	199	98	101	34	67
		45-59/64	40	32	8	[2]	8
		60/65 and over	25	22	2	[2]	2

[1] Up to and including 2003, estimates are shown for the EU15 (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, the Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden). From 2004 onwards, the estimates are for the EU25 (EU15 plus the 10 countries of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). These countries are included in the definition for the whole of 2004. These data have been revised following changes to the TIM methodology. Therefore they may not agree with estimates that have been published previously.
[2] No data (or less than half the final digit shown).

Income

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average earnings were for each income decile of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged between 22 and 29 years in each region in the latest five years for which figures are available. [196639]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jill Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average earnings were for each income decile of (a) men and (b) women aged between 22 and 29 years in each region in the latest five years for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (196639)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

I attach a table showing the mean, deciles and quartiles for gross weekly earnings for (a) men and (b) women aged between 22 and 29 years, for those working full time in each government office region, for the years 2003 - 2007.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Weekly pay - gross (£) - for male full-time employee jobs by age 22 to 29: United Kingdom

2003

				Percentiles									
Description	*Number of jobs (thousand)*	*Median*	*Mean*	*10*	*20*	*25*	*30*	*40*	*60*	*70*	*75*	*80*	*90*
North East	58	313	357	205	231	245	259	283	350	389	406	441	x
North West	154	336	400	218	248	261	276	306	374	413	434	470	569
Yorkshire and the Humber	126	344	378	223	258	270	286	312	379	423	445	474	571
East Midlands	100	364	392	224	262	275	289	324	398	434	462	484	571
West Midlands	135	346	385	225	257	269	288	314	377	414	442	480	580
East	131	375	474	233	267	288	305	335	417	463	491	528	647
London	282	480	542	270	330	357	380	427	528	592	633	674	876
South East	217	403	436	250	293	308	326	365	441	484	509	556	666
South West	113	333	374	220	250	266	278	305	367	414	438	466	576
Wales	66	328	369	213	242	253	268	296	374	413	443	469	x
Scotland	116	338	379	206	244	259	274	307	371	413	439	467	578

2004

				Percentiles									
Description	*Number of jobs (thousand)*	*Median*	*Mean*	*10*	*20*	*25*	*30*	*40*	*60*	*70*	*75*	*80*	*90*
North East	56	340	365	204	237	254	266	301	383	411	431	459	x
North West	149	350	437	221	260	278	289	318	390	434	465	485	576
Yorkshire and the Humber	125	361	392	227	261	278	295	326	393	428	456	484	582
East Midlands	97	364	394	226	265	279	297	330	395	435	457	486	576
West Midlands	127	356	394	231	264	276	290	323	395	431	461	493	576
East	127	378	477	231	275	288	306	341	416	461	483	518	624
London	267	480	542	276	336	357	386	433	537	595	633	690	875
South East	210	409	445	257	303	320	336	372	449	494	519	558	672
South West	115	353	394	227	265	280	297	325	393	430	461	481	566
Wales	63	344	388	230	255	269	285	314	384	427	453	477	x
Scotland	119	354	393	220	255	276	290	321	387	427	457	481	616

2004

				Percentiles									
Description	*Number of jobs (thousand)*	*Median*	*Mean*	*10*	*20*	*25*	*30*	*40*	*60*	*70*	*75*	*80*	*90*
North East	57	328	358	203	232	244	257	288	367	403	423	454	x
North West	154	347	419	216	250	269	282	311	384	432	462	487	582
Yorkshire and the Humber	128	355	381	225	257	272	288	319	390	423	450	476	573

2004

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
East Midlands	101	358	382	221	258	273	288	317	386	429	449	473	566
West Midlands	131	351	388	226	259	272	285	319	394	429	460	486	576
East	131	365	460	229	272	286	300	333	410	454	475	506	617
London	273	471	532	270	326	350	380	424	528	584	626	674	864
South East	213	402	438	254	298	315	329	365	443	482	510	551	654
South West	116	351	392	226	260	275	289	320	392	436	461	481	575
Wales	65	336	382	226	245	263	276	305	378	418	444	476	x
Scotland	121	350	388	215	252	268	287	317	381	423	456	480	597

2005

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	59	326	361	218	248	261	268	294	359	407	430	444	x
North West	166	355	415	220	255	272	286	317	395	448	478	503	610
Yorkshire and the Humber	134	353	381	225	253	270	284	319	385	427	445	477	571
East Midlands	108	362	395	229	261	280	299	324	399	437	463	498	594
West Midlands	139	356	419	230	264	277	291	321	392	441	468	493	597
East	145	374	415	242	275	291	307	336	408	460	490	514	625
London	286	489	560	286	343	367	389	441	552	625	671	728	920
South East	226	407	445	255	300	317	335	371	451	490	524	557	671
South West	136	364	407	240	269	286	300	332	396	442	463	494	575
Wales	67	325	368	220	249	260	272	292	358	420	451	475	x
Scotland	128	351	391	220	255	270	283	314	383	430	460	491	595

2006

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	57	335	390	239	265	275	288	311	382	437	459	495	x
North West	168	366	409	230	265	283	300	330	403	455	479	514	621
Yorkshire and the Humber	129	362	396	237	266	282	297	332	399	443	469	495	586
East Midlands	103	364	402	234	267	285	296	330	403	445	475	502	599
West Midlands	136	365	419	233	267	280	297	333	400	445	471	495	591
East	143	396	437	248	288	302	321	357	433	483	509	548	653
London	296	494	563	283	345	377	403	448	556	624	671	728	935
South East	219	412	454	258	300	318	337	374	455	500	526	568	692
South West	127	383	409	248	282	299	314	347	414	454	479	509	586
Wales	65	337	385	234	263	279	288	314	374	428	453	485	x
Scotland	124	367	406	226	260	278	292	334	412	462	490	522	613

2006

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	58	335	388	239	265	274	288	309	381	435	454	492	X
North West	169	366	407	230	266	284	300	329	401	452	477	511	618
Yorkshire and the Humber	131	361	395	238	266	283	297	328	397	441	466	492	588

2006[6]

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
East Midlands	103	363	399	235	268	285	296	326	402	440	471	498	594
West Midlands	136	365	419	234	267	280	297	333	400	445	471	495	589
East	143	393	433	249	288	300	319	355	430	479	507	545	650
London	296	493	561	282	345	376	402	447	555	620	670	724	932
South East	220	412	453	258	300	318	337	373	454	498	525	565	690
South West	127	383	407	247	281	299	313	345	412	453	479	508	586
Wales	66	336	384	234	263	279	288	313	373	427	448	485	x
Scotland	124	365	403	226	260	277	291	332	408	460	486	520	612

2007[7]

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	63	357	401	242	268	280	293	328	406	436	457	485	x
North West	172	379	414	237	272	288	305	345	412	459	494	519	623
Yorkshire and the Humber	133	384	424	247	287	299	313	353	427	479	504	528	624
East Midlands	104	383	414	250	289	303	316	352	419	457	477	502	598
West Midlands	141	374	407	244	276	288	301	333	408	450	479	506	x
East	148	398	437	255	290	305	323	356	440	493	517	556	656
London	307	502	574	294	357	383	410	458	556	632	671	732	930
South East	233	420	470	262	307	326	343	383	468	518	549	590	736
South West	127	384	414	253	288	304	323	352	423	461	488	521	601
Wales	70	345	390	240	271	281	298	312	380	431	454	479	x
Scotland	130	382	423	246	280	292	310	346	424	473	507	533	633

x = Unreliable.

[6] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

There are two discontinuities in the ASHE results introduced by changes to the ASHE methodology. In 2004 supplementary information was included to improve coverage and in 2006 changes to the sample design were made to improve the quality of the estimates, (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).

[5] 2004 results (consistent with 2003 results).

[6] 2004 results (consistent with 2005 results).

[7] 2006 results (consistent with 2005 results).

[8] 2006 results (consistent with 2007 results).

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics, 1997-2007

Weekly pay - gross (£) - for female full-time employee jobs by age 22 to 29: United Kingdom

2003[5]

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	46	287	309	185	223	234	247	263	315	341	357	380	x
North West	131	299	331	194	224	235	250	275	338	375	395	421	492
Yorkshire and the Humber	104	304	332	202	230	244	253	276	346	379	397	421	482
East Midlands	84	300	332	199	225	235	249	269	341	380	398	422	495
West Midlands	108	293	333	193	221	235	248	273	325	375	397	422	500
East	105	323	351	204	237	251	267	296	357	389	408	444	535
London	257	423	462	258	307	326	346	389	463	504	533	559	670
South East	174	349	378	221	260	277	288	324	376	415	442	472	550
South West	89	299	328	204	230	240	252	273	330	373	386	406	468
Wales	48	293	324	198	219	229	241	262	319	369	390	405	x
Scotland	120	307	338	198	231	247	259	282	338	378	405	426	491

2004

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	50	296	325	198	225	237	255	273	332	364	384	403	x
North West	131	312	342	201	234	248	259	282	350	385	414	439	504
Yorkshire and the Humber	99	317	347	207	238	250	263	288	356	393	415	440	505
East Midlands	82	325	353	207	240	251	262	295	356	384	406	430	504
West Midlands	105	327	359	207	238	252	267	298	363	400	425	448	543
East	103	340	372	212	249	265	278	310	370	406	427	452	548
London	243	439	477	276	328	346	365	401	478	518	541	572	681
South East	161	366	397	231	269	285	302	336	399	438	456	486	580
South West	90	317	353	216	244	255	267	293	347	384	409	430	498
Wales	49	302	331	206	234	241	254	272	339	382	409	436	x
Scotland	121	326	359	213	241	256	269	293	369	414	439	458	522

2004

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	50	294	322	197	225	238	252	272	326	364	384	401	x
North West	136	309	337	201	234	246	259	282	342	384	412	430	494
Yorkshire and the Humber	102	316	346	205	233	249	259	288	356	393	415	440	506
East Midlands	83	313	340	205	236	246	257	284	348	376	395	422	x
West Midlands	108	325	356	202	235	250	265	291	356	394	425	448	543
East	105	333	362	210	244	260	275	306	364	400	425	449	530
London	258	432	467	270	320	342	356	393	470	509	537	563	672
South East	169	362	387	229	263	278	295	328	393	429	447	474	577
South West	94	314	346	210	238	250	263	288	340	378	395	422	494
Wales	52	293	328	207	231	239	250	267	322	378	396	428	x
Scotland	121	322	355	209	239	251	267	288	363	411	430	454	518

2005

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	53	316	347	222	249	256	270	295	355	386	404	432	x
North West	147	326	364	218	245	259	269	299	369	418	436	464	544
Yorkshire and the Humber	111	316	350	208	238	252	263	288	355	399	421	449	527
East Midlands	85	327	357	222	249	261	276	296	363	398	423	453	521
West Midlands	115	328	361	211	242	255	269	293	365	402	427	458	526
East	114	340	373	220	247	255	272	307	374	422	446	479	564
London	295	441	473	267	316	338	358	395	479	529	556	585	689
South East	181	370	395	230	271	285	301	335	401	437	458	487	572
South West	107	323	355	217	250	258	270	297	357	393	412	441	523
Wales	55	291	327	213	237	249	258	274	326	367	398	422	499
Scotland	132	324	368	218	244	258	272	297	367	427	457	477	539

2006

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	55	317	352	224	255	268	274	295	348	394	423	453	518

2006[d]

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North West	151	335	368	218	247	261	274	304	375	416	440	466	548
Yorkshire and the Humber	104	327	358	219	247	258	269	295	374	413	437	461	533
East Midlands	88	325	360	217	247	262	271	297	364	401	428	450	510
West Midlands	120	344	374	219	251	266	276	307	382	426	451	481	564
East	123	355	380	230	262	276	290	321	385	428	450	469	563
London	297	455	487	280	327	347	371	407	495	548	573	604	718
South East	188	374	399	240	275	290	307	341	403	454	475	498	576
South West	105	335	364	223	259	268	281	307	372	404	423	446	524
Wales	57	319	347	221	245	260	273	294	345	384	399	433	514
Scotland	122	346	387	226	255	269	284	312	386	447	473	500	584

2006[e]

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	56	314	350	224	253	268	273	293	345	392	417	446	518
North West	150	333	367	219	247	260	273	303	369	414	438	463	546
Yorkshire and the Humber	105	326	357	219	247	257	269	293	367	408	436	461	529
East Midlands	88	326	360	218	247	263	273	299	365	401	428	450	510
West Midlands	121	340	372	219	251	266	277	307	380	422	444	476	557
East	123	354	378	230	263	276	290	321	384	426	449	469	562
London	296	454	486	280	328	347	371	406	493	547	573	600	717
South East	187	374	399	240	276	291	308	340	402	451	474	497	576
South West	106	334	362	223	259	268	280	306	367	403	419	442	524
Wales	58	319	347	221	245	260	273	294	345	383	399	430	513
Scotland	121	345	384	226	254	268	282	310	383	444	466	500	577

2007

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentile 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
North East	50	326	357	230	257	269	279	298	359	386	406	436	x
North West	156	345	383	228	260	272	285	311	383	430	452	481	573
Yorkshire and the Humber	113	333	366	228	256	268	277	300	379	422	447	473	529
East Midlands	93	334	368	222	255	268	280	307	379	410	439	468	550
West Midlands	117	346	382	233	267	278	289	315	386	430	454	492	570
East	127	359	385	235	270	285	297	326	393	430	446	479	567
London	299	472	508	288	344	369	393	433	511	556	581	613	747
South East	189	384	409	242	285	300	316	348	412	457	483	510	596
South West	108	350	382	237	270	285	296	322	381	420	442	472	559
Wales	60	328	359	223	254	268	280	306	357	384	413	448	x
Scotland	124	349	382	227	259	274	288	318	382	434	457	484	576

x = Unreliable.

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

There are two discontinuities in the ASHE results introduced by changes to the ASHE methodology. In 2004 supplementary information was included to improve coverage and in 2006 changes to the sample design were made to improve the quality of the estimates. (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).

[b] 2004 results (consistent with 2003 results).

[c] 2004 results (consistent with 2005 results).

[d] 2006 results (consistent with 2005 results).

[e] 2906 results (consistent with 2007 results).

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics. 1997-2007

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people had annual employment incomes of *(a)* below £10,000, *(b)* between 10,000 and £30,000, broken down by £1,000 intervals, *(c)* between £31,000 and £100,000, broken down by £5,000 intervals, *(d)* between £100,000 and £500,000, broken down by £50,000 interval and *(e)* above £500,000 in the latest period for which figures are available. [196711]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people had annual employment incomes of (a) below £10,000, (b) between £10,000 and £30,000 broken down by £1,000 intervals, (c) between £31,000 and £100,000, broken down by £5,000 intervals, (d) between £100,000 and £500,000, broken down by £50,000 interval and (e) above £500,000 in the latest period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (196711)

Annual average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay who have been in the same job for more than 12 months. ASHE methodology cannot be used to provide estimates of the numbers of employees whose earnings are less than a specific amount, but can be used to provide estimates of percentages of employees in relevant categories. Estimates are for single jobs and not for total employment income.

I attach a table for 2007, showing the percentage of UK employees in the ranges stated.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a sample of all employees who are members of pay- as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Proportions of all employees[1] average annual earnings in the UK for 2007

	Percentage
<£10,000	18.9
£10,000 <£11,000	2.7
£11,000 <£12,000	2.9
£12,000 <£13,000	3.1
£13,000 <£14,000	3.0
£14,000 <£15,000	3.4
£15,000 <£16,000	3.4
£16,000 <£17,000	3.3
£17,000 <£18,000	3.2
£18,000 <£19,000	3.2
£19,000 <£20,000	3.0
£20,000 <£21,000	3.0
£21,000 <£22,000	2.7
£22,000 <£23,000	2.8
£23,000 <£24,000	2.5
£24,000 <£25,000	2.5
£25,000 <£26,000	2.4
£26,000 <£27,000	2.2
£27,000 <£28,000	2.1
£28,000 <£29,000	2.0
£29,000 <£30,000	1.9
£30,000 <£35,000	8.0
£35,000 <£40,000	5.6
£40,000 <£45,000	3.3
£45,000 <£50,000	2.1
£50,000 <£55,000	1.5
£55,000 <£60,000	1.0

Proportions of all employees[1] average annual earnings in the UK for 2007

	Percentage
£60,000 <£65,000	0.8
£65,000 <£70,000	** 0.5
£70,000 <£75,000	** 0.4
£75,000 <£80,000	** 0.4
£80,000 <£85,000	** 0.3
£85,000 <£90,000	** 0.2
£90,000 <£95,000	** 0.2
£95,000 <£100,000	** 0.2
£100,000 <£150,000	0.8
£150,000 <£200,000	* 0.2
£200,000 <£250,000	** 0.1
£250,000 <£300,000	x
£300,000 <£350,000	x
£350,000 <£400,000	x
£400,000 <£450,000	x
£450,000 <£500,000	x
£500,000 +	* 0.1

Summary table	Percentage
<£10,000	18.9
£10,000 <£30,000	55.3
£30,000 <£100,000	24.5
£100,000 +	1.3

[1] Both full-time and part-time employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than one year.
* Coefficient of variation is >5% and <=10%
** Coefficient of variation is >10% and <=20%
x Coefficient of variation is >20%

Guide to quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value, the higher the quality.

The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV, for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5%, we would expect the population averagé to be within the range 180 to 220.

Source

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics, 2007.

Income Tax

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the net effect on income tax receipts of imposing a 50 per cent. rate on those earning £100,000 and over per annum and raising the lower threshold for payment of income tax and national insurance contributions to £12,000 per annum. [196529]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The net effect of introducing a new higher rate band at 50 per cent. for incomes above £100,000 and raising the personal allowance to £12,000 would be a cost of around £65 billion for 2008-09. This figure excludes any estimate of behavioural response to the changes which could be significant given the scale of the changes, and which might eliminate a large proportion of the yield from any new higher rate band.

The estimates cover both income tax and national insurance contributions but assume the higher dividend rate remains at 32.5 per cent. and that the basic rate limit is unchanged.

The income tax information is based upon the 2005-06 Survey of Personal Incomes and 2008 Budget assumptions.

Income: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the decile boundary earnings were for *(a)* London and *(b)* each London borough in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available, broken down by age cohort. [196517]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the decile boundary earnings were for (a) London and (b) each London borough in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available, broken down by age cohort. I am replying in her absence. (196517)

Levels of earnings including medians, deciles and quartiles, are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom.

I attach a table showing the mean, deciles and quartiles for gross weekly earnings for full time employees in London by age for 2007. Figures for each London borough broken down by age group are not available. However, aggregate results for London boroughs can be obtained on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

Weekly pay - gross (£) - for full-time employee jobs[1] - United Kingdom, 2007

Description	Number of jobs (thousand)	Median	Mean	Percentiles 10	20	25	30	40	60	70	75	80	90
London	2,661	581	731	309	383	419	451	513	667	767	838	935	1,275.0
London, age 18-21	78	305	331	203	231	245	256	278	328	356	374	388	[2]
London, age 22-29	607	481	541	290	350	376	401	445	533	586	623	671	856.9
London, age 30-39	773	651	783	344	436	474	508	576	730	843	924	1,020	1,375.5
London, age 40-49	684	674	869	345	437	479	513	591	759	885	977	1,116	1,631.2
London, age 50-59	410	606	779	329	396	431	462	533	700	807	876	984	1,313.8
London, age 60+	106	523	679	289	345	372	399	466	597	687	767	847	[2]

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] Estimate unreliable.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics, 1997-2007

Infant Mortality

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2799W, on infant mortality, what the infant mortality rate was in each year since 2004 in each primary care trust area in England. [196383]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question with reference to the Answer of 20th December 2005, Official Report, column 2799W, on infant mortality, what the infant mortality rate was in each year since 2004 in each primary care trust area in England. I am replying in her absence. (196383)

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2006; figures requested for the years 2004 - 2006 are given in the attached table.

Infant deaths: numbers and rates by primary care organisation[1] in England, 2004 to 2006

Area of residence	Infant deaths: Numbers 2004	2005	2006	Rate per 1,000 live births[2] 2004	2005	2006
England	3,068	3,078	3,192	5.1	5.0	5.0
North East GOR						
County Durham	24	31	33	4.5	6.0	6.1
Darlington	6	7	13	4.8	5.7	10.1
Gateshead	7	13	16	3.3	6.1	7.1
Hartlepool	6	2	10	5.6	1.8	8.4
Middlesbrough	8	15	7	4.3	7.8	3.7
Newcastle	18	14	11	6.2	4.7	3.4
North Tees	15	7	14	7.1	3.1	5.9
North Tyneside	8	7	8	3.7	3.1	3.5
Northumberland	6	10	8	2.0	3.3	2.7
Redcar and Cleveland	11	7	12	7.3	4.4	7.9
South Tyneside	5	7	11	3.2	4.6	7.1
Sunderland Teaching	21	6	15	7.1	2.0	4.6
North West GOR						
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	13	16	25	3.6	4.3	6.9

Infant deaths, numbers and rates by primary care organisation[1] in England, 2004 to 2006

Area of residence	Infant deaths: Numbers 2004	2005	2006	Rate per 1,000 live births[2] 2004	2005	2006
Blackburn with Darwen	9	19	13	4.1	8.3	5.6
Blackpool	7	9	18	4.2	5.5	10.9
Bolton	20	24	27	5.9	6.7	7.4
Bury	13	9	11	5.6	3.9	4.8
Central and Eastern Cheshire	23	20	16	4.7	4.1	3.2
Central Lancashire	30	28	31	5.6	5.3	5.7
Cumbria	23	21	23	4.7	4.4	4.7
East Lancashire	31	34	28	6.5	7.1	5.8
Halton and St. Helens	23	26	30	6.5	7.3	8.0
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	14	15	17	5.0	5.3	6.0
Knowsley	10	10	5	5.3	5.2	2.6
Liverpool	28	44	32	5.6	8.5	5.8
Manchester	54	48	36	8.2	7.2	5.0
North Lancashire	13	18	20	4.4	6.0	6.7
Oldham	26	17	23	8.1	5.3	6.9
Salford	15	15	17	5.5	5.1	5.6
Sefton	7	19	14	2.6	7.4	5.2
Stockport	18	18	8	5.7	5.7	2.4
Tameside and Glossop	10	9	20	3.4	3.1	6.3
Trafford	6	9	13	2.3	3.4	4.7
Warrington	11	12	11	4.8	5.4	4.9
Western Cheshire	15	13	20	6.2	5.3	8.2
Wirral	16	21	15	4.5	5.8	4.2
Yorkshire and the Humber GOR						
Barnsley	16	10	16	6.3	4.0	5.8
Bradford and Airedale	41	69	62	5.3	5.6	7.6
Calderdale	17	16	12	6.9	6.4	4.8
Doncaster	18	27	26	5.3	7.6	7.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	15	11	8	4.9	3.8	2.6
Hull	15	14	24	4.7	4.4	6.9
Kirklees	40	37	39	7.4	7.0	7.1
Leeds	45	59	53	5.3	6.8	5.8
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	4	10	10	2.1	5.1	5.1
North Lincolnshire	11	13	10	6.6	7.4	5.5
North Yorkshire and York	30	39	31	3.9	5.1	4.0
Rotherham	25	16	14	8.5	5.5	4.7
Sheffield	34	30	39	5.5	4.9	6.2
Wakefield District	23	21	16	6.2	5.8	4.2

Infant deaths, numbers and rates by primary care organisation[1] in England, 2004 to 2006

Area of residence	Infant deaths: Numbers 2004	2005	2006	Rate per 1,000 live births[2] 2004	2005	2006
East Midlands GOR						
Bassetlaw	10	5	7	8.8	4.5	6.1
Derby City	15	14	10	5.0	4.7	3.1
Derbyshire County	45	29	32	6.1	3.9	4.2
Leicester City	27	24	36	5.9	5.2	7.6
Leicestershire County and Rutland	16	38	40	2.3	5.4	5.7
Lincolnshire	39	31	36	6.0	4.6	5.3
Northamptonshire	47	32	46	5.9	3.9	5.4
Nottingham City	21	28	34	6.0	7.5	8.7
Nottinghamshire County	28	28	32	4.0	4.1	4.5
West Midlands GOR						
Birmingham East and North	52	49	59	8.3	8.0	9.0
Coventry Teaching	35	17	17	8.8	4.4	4.0
Dudley	12	24	23	3.4	6.8	6.5
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	56	48	52	10.4	8.8	9.6
Herefordshire	9	12	7	5.3	7.3	4.1
North Staffordshire	11	8	5	5.3	3.9	2.6
Sandwell	28	32	37	6.8	7.7	8.9
Shropshire County	10	11	13	3.6	4.0	4.7
Solihull	8	9	12	4.0	4.4	5.7
South Birmingham	26	27	42	6.4	6.3	9.8
South Staffordshire	31	37	40	4.8	5.8	6.1
Stoke on Trent	31	30	23	9.4	8.9	6.8
Telford and Wrekin	11	9	13	5.2	4.4	6.1
Walsall Teaching	31	35	23	9.1	10.2	6.4
Warwickshire	35	23	19	6.1	4.1	3.1
Wolverhampton City	26	20	22	8.5	6.4	6.9
Worcestershire	33	34	25	5.5	5.6	4.1
East of England GOR						
Bedfordshire	21	22	18	4.4	4.5	3.6
Cambridgeshire	26	25	28	4.2	3.8	4.2
East and North Hertfordshire	21	26	23	3.3	4.1	3.5
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	8	6	5	3.7	2.8	2.3
Luton	20	18	22	6.3	5.6	6.6
Mid Essex	15	13	15	3.8	3.2	3.7
Norfolk	31	35	41	4.3	4.9	5.5

Infant deaths: numbers and rates by primary care organisation[1] in England, 2004 to 2006

Area of residence	Infant deaths: Numbers			Infant deaths: Rate per 1,000 live births[2]		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
North East Essex	15	15	14	4.9	4.9	4.3
Peterborough	7	17	17	2.9	7.0	6.5
South East Essex	14	12	16	3.9	3.4	4.2
South West Essex	20	15	25	4.0	2.9	4.9
Suffolk	38	20	20	5.9	3.2	3.1
West Essex	10	11	12	3.1	3.3	3.5
West Hertfordshire	25	25	17	3.8	3.8	2.4
London GOR						
Barking and Dagenham	18	11	15	6.5	3.7	4.7
Barnet	15	32	14	3.8	6.8	2.9
Bexley	14	13	12	5.2	4.8	4.1
Brent Teaching	20	22	31	4.6	4.9	6.6
Bromley	18	10	13	5.0	2.7	3.5
Camden	20	14	11	6.6	4.7	3.7
City and Hackney Teaching	15	24	20	3.4	5.4	4.3
Croydon	20	37	30	4.1	7.9	6.0
Ealing	17	21	23	3.6	4.3	4.5
Enfield	23	30	33	5.4	6.7	7.3
Greenwich Teaching	25	15	20	6.7	3.8	4.7
Hammersmith and Fulham	9	10	12	3.4	3.7	4.3
Haringey Teaching	30	31	26	7.5	7.7	6.3
Harrow	17	28	14	5.9	9.7	4.8
Havering	10	5	14	3.9	2.0	5.8
Hillingdon	12	14	15	3.5	4.0	4.1
Hounslow	20	23	12	5.5	6.3	3.1
Islington	19	16	13	7.1	5.9	4.6
Kensington and Chelsea	4	8	3	1.6	3.6	1.3
Kingston	11	6	7	5.4	3.0	3.4
Lambeth	27	29	28	5.7	6.1	5.7
Lewisham	17	22	22	4.2	5.1	4.8
Newham	45	24	40	8.7	4.5	7.2
Redbridge	20	15	22	5.7	4.2	5.5
Richmond and Twickenham	5	8	5	1.9	3.1	1.8
Southwark	33	19	32	7.4	4.0	6.7
Sutton and Merton	27	23	27	5.3	4.4	4.9
Tower Hamlets	16	17	17	3.9	4.3	4.1
Waltham Forest	31	18	29	7.8	4.5	6.9
Wandsworth	14	27	18	3.2	5.9	3.6
Westminster	16	15	15	5.9	5.2	5.2
South East GOR						
Berkshire East	14	22	29	2.7	4.1	5.2

Infant deaths: numbers and rates by primary care organisation[1] in England, 2004 to 2006

Area of residence	Infant deaths: Numbers			Infant deaths: Rate per 1,000 live births[2]		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Berkshire West	24	28	28	4.3	5.0	4.8
Brighton and Hove City	21	19	20	7.2	6.2	6.5
Buckinghamshire	23	22	21	3.9	3.9	3.5
East Sussex Downs and Weald	13	6	18	4.1	1.9	5.7
Eastern and Coastal Kent	32	43	39	4.2	5.5	4.8
Hampshire	44	40	45	3.2	3.0	3.2
Hastings and Rother	10	7	11	6.0	4.2	6.0
Isle of Wight National Health Service	5	0	3	4.2	0.0	2.3
Medway	23	10	13	7.3	3.2	4.0
Milton Keynes	15	17	20	4.6	5.2	5.8
Oxfordshire	32	32	33	4.4	4.4	4.3
Portsmouth City Teaching	12	10	8	5.2	4.3	3.2
Southampton City	5	14	14	1.9	5.0	4.8
Surrey	34	40	40	2.8	3.3	3.1
West Kent	25	31	27	3.3	4.0	3.3
West Sussex	32	26	39	3.9	3.2	4.6
South West GOR						
Bath and North East Somerset	9	3	10	5.5	1.8	5.6
Bournemouth and Poole	14	17	16	4.4	5.5	4.7
Bristol	28	27	25	5.3	5.0	4.4
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	29	22	22	6.1	4.6	4.3
Devon	34	34	28	5.1	5.1	4.1
Dorset	14	18	14	4.1	5.2	4.0
Gloucestershire	28	29	25	4.7	4.9	4.0
North Somerset	7	5	8	3.4	2.5	3.8
Plymouth Teaching	14	15	12	5.0	5.3	4.0
Somerset	23	22	21	4.5	4.3	4.0
South Gloucestershire	13	8	10	4.5	2.7	3.4
Swindon	17	11	10	6.8	4.3	3.8
Torbay	5	9	5	3.9	6.8	3.9
Wiltshire	13	18	16	2.7	3.7	3.2

[1] Primary care organisation boundaries as of 2008
[2] Based on numbers of live births and deaths registered in each year to residents of each primary care organisation

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193848]

Angela Eagle: The following Departments made payments to Ipsos MORI in the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Department	Purpose of expenditure	2005-06	£000 2006-07
HMRC	Qualitative research, evaluations and surveys	1,137	1,004
NS and I	Monthly Customer Satisfaction Survey, subscriptions to the Personal Finance Journalist Survey and Corporate Image Survey, usability research on parts of the NS and I website, and running bespoke Omnibus questions used in a media campaign	469	52
ONS	Website surveys	21	28

Life Expectancy: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of average life expectancy for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) Castle Point constituency and (ii) Essex in (A) 1997 and (B) at the latest date for which figures are available. [197640]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of average life expectancy for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) Castle Point constituency and (ii) Essex in (A) 1997 and (B) the latest period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (197640)

Period life expectancies at birth for *(a)* males and *(b)* females for all local authority districts and unitary authorities in England and Wales, for rolling three-year periods from 1991-93 to 2004-06, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Productasp?vInk=8841

Life expectancy figures at parliamentary constituency and county level are not readily available.

Life Expectancy: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average life expectancy is for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) Chorley and (ii) Lancashire; and what it was in 1997. [197325]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average life expectancy is for (a) men and (b) women in (i) Chorley and (ii) Lancashire; and what it was in 1997. I am replying in her absence. (197325)

Period life expectancy at birth for (a) males and (b) females for all local authority districts and unitary authorities in England and Wales, for rolling three-year periods from 1991-93 to 2004-06, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vInk=8841

Life expectancy figures at county level are not readily available.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 18 February 2008, from the hon. Member for Walsall North, regarding a constituent, ref: 4/31644/2008. [197933]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to my hon. Friend.

Mortgages

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his estimate is of the number of people in mortgage arrears by *(a)* up to three months, *(b)* three to six months, *(c)* six to nine months and *(d)* nine to 12 months in each year since 1990, broken down by region; and what his estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer of paying 100 per cent. income support mortgage interest to all those eligible, under 60 years of age, who took out their mortage (i) before 2 October 1995 and (ii) after 2 October 1995 after eight weeks of the claim; [196542]

(2) what his estimate is of the cost to the Exchequer of paying 100 per cent. income support mortgage interest to all those eligible, under 60 years of age, who took out their mortage after 2nd October 1995 after *(a)* 12, *(b)* 14, *(c)* 16, *(d)* 18, *(e)* 20, *(f)* 22, *(g)* 24, *(h)* 26, *(i)* 28, *(j)* 30, *(k)* 32, *(l)* 34 and *(m)* 36 weeks of the claim; [196543]

(3) what recent estimate he has made of the average rate of interest charged on mortgages in the UK; [196760]

(4) what recent estimate he has made of the number of new mortgages sold in the UK worth *(a)* 0 to 10 per cent., *(b)* 11 to 20 per cent., *(c)* 21 to 30 per cent., *(d)* 31 to 40 per cent., *(e)* 41 to 50 per cent., *(f)* 51 to 60 per cent., *(g)* 61 to 70 per cent., *(h)* 71 to 80 per cent., *(i)* 81 to 90 per cent. and *(j)* more than 100 per cent. of the value of the property in each year since 1990, broken down by region. [196762]

Angela Eagle: According to figures published by the Bank of England, the average mortgage rate in January 2008 for existing mortgages was 5.88 per cent. and for new mortgages was 5.92 per cent.

The Government do not hold the other figures requested. The Council of Mortgage Lenders publishes a range of statistics on UK housing and mortgage markets, including the number of mortgages in arrears and the median loan to value ratio of loans for home purchase, available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

Northern Rock: Consultants

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has paid to external advisers for advice on Northern Rock in 2007-08; and how much has been paid to each such adviser. [175532]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid by his Department for legal advice on Northern Rock. [188855]

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fees have been paid by his Department for advice on Northern Rock to *(a)* Goldman Sachs and *(b)* Slaughter and May. [175652]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 7 January 2008]:* As the Chancellor informed the chairs of the Treasury Committee and Public Accounts Committee on 11 October 2007, Northern Rock has indemnified the Treasury in respect of certain costs and expenses, including adviser costs. Slaughter and May have provided legal advice outside the scope of the indemnity. Fees of £139,000 have so far been paid for this advice.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish Goldman Sachs' assessment of his Department's plan to guarantee bonds for Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [178709]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 30 January 2008]:* As the Chancellor of the Exchequer informed Parliament on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 178, the Government will consider when and how the right information in relation to the Northern Rock situation should be put in the public domain.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timescale has been identified for the repayment of loans advanced to Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [180033]

Angela Eagle: As set out in a written statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to Parliament on 18 March, one of the strategic priorities for Northern Rock is progressive repayment of the Bank of England loan and release of the Government guarantees over the next three to four years.

Richard Ottaway: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Richard Branson's consortium for Northern Rock includes the Far Eastern Investment Corporation. [185712]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1048.

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government plan to underwrite the repayment of Northern Rock's entire subordinated debt. [187829]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 21 February 2008]:* The Government have no plans to underwrite Northern Rock's subordinated debt. Holders of tier 1 and tier 2 capital instruments therefore remain at risk of loss ahead of the Bank of England and HM Treasury as providers of secured financial support to the company.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of the advice provided to his Department by Goldman Sachs on Northern Rock; and if he will make a statement. [188250]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid by his Department to Goldman Sachs for its advice on Northern Rock. [188856]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* As the Chancellor informed the chairs of the Treasury Committee and Public Accounts Committee on 11 October 2007, Northern Rock has indemnified the Treasury in respect of certain costs and expenses, including advisor costs.

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government plan to dispose of Northern Rock's Guernsey-based subsidiary, Northern Rock Guernsey Ltd., following nationalisation. [189887]

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what corporate social responsibility standards Northern Rock will adopt while in temporary public ownership. [190549]

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what consideration he has given to the future of Northern Rock's Denmark subsidiary, Northern Rock Bank Danmark filial; and if he will make a statement; [190418]

(2) what his policy is on Northern Rock's approach to foreign exchange risk resulting from its deposits denominated in Danish Kroner; [190420]

(3) what discussions he has had with management at Northern Rock bank on the operation of the bank's Guernsey subsidiary. [194566]

Angela Eagle: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles.

The company is developing a full business plan, and will submit the final business plan to HM Treasury for approval by the end of March.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Northern Rock's Denmark subsidiary, Northern Rock Bank Danmark filial is subject to orders made under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008. [190417]

Angela Eagle: Northern Rock's business in Denmark operated as a branch. This branch was a legal part of Northern Rock plc and was therefore subject to the Transfer Order made under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008 along with the rest of the company. This means that the branch was also taken into a period of temporary public ownership as part of Northern Rock plc with effect from 22 February 2008.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many depositors there are at Northern Rock Bank Danmark filial; and what the value of its assets is. [190419]

Angela Eagle: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's

management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* dates of and *(b)* attendance at meetings between his Department and Goldman Sachs on the temporary public ownership of Northern Rock has been. [192983]

Angela Eagle: There were frequent meetings with our advisers throughout the period leading up to the decision to take Northern Rock into a period of temporary public ownership.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he estimates his Department will pay to *(a)* lawyers and *(b)* bankers for advice concerning Northern Rock. [194241]

Angela Eagle: As the Chancellor informed the chairs of the Treasury Committee and Public Accounts Committee on 11 October 2007, Northern Rock has indemnified the Treasury in respect of certain costs and expenses, including advisor costs. Slaughter and May has provided legal advice outside the scope of the indemnity. Fees of £139,000 have so far been paid for this advice.

Northern Rock: Charitable Donations

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* charitable and *(b)* other donations had been committed by Northern Rock and remained unpaid at the entry into force of the Northern Rock plc Transfer Order 2008; and what plans the Board of Northern Rock has to honour such commitments. [195953]

Angela Eagle: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their annual report and accounts.

The company is developing a full business plan, and will submit the final business plan to HM Treasury for approval by the end of March.

As the Chancellor of Exchequer informed the House, the Northern Rock Foundation will be guaranteed a minimum income of £15 million per year in 2008, 2009 and 2010, and this will be paid directly by Northern Rock. The board of the company has also been asked to identify a viable long-term future for the foundation.

Northern Rock: Guernsey

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what value of deposits in Northern Rock Bank (Guernsey) are from *(a)* Egypt, *(b)* South Africa and *(c)* Zimbabwe. [194569]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their annual report and accounts.

Northern Rock: Nationalisation

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of nationalisation of Northern Rock on holders of Northern Rock's callable debt securities. [188188]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* The Government have assessed the likely effect of temporary public ownership of Northern Rock on holders all of Northern Rock's debt securities. Northern Rock has no public debt securities which are callable by holders in the ordinary course.

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he first received a draft of the Banking (Special Provisions) Bill; [188406]

(2) when HM Treasury first consulted *(a)* the Bank of England and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority on the proposals for the Banking (Special Provisions) Bill; what subsequent consultations took place; on what dates consultations took place; and when each institution was first sent a draft of the Bill; [188408]

(3) on what date HM Treasury officials commissioned drafting of the Banking (Special Provisions) Bill from Parliamentary Counsel. [188409]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 22 February 2008]:* Treasury officials undertook a range of contingency planning work in response to the events of September 2007 concerning Northern Rock, which included the development of possible legislative options. The Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority were involved in that work, including preparation of contingency legislation, and the Chancellor was kept informed throughout.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the extent and scope of his responsibilities and accountability to Parliament in relation to the activity of Northern Rock once the team responsible for day-to-day management of the bank under temporary public ownership of the bank is in place; what guidance he has issued to the Northern Rock management team on responding to correspondence from hon. Members; and on what matters relating to the policy, administration and operations of Northern Rock he will *(a)* answer parliamentary questions and *(b)* refer such questions to the Chief Executive of Northern Rock to respond (i) by a letter published in an answer in the *Official Report* and (ii) directly to hon. Members. [190568]

Angela Eagle: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its board at arm's length from Government on commercial principles.

As the Chancellor said in a statement to Parliament on 18 February 2008, the framework agreement on the relationship between the Government and Northern Rock will be published shortly.

Operation Airbridge

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget is for Operation *(a)* Airbridge and *(b)* Wentbridge. [197458]

Jane Kennedy: The current budget for Operation Airbridge, which is solely funded by HM Revenue and Customs, is £250,000 per year. The current budget for Operation Westbridge, which is jointly funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office is also £250,000. Neither budget includes the cost of the salaries of the staff deployed overseas, or support staff in the UK.

Personal Care Services

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* hairdressers and *(b)* beauty salons in England. [197588]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question, asking what estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* hairdressers and *(b)* beauty salons in England. I am replying in her absence. (197588)

The Office for National Statistics publishes estimates of numbers of enterprises that are VAT traders based on the UK Standard Industrial Classification (2003 revision), which combines hairdressers and beauty salons within a single heading (9302: Hairdressing and other beauty treatment). Estimates are not available separately for hairdressers and beauty salons.

The total number of enterprises in England in 2007 that were VAT traders and classified to hairdressing and beauty treatment was 11,780. Enterprises not registered for VAT are excluded from this estimate.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to paragraph 4.16 in the Budget document, Ending child poverty: everybody's business, what *(a)* high and *(b)* low estimates have been made for the financial value of the unemployment trap; and in what circumstances these transpire. [197766]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has not undertaken any work to estimate the financial value of the 'unemployment trap'. This is because the precise point at which an individual feels that moving into work is worthwhile will depend on their circumstances and preferences, including their attitude to claiming benefits and the nature of the job itself. The same gain to work may therefore be sufficient to encourage one individual into work where another would choose to remain out of work.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total annual cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies were in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189755]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1879W by the former Financial Secretary (John Healey).

The administration costs of the Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce are published in the annual report and accounts each year, copies of which are available in the Library and at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/about_index.cfm

The Government Actuary's Department does not have a Press Office. Figures for HM Revenue and Customs, National Savings and Investments and the Office for National Statistics figures are given as follows:

			£000
	HMRC	*NS and I*	*ONS*
2001-02	3,870		663
2002-03	3,402	943	635
2003-04	2,526	801	580
2004-05	1,674	881	600
2005-06	2,022	1,080	556
2006-07	2,602	960	512

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many private finance initiative projects have included *(a)* a leisure component and *(b)* a library. [196756]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) had been allocated private finance initiative (PFI) credits in previous comprehensive spending reviews to invest in our sectors. To this end, DCMS support *(a)* 11 leisure centre projects and *(b)* seven library projects.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the performance of private finance initiative projects that have included a leisure component. [196757]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has not made an assessment of the performance of private finance initiative (PFI) leisure centre projects that it has awarded credits. The local authorities, who are awarded the PFI credits, will manage and assess individual project performance.

Public Expenditure

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the needs assessment that preceded the introduction of the Barnett formula that the Prime Minister referred to in his oral answer to the hon. Member for Manchester, Blackley (Graham Stringer) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 921. [196522]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* The Treasury published in December 1979 a "Needs Assessment Study—Report", an inter-departmental study co-ordinated by HM Treasury on the relative public expenditure needs in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. A copy is being deposited in the Library. The system for determining changes in public spending by the devolved administrations is set out in the Statement of Funding Policy published by the Treasury in October 2007.

Research and Development Tax Credit: Video Games

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK video games development companies received the research and development tax credit in each year since its inception. [196975]

Angela Eagle: Information on claims for R and D tax credits by UK video games developers is not available because the data are broken down by industry sector using the UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (SIC), and the computer and video games industry is not identified as a separate sector in this classification.

However, a breakdown is available for the National Statistics published on the total number of claims made for R and D tax credits and total cost of support claimed. This shows that companies in the computer and related services sector accounted for over a fifth of the total 6,180 claims made for R and D tax credits in 2005-06. While many companies involved in the computer and video games industry may appear in this industry sector, some may have other classifications.

Revenue and Customs: Appeals

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of appeals against seizure of excise goods by HM Revenue and Custom officers resulted in the restoration of goods to importers in the most recent period for which figures are available. [196986]

Jane Kennedy: Between 1 April 2007 and 31 January 2008 HMRC made a total of 88,015 seizures.

Appeals against the legality of these seizures are heard by magistrates courts and information on the outcome of these appeals could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Appeals against refusals to restore goods are initially made to HMRC's impartial reviewing officers. During this period 1,883 appeals were received and 237 were successful, around 0.27 per cent. of all seizures made.

Revenue and Customs: Boats

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many boats HM Revenue and Customs has; how much each cost to *(a)* purchase and *(b)* run in 2007-08; and what they are used for. [197119]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs has five offshore vessels, each costing an average of £4.5 million when first built. The overall budget for the maritime operation is £2.5 million per year. The primary role of these vessels is to prevent smuggling by ships and pleasure craft.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1017W, on Revenue and Customs: data protection, how many hours per week data guardians are expected to spend on their work in that role. [197453]

Jane Kennedy: The time required to be spent on the data guardian role varies in line with the differing data handling and processing requirements of each HMRC business unit.

Schools: Uniforms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 371W, on VAT: uniforms, what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the introduction of a reduced VAT rate for those items of school uniform that are not already VAT zero-rated. [197916]

Angela Eagle: The Government have not recently discussed this issue with European counterparts. A new legislative proposal on reduced VAT rates, and further EU discussions of them, are expected later this year.

Smuggling: Fuels

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of revenue lost due to fuel smuggling into Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [197915]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the revenue lost through the illegal consumption of diesel and petrol in Northern Ireland are not available because it is not yet possible to split revenue losses between those resulting from the illicit market and those from legitimate cross-border shopping. However, estimates of the total non-UK duty paid consumption are available, and are reported in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007' which is published alongside the PBR and can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Unemployment: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the *(a)* male and *(b)* female population of each London borough were (i) unemployed and (ii) economically inactive in each year since 2000. [196514]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson dated 31 March 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your parliamentary question on the percentage of the *(a)* male and (b) female population of each London borough who were (i) unemployed and (ii) economically inactive in each year since 2000. I am replying in her absence. (196514)

The Office for National Statistics compiles estimates of unemployment and inactivity for local areas for women and men from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Tables 1 and 2 attached, show the percentage of males and females aged 16 and over, resident in each London borough, who were unemployed. Tables 3 and 4 attached, show the percentage of males and females, of working age, resident in each London borough who was economically inactive. Estimates are obtained from the annual LFS for each 12 month period from 2001 to 2004. For time series comparisons, the APS estimates from 2005 to 2007 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in March, but the most recently released estimates are also included, which cover the 12 month period ending in June 2007.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.

Table 1: Percentage of males aged 16 and over resident in each London borough who were unemployed in each year since 2000

Percentage

London borough	For 12 months ending							
	[1]February 01	[1]February 02	[1]February 03	[1]February 04	[2]March 05	[2]March 05	[2]March 06	[2]March 07
Barking and Dagenham	[3]	[3]	11	7	10	11	7	7
Barnet	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	6	7	6	6
Bexley	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	5	6	5
Brent	10	11	10	7	11	9	12	11
Bromley	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	5	3	5	5
Camden	[3]	[3]	10	9	6	7	8	7
City of London	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Croydon	[3]	7	8	8	5	7	9	9
Ealing	8	8	7	5	5	11	8	9
Enfield	[3]	8	[3]	6	4	11	4	3
Greenwich	10	10	10	10	9	10	11	12
Hackney	20	15	12	12	13	13	11	14
Hammersmith and Fulham	[3]	[3]	9	10	11	10	9	11
Haringey	15	11	11	9	12	7	7	6
Harrow	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	8	8	6	5
Havering	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	4	6	3	3
Hillingdon	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	4	12	8	7
Hounslow	[3]	[3]	[3]	7	10	8	7	7
Islington	[3]	9	[3]	9	8	9	9	11
Kensington and Chelsea	[3]	[3]	[3]	7	7	6	6	6
Kingston-upon-Thames	[3]	[3]	[3]	2	6	4	3	1
Lambeth	9	8	13	8	10	9	8	9
Lewisham	[3]	13	14	11	8	8	9	9
Merton	[3]	[3]	[3]	7	7	7	8	8
Newham	13	11	14	10	9	9	10	8
Redbridge	9	[3]	8	6	5	6	8	7
Richmond-upon-Thames	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	4	2	4	5
Southwark	12	14	12	14	9	11	9	8
Sutton	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	4	2	4	4
Tower Hamlets	13	14	13	15	14	13	13	15
Waltham Forest	[3]	[3]	[3]	9	10	10	6	7
Wandsworth	[3]	7	7	7	3	8	7	5
Westminster, City of	10	7	7	9	7	12	6	7

1. Figures provided by the Annual Labour Force Survey.
2. Figures provided by the Annual Population Survey.
3. These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable or disclosive.

Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey national.

Table 2: Percentage of females aged 16 and over resident in each London borough who were unemployed in each year since 2000

Percentage

London borough	For 12 months ending							
	[1]February 01	[1]February 02	[1]February 03	[1]February 04	[2]March 05	[2]March 06	[2]March 07	[2]June 07
Barking and Dagenham	[3]	[3]	[3]	10	9	7	11	10
Barnet	[3]	[3]	[3]	6	6	6	6	6
Bexley	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	4	3	6	6
Brent	[3]	[3]	11	8	5	7	9	10
Bromley	[3]	[3]	3	6	5	4	4	4
Camden	[3]	[3]	7	8	7	8	6	7
City of London	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Croydon	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	8	8	6	6
Ealing	[3]	[3]	[3]	6	6	9	7	7
Enfield	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	6	8	5	5
Greenwich	[3]	[3]	9	8	7	6	6	5
Hackney	12	[3]	[3]	6	9	7	13	11
Hammersmith and Fulham	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	7	6	8	8
Haringey	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	8	11	7	6
Harrow	[3]	[3]	[3]	13	6	6	9	9
Havering	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	3	7	2	3
Hillingdon	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	3	7	6	4
Hounslow	[3]	[3]	[3]	5	7	9	9	9

Table 2: Percentage of females aged 16 and over resident in each London borough who were unemployed in each year since 2000

Percentage

	For 12 months ending							
London borough	[1]*February 01*	[1]*February 02*	[1]*February 03*	[1]*February 04*	[2]*March 05*	[2]*March 06*	[2]*March 07*	[2]*June 07*
Islington	[3]	10	[3]	7	7	5	7	8
Kensington and Chelsea	[3]	[3]	[3]	7	4	8	8	9
Kingston-upon-Thames	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	4	9	4	4
Lambeth	11	[3]	[3]	10	11	9	10	12
Lewisham	[3]	[3]	[3]	9	8	7	10	9
Merton	[3]	[3]	[3]	11	5	11	5	5
Newham	16	[3]	10	8	11	8	19	17
Redbridge	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	5	3	6	6
Richmond-upon-Thames	[3]	[3]	[3]	3	6	5	3	3
Southwark	13	[3]	[3]	13	14	5	8	9
Sutton	[3]	[3]	[3]	4	6	4	8	7
Tower Hamlets	[3]	[3]	13	8	11	13	14	15
Waltham Forest	[3]	[3]	[3]	8	7	5	7	8
Wandsworth	[3]	5	7	4	5	6	8	5
Westminster, City of	[3]	[3]	[3]	7	9	9	7	9

[1]. Figures provided by the Annual Labour Force Survey.
[2]. Figures provided by the Annual Population Survey.
[3]. These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable or disclosive.
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey.

Table 3: Percentage of males of working age resident in each London borough who were economically inactive in each year since 2000

Percentage

	For 12 months ending							
London borough	[1]*February 01*	[1]*February 02*	[1]*February 03*	[1]*February 04*	[2]*March 05*	[2]*March 06*	[2]*March 07*	[2]*June 07*
Barking and Dagenham	28	18	19	20	25	24	20	20
Barnet	13	11	11	16	17	19	17	17
Bexley	16	15	13	16	15	15	14	16
Brent	24	19	22	23	21	17	16	15
Bromley	13	13	14	15	13	14	10	11
Camden	21	19	21	16	26	24	23	23
City of London	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Croydon	13	15	11	13	14	14	17	16
Ealing	24	17	22	18	15	19	14	16
Enfield	18	17	17	16	23	16	17	19
Greenwich	12	17	21	19	20	18	19	18
Hackney	29	28	25	24	27	32	25	24
Hammersmith and Fulham	18	15	16	13	16	21	18	17
Haringey	21	26	26	32	25	21	20	21
Harrow	11	18	17	18	13	18	17	14
Havering	13	14	11	12	16	14	16	15
Hillingdon	15	12	16	15	15	13	19	18
Hounslow	14	17	20	18	18	12	13	16
Islington	26	20	24	23	22	28	21	20
Kensington and Chelsea	16	19	21	18	24	16	23	22
Kingston-upon-Thames	12	13	13	13	18	20	14	15
Lambeth	19	20	19	19	19	24	17	17
Lewisham	16	21	16	22	14	19	20	21
Merton	17	13	12	9	11	17	14	12
Newham	31	30	30	34	26	26	21	24
Redbridge	22	18	17	17	18	21	18	19
Richmond-upon-Thames	[3]	11	11	16	19	17	14	13
Southwark	18	21	26	23	24	21	20	21
Sutton	[3]	9	11	14	15	12	11	12
Tower Hamlets	27	27	26	25	27	25	25	25
Waltham Forest	21	22	19	22	20	19	25	22

Table 3: Percentage of males of working age resident in each London borough who were economically inactive in each year since 2000

Percentage

London borough	For 12 months ending							
	[1]February 01	[1]February 02	[1]February 03	[1]February 04	[2]March 05	[2]March 06	[2]March 07	[2]June 07
Wandsworth	13	9	11	12	15	18	17	16
Westminster, City of	20	22	21	21	22	23	28	27

[1] Figures provided by the Annual Labour Force Survey.
[2] Figures provided by the Annual Population Survey.
[3] These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable or disclosive.
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey.

Table 4: Percentage of females of working age resident in each London borough who were economically inactive in each year since 2000

Percentage

London borough	For 12 months ending							
	[1]February 01	[1]February 02	[1]February 03	[1]February 04	[2]March 05	[2]March 06	[2]March 07	[2]June 07
Barking and Dagenham	39	38	37	39	37	39	36	37
Barnet	30	31	31	35	34	27	32	30
Bexley	26	28	27	23	22	21	26	29
Brent	37	33	38	37	38	35	38	35
Bromley	22	25	31	26	20	20	25	24
Camden	36	37	34	33	36	40	35	34
City of London	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Croydon	28	25	27	27	24	26	27	23
Ealing	37	37	30	30	33	34	33	36
Enfield	34	36	36	33	36	34	33	38
Greenwich	31	33	36	37	36	32	29	32
Hackney	41	40	41	47	48	49	41	39
Hammersmith and Fulham	32	30	32	29	33	27	30	30
Haringey	46	42	35	45	37	35	32	32
Harrow	25	29	31	29	30	27	27	28
Havering	24	25	24	22	26	24	26	24
Hillingdon	29	29	24	31	25	27	30	33
Hounslow	28	26	30	30	31	28	30	28
Islington	40	37	38	35	35	39	34	33
Kensington and Chelsea	36	42	41	37	43	40	45	41
Kingston-upon-Thames	30	25	23	25	25	21	27	26
Lambeth	25	29	29	36	32	37	39	35
Lewisham	29	32	29	26	30	32	26	27
Merton	27	26	21	23	30	29	23	24
Newham	52	49	51	51	54	45	46	45
Redbridge	32	29	31	33	30	38	35	37
Richmond-upon-Thames	20	23	20	29	30	25	24	26
Southwark	42	34	31	29	31	42	39	38
Sutton	19	18	22	26	20	23	24	22
Tower Hamlets	52	47	53	49	49	52	49	51
Waltham Forest	28	31	34	38	40	33	30	31
Wandsworth	21	22	27	27	27	28	26	27
Westminster, City of	38	38	42	43	39	38	38	41

[1] Figures provided by the Annual Labour Force Survey.
[2] Figures provided by the Annual Population Survey.
[3] These figures are suppressed as statistically unreliable or disclosive.
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey.

VAT: Fraud

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on VAT: fraud, which paragraph of the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan 2008 provides an assessment of the potential contribution of the identity cards scheme to the tackling of missing trader intra-community fraud. [197096]

Jane Kennedy: The aim of the 2008 plan is to provide individuals with opportunities to protect themselves, including from identity fraud, and to access services more easily. It does not assess specifically the extent to which identity cards introduced on the proposed voluntary basis might protect the Government against missing trader intra-community fraud.

Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1490W, on voluntary work, what special leave entitlement is available to staff to take time off to volunteer. [195917]

Angela Eagle: Staff in HM Treasury may be allowed to take one day's paid special leave in any leave year and if staff wish to extend this, they can trade unused days with colleagues up to a maximum of five days per staff member per leave year.

In addition to this entitlement, there is also a category of special paid leave of up to 10 days per leave year for activities which are a "valuable public service or which promote the general good of the Treasury".

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the Parliamentary Ombudsman's recommendations in *(a)* Tax Credits: Putting things right and *(b)* Tax Credits: Getting it wrong have been accepted; when each of those was implemented; and which (A) were rejected and (B) are under consideration. [194471]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 402-04W. All the ombudsman's recommendations were accepted. Details are given in my letter to the parliamentary and health service ombudsman of 29 January 2008 setting out the Government's response to her 2007 report on tax credits which is deposited in the Library of the House.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer at which locations staff operating the tax credit system are based; and how many staff worked at each site in each financial year since April 2003. [194479]

Jane Kennedy: Staff from a range of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) business areas work on tax credits.

It is not possible to isolate the numbers of staff deployed to tax credits work at each HMRC site in each year since April 2003.

The tax credit office operates from sites in Preston, Liverpool, Belfast, Glasgow, Washington and Newcastle.

Welfare Tax Credits: Compensation

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs pays compensation to tax credit claimants; and how the amount of compensation is determined; [194482]

(2) how many compensation payments have been made by HM Revenue and Customs to tax credit claimants for problems with their awards in each year since April 2003; what the sum of payments in each quarter was; and how many families have received *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* more than three compensation payments. [194481]

Jane Kennedy: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet C/FS 'Complaints and Putting Things Right' which is available at www.hmrc.gov.uk/factsheets/complaints-factsheet.pdf. The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of its mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused by those mistakes and delays. The value of each payment is decided according to individual circumstances.

For the number and value of such payments made to tax credit customers I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2100-01W. The updated figures for 2007-08 to the end of February are:

	2007-08
Value (£ million)	0.414
Number	9,374

Information on the number of such payments made to each family is not available in that level of detail requested.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax credit has been overpaid as a result of the claimant not providing an annual return to HM Revenue and Customs in each year since the commencement of tax credits; and how many people were overpaid. [197326]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, HMRC does produce estimates of the number of overpaid terminated awards, which will include those that were terminated due to claimants not returning their annual declaration form by the specified date. This information for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 is available in the main aggregates table in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments 2005-06". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average tax credit overpayment was in each year since 2003. [197977]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the number and amount of tax credit over and under paid awards in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are produced in the Main Aggregates Table in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments 2005-06". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Information for over and under payments in 2006-07 will not be available until May 2008.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether academies will be included in the new funding regime announced in Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver; and if he will make a statement. [196427]

Jim Knight: Academies will continue to be funded directly by the DCSF on the basis of funding agreements. Like other providers, they will represent their interests and contribute expertise through local 14-19 Partnerships. We know for example that from September 2008, 54 per cent. of academies will be offering diplomas and from September 2009, 75 per cent. of academies will be offering diplomas. We expect academies to participate fully in these new arrangements. But where an individual academy is unable to agree with the local authority what its provision should be, the Secretary of State retains the right to fund the number of academy places which he deems to be appropriate, having first consulted the relevant local authorities. The academies will receive their funding directly from the DCSF in line with the agreed commissioning plan.

Apprentices: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many apprenticeships were *(a)* available and *(b)* taken up in the London borough of Enfield in each of the last five years. [196793]

Jim Knight: Figures on the number of places available are not collected centrally.

Figures for those starting Apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR) and are available at

http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/partners/frameworks/apprenticeshipsdata

Following the Machinery of Government announcements, the LSC is working to update its systems so that data by local authority area are readily available. Residence-based data at a local authority level are something that will be built into reporting systems, however historic data based upon the contracting local LSG area are provided in response to this question.

The following table shows the starts on apprenticeships and in advanced apprenticeships in the London North LSC for each of the last 5 years for which data are available (based on home post code of the learner).

	Advanced Apprenticeships	*Apprenticeships*
2002-03	350	480
2003-04	440	610
2004-05	400	700
2005-06	670	400
2006-07	490	530

Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individualised Learned Record (ILR). Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to *(a)* receive and *(b)* approve the first Building Schools for the Future proposal for (i) Barnet, (ii) Bexley, (iii) Birmingham, (iv) Bournemouth, (v) Bromley, (vi) Buckinghamshire, (vii) Calderdale, (viii) Cumbria, (ix) Devon, (x) Enfield, (xi) Essex, (xii) Gloucestershire, (xiii) Kent, (xiv) Kingston, (xv) Kirklees, (xvi) Lancashire, (xvii) Lincolnshire, (xviii) Liverpool, (xix) Medway, (xx) North Yorkshire, (xxi) Poole, (xxii) Plymouth, (xxiii) Reading, (xxiv) Redbridge, (xxv) Slough, (xxvi) Southend, (xxvii) Stoke-on-Trent, (xxviii) Sutton, (xxix) Torbay, (xxx) Trafford, (xxxi) Walsall, (xxxii) Warwickshire, (xxxiii) Wiltshire, (xxxiv) Wirral, (xxxv) Wolverhampton and (xxxvi) the Wrekin local authority. [195595]

Jim Knight: In 2004, after wide consultation, we invited all authorities to submit expressions of interest for inclusion in the Building Schools for the Future programme. These included how their schools would be grouped into projects. Additionally, those authorities which wished early prioritisation were invited to provide evidence of their readiness to deliver the programme.

All projects were prioritised on the average educational and social need of the schools in them. For pathfinders and wave one authorities, we also appraised their readiness to deliver. All authorities were given an indication of where their projects are prioritised in the overall programme in early 2005. This information is available in the House Libraries.

We have now launched projects in the first six waves of the programme. In total, these include 90 projects in 72 authorities. These projects are being developed through several stages of development and scrutiny with the assistance of Partnerships for Schools, 4ps, the Sorrell Foundation and CABE, other bodies and the Department.

Bournemouth and Poole, Essex, Kirklees, Telford and Wrekin and Wolverhampton are now developing their proposals prior to submitting an outline business case.

Birmingham and Kent have had outline business cases agreed and are in procurement for their first projects.

Stoke-on-Trent is currently reviewing its proposals after the Council's Children and Young People's Services were placed under Government intervention in October 2006.

Lancashire and Liverpool have provided robust final business cases, and have signed procurement contracts and schools in their projects are now being built.

Details of the progress of projects in waves one to five can now be found on the Partnerships for Schools website, at: www.p4s.org.uk and following the 'Programme' and then 'Progress' links.

The following authorities are prioritised in waves seven to 15 of the programme and have not yet entered it: Barnet, Bexley, Bromley, Buckinghamshire, Calderdale, Cumbria, Devon, Enfield, Gloucestershire, Kingston upon Thames, Lincolnshire, Medway, North Yorkshire, Plymouth, Reading, Redbridge, Slough, Southend, Sutton, Torbay, Trafford, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, and Wirral. These authorities will be given the opportunity for revising their expressions of interest later this year when we have consulted on management of these later waves of the programme, and detailed prioritisation will follow.

Capita

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1254-5W, on Capita, what the contract compliance process applied

by his Department in monitoring contracts with Capita and its subsidiaries is. [177165]

Kevin Brennan: The contract for the administration of the Teachers' Pension Scheme is managed in accordance with detailed governance arrangements set out in the contract. These include measurement against key performance indicators, service improvement plans and performance related payment. The management of these arrangements is subject to regular audit by internal and external auditors and assessment by the Office of Government Commerce, through its Common Assessment Framework. The same compliance process applies to the Capita contract for National Strategies. In this case there is no payment related to performance because it is difficult to relate the specific contractual outputs directly to the educational outcomes we are trying to achieve.

Children in Care: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 16-year-olds in care obtained *(a)* at least one GCSE at any grade, *(b)* at least one GCSE at grades A* to C, *(c)* five GCSEs at any grade, *(d)* five GCSEs at grades A* to C and *(e)* five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [196882]

Kevin Brennan: Data collected since 2000 and published in 'Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children twelve months to 30 September' show the GCSE performance or equivalents of children who were looked after for at least 12 months. The available information for England is shown in the table.

GCSE performance or equivalents of children who are looked after continuously for at least 12 months in Year 11: 12 months ending 30 September 2000 to 2006, England

	1 GCSE at grade A*-G or a GNVQ		5 A*-C GCSE (or equivalent)		5 A*-G GCSE grades (or equivalent)	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
2000	1,900	49.2	300	7.7	1,400	35.5
2001	2,100	49.6	330	8.0	1,400	33.1
2002	2,300	53.2	320	7.5	1,500	36.3
2003	2,400	52.9	400	8.7	1,700	36.8
2004	2,700	56.1	450	9.4	1,900	39.4
2005	2,900	60.2	510	10.8	1,900	40.7
2006	3,200	63.2	600	11.8	2,100	41.4

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 1,000, and to the nearest 100 if over 1,000.
[2] Expressed as a percentage of all looked after children in Year 11.
Source:
OC2 Survey

We do not collect information about the numbers of looked after children who achieve A*-C GCSE grades in English or mathematics separately. However, these data are available at a local level enabling local authorities to set targets for the attainment of looked after children at key stage 4 which include English and mathematics. These targets are negotiated with the National Strategies and Government offices and form a statutory part of a local authority's local area agreement.

At national level the DCSF is matching data on looked after children to the National Pupil Database (NPD) which provides a wide range of data on the educational attainment of children and young people. From 2009 an initial analysis of looked after children to attainment data along with a range of other data will be available, including English and mathematics at GCSE.

Not enough progress has been made on improving the educational achievement of looked after children (LAC). They often face a wide range of barriers to learning that most children do not experience. However, we are determined to do more and improving the education of LAC is a top priority. It is key to improving their life chances and a successful transition to adulthood.

We have set out our intentions in 'Care Matters: Time for change' and the implementation plan 'Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care' published by the Government with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services, on 26 March 2008.

Children: Armed Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what data his Department holds on the comparative academic performance of children from armed forces families and civilian families. [195291]

Jim Knight: Information on academic performance of children from armed forces families is not yet available.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* childcarers in daycare settings and *(b)* childminders in (i) Basingstoke constituency, (ii) Hampshire and (ii) England were male in each year since 1997. [197482]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that the average proportion of male staff working in full day care settings in England was 2 per cent. In total, there were 2,500 male staff working in full day care settings in England. In 2006, 2 per cent. of childminders working in England were male, approximately 1,200 individuals. Data for each year available are shown in the following table.

Table: Male staff working in full days care settings or as childminders in England

	Full day care		Childminders	
	Average proportion of male staff per setting (percentage)	Total number of male staff	Proportion of childminders (percentage)	Total number of male childminders
1998	..	..	0.5	470
2001	2	1,900	1	400
2003	2	2,000	1	800
2005	2	2,500	2	1,000
2006	2	2,500	2	1,200

Note:
Different definitions of childcare providers were used in the 1998 survey; it is not possible to provide comparable figures on full day care staff for this year.

Data are not available at a local authority level.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female childminders were classified as from socio-economic backgrounds (i) 1 to 3 and (ii) 4 to 8 in each year since 1997; [197483]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female childcarers who work in daycare settings were classified as from socio-economic background (i) 1 to 3 and (ii) 4 to 8 in each year since 1997. [197486]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers survey collects information on the key characteristics of child care and early years provision and the workforce in the different types of settings. However, the socio-economic classification of child minders and carers working in day care settings is not asked in this survey, and is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female childminders were (i) white and (ii) black and minority ethnic persons in each year since 1997; [197484]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female childcarers in daycare settings were (i) white and (ii) black and minority ethnic persons in each year since 1997. [197485]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that 6 per cent. of childminders working in England were from a black and minority ethnic (BME) background, a total of 3,000 individuals. The average proportion of staff from a BME background working in full day care settings in England was 9 per cent. In total, there were 13,000 BME staff working in full day care settings in England.

Data for each year available are shown in the following table.

Table: Ethnicity of staff working in full day care settings or as childminders in England

	2001	2003	2005	2006
Full day care				
Average proportion of BME staff per setting (percentage)	8	8	10	9
Average proportion of staff per setting not from a BME group (percentage)	92	92	90	91
Total number of BME staff	7,500	8,800	13,550	13,000
Total number of staff not from a BME group	86,800	102,300	119,100	130,100
Childminders				
Proportion of BME childminders (percentage)	11	13	7	6
Proportion of childminders not from a BME group (percentage)	89	86	92	93
Total number of BME childminders	8,100	9,500	4,000	3,600
Total number of childminders not from a BME group	64,100	63,100	53,200	53,800

Note:
Full day care figures for 2005 and 2006 on the average proportion of staff per setting not from a BME group and the total number of staff not from a BME group have been estimated using the figures for staff from a BME group and the overall number of paid staff.

Data on the ethnicity of male and female childminders and full day care staff are not available.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to review the work of local Safeguarding Children's boards; and if he will make a statement. [186757]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has already stated its intention to conduct a stocktake of LSGB progress later in 2008. That will allow us to take account of the findings of the joint Chief Inspectors' Report on Safeguarding Children, due in July 2008, alongside other evidence.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent representations he has received from *(a)* the Association of Police Authorities, *(b)* the Crown Prosecution Service, *(c)* the Local Government Association and *(d)* children's charities on strengthening the law to protect children who have been groomed. [191441]

Kevin Brennan: I am not aware of any such recent representations.

Children: Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of 16 years were diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* type of infection. [195450]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of diagnoses of the five main sexually transmitted infections (gonorrhoea, chlamydia, syphilis, genital warts and anogenital herpes) in under 16-year-olds in the last five years by strategic health authority has been placed in the Library.

Citizenship: Curriculum

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Stafford on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 213W, on the curriculum: citizenship, (1) how many one day regional training events *(a)* have taken place and *(b)* are planned to take place in 2008 in order to support the addition of the new strand to citizenship teaching; and how many citizenship teachers he estimates will attend these events; [197554]

(2) who has been appointed national subject lead for citizenship; and how this person plans to promote citizenship. [197550]

Jim Knight: Nine regional events (one per Government office region) have been delivered in 2008 in order to support citizenship teaching. 617 local authority representatives and subject leaders for citizenship attended these events. A follow up event is planned for June 2008, when around 50 subject leaders for citizenship are expected to attend.

A further 234 support opportunities will be delivered by regional subject advisors for citizenship to individual

schools or groups of schools, according to local need. We estimate that a minimum of 700 citizenship teachers and subject leaders will benefit from this support. Finally, on-line support materials are available to all citizenship teachers across the country.

The national subject lead for citizenship is Mr. Pete Pattisson. In order to promote citizenship, Mr. Pattisson has led on the development of the on-line support materials (including video case studies) and on the delivery of the nine regional events for citizenship teachers. Mr. Pattisson acts as the coordinator of the network of regional subject advisors for citizenship and provides a point of contact for all parties interested in the place of citizenship in the new curriculum.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans he has to improve the coverage of citizenship in schools, with particular reference to the coverage of political literacy, as referred to in the National Foundation for Educational Research report Vision versus pragmatism; [197559]

(2) how many teachers teach citizenship in secondary schools; and how many of these are specialists in the subject; [197555]

(3) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney) on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 213W, on the curriculum: citizenship, what steps he plans to take to raise the status of citizenship with head teachers; [197549]

(4) how many schools deliver citizenship courses through discrete classes. [197558]

Jim Knight: We are committed to improving the coverage of citizenship education and the quality of citizenship teaching within the school curriculum. Citizenship has been a statutory national curriculum subject since 2002. The recent review of secondary education provided an opportunity to look at the clarity of teaching requirements for this subject alongside all the other subjects in the national curriculum. The new secondary curriculum for citizenship was published in August 2007 for first teaching from September 2008. We are developing a new, full GCSE and A-level in citizenship studies, in response to demand.

The 2002 Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS) estimated that there were around 9,000 teachers of citizenship in maintained secondary schools, with 6 per cent. of them holding a post A-level qualification in the subject.

Over 200 new specialist citizenship teachers are trained every year through initial teacher training courses (PGCEs) to teach in secondary schools. A programme of continuing professional development (CPD) was launched in 2006, in collaboration with higher education institutions across the country. The five-day course is free for teachers to access. It requires teachers to meet high standards for teaching citizenship in schools, with a particular focus on imparting knowledge and understanding of the subject area. We have made available 600 places a year in 2007-08. We have also funded the Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT), established in 2003, which provides a focus for professional development among teachers and advice, training and support for schools.

Citizenship education makes an important contribution to developing young people's political literacy. It enables them to improve their understanding and develop skills of democratic participation while helping them to appreciate that they have a stake in society. Young people are taught about democratic institutions, processes and the importance of voting. We are keen to encourage active learning so that young people start early to experience democracy in action. We are also working with the Royal Geographical Society and the Historical Association to develop resources and support for schools for a new 'Who Do We Think We Are?' week in schools, which will provide a focus for activity around diversity and identify and offer schools the chance to explore these issues collectively.

DCSF guidance to schools on their new duty to promote to community cohesion (July 2007) highlights the importance of citizenship education and we have reinforced this message to heads through nine regional conferences and a resource pack for schools being produced in association with the Institute of Community Cohesion, due for publication in April. We will continue to look for ways to emphasise the importance of citizenship to school leaders.

Schools have developed various ways of delivering citizenship in the curriculum: as a discrete subject; within personal, social and health education (PSHE); as citizenship across the curriculum; and through days when the normal timetable is suspended. We do not collect data on how many schools deliver citizenship through discrete classes.

Citizenship: Qualifications

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans he has to develop (*a*) (i) full and (ii) joint citizenship GCSEs and (*b*) citizenship A-levels; [197561]

(2) what plans the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has to improve standards for citizenship teaching in schools, with particular reference to the development of consistent practice in assessing, recording and reporting student outcomes. [197556]

Jim Knight: The new A-level in Citizenship Studies was accredited for use by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in 2007 and is now available from the Awarding Body, AQA. First teaching begins in September 2008.

The GGSEs for all national curriculum subjects are currently under review. It is likely that awarding bodies will submit full course GGSE qualifications for Citizenship Studies this year. If so, accreditation by QCA will be completed in the autumn of 2008 and first teaching would begin in September 2009. It is expected that the awarding bodies will also continue to offer their short course qualifications in Citizenship Studies.

Currently three awarding bodies, AQA, OCR and Edexcel offer short courses in Citizenship Studies. These have been used by schools since 2002. Last summer 75,000 students took the short course GCSE in Citizenship Studies. This summer it is estimated that 95,000 students will take the qualification. Citizenship Studies remains the fastest growing GCSE qualification.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for developing the curriculum. Citizenship has been a statutory national curriculum subject since 2002. The recent review of secondary

education provided an opportunity to look at the clarity of teaching requirements for this subject alongside all the other subjects in the national curriculum. The new secondary curriculum for citizenship was published in August 2007 for first teaching from September 2008.

Alongside the new curriculum, level descriptions for Citizenship were published for the first time. These offer a clearer framework of standards and were developed in consultation with teachers and the subject community and build on the work QCA undertook in 2006 which led to the publication "Assessing citizenship at key stage 3. Example assessment activities QCA/06/2294".

QCA is currently working with groups of schools on exemplification materials and support for teachers in using the new level descriptions. Schools will be required to use the new levels descriptions for citizenship to make judgments about student attainment from the summer of 2011, this being the first year the first cohort of pupils will complete the new key stage 3 programme of study.

Citizenship: Teachers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many citizenship teachers studied citizenship *(a)* at initial teacher training and *(b)* in continuing professional development. [197562]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192526]

Kevin Brennan: The information sought is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many officials from his Department, broken down by grade, attended the cross-government working group on anti-Semitism on 15 November; and if he will make a statement. [167393]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda), on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1012W.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197188]

Ed Balls: Since the establishment of the Department for Children, Schools and Families on 28 June 2007 and up until 31 December 2007, I have visited the following establishments in my ministerial capacity: *(a)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham on 29 November 2007 to attend the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust Annual Conference, *(b)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre on 14 November 2007 to attend the Youth Justice Board Annual Conference, *(c)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London on 10 July 2007 to attend the NASUWT Presidential Reception, 15 November 2007 to attend the NCSL New Heads Conference, 13 December 2007 to attend the NASUWT Presidential Reception, *(d)* Business Design Centre Islington, London on 18 July 2007 to attend a National Children's Bureau Conference.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if his Department will *(a)* follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and *(b)* display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191780]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is committed to safety online for all users, including children and young people. We are already makes use of, or are working towards implementing, the ICRA guidelines and the use of the label across our portfolio of websites.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons his Department's spending detailed in the Budget 2008 Red Book was lower than that set out in the 2007 Pre-Budget Report; and if he will make a statement. [196431]

Ed Balls: The Department for Children, Schools and Families' spending plan set out in the Budget 2008 Red Book (see Table C11) is the same as set in the 2007 pre-Budget report (see Table B13). For the 2008-09 to 2010-11 period, DCSF's resource budget will be respectively £46.9 billion/£49.2 billion/£51.9 billion and the capital budget will be £6.0 billion/£6.4 billion/£7.7 billion. Changes to DCSF's 2007-08 outturn estimate are due to underspends, which will be available for the Department to use in future years.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196735]

Kevin Brennan: Members of the Department use the Department's website to communicate a range of policy information and related resources. The Department has established an online style guide which is available to all staff.

Family Fund: Finance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated to the Family Fund in each of the past 10 years; how much has been allocated for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [171228]

Kevin Brennan: The Government have allocated, in relation to England, the following amounts to the Family Fund for grants to disabled children and their families:

	£ million
1999-2000	16.8
2000-01	19.8
2001-02	20.8
2002-03	21.8
2003-04	22.8
2004-05	22.8
2005-06	22.8
2006-07	22.8
2007-08	22.8

For 2008-09, the Department for Children, Schools and Families will increase funding to £24.4 million to enable the fund to extend its grants to disabled children and young people aged 16 and over.

Foster Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the level of diversity of foster care providers; and if he will make a statement. [196434]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* A recent review of fostering provision commissioned by my Department reported that as at 31 March 2005, there were 188 independent fostering agencies, 146 total authority fostering agencies, 46 voluntary fostering agencies and five agencies categorised as "other"[1].

[1] *Source:*

RW74, DfES Children's Services: Children's Homes and Fostering (published by DfES/DCSF on 31 August 2006)

Further Education

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the post-16 education and training participation rate is in *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* Bournemouth, *(c)* Buckinghamshire, *(d)* Kent, *(e)* Kingston, *(f)* Lincolnshire, *(g)* Medway, *(h)* Poole, *(i)* Reading, *(j)* Slough, *(k)* Southend, *(l)* Sutton, *(m)* Torbay, *(n)* Trafford and *(o)* the Wirral; and what the equivalent figures are for each of their statistical neighbours in each case. [196182]

Jim Knight: Estimates of participation in education, training and employment in England for those aged 16-18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June (see following link).

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000734/index.shtml

The Department also publishes local estimates of participation in England alongside the national figures, but these are only available for young people of academic age 16 and 17. The local participation estimates cover those in full-time education, part-time education, and Work Based Learning, but do not identify young people in employer funded training[1] or other education and training[2] apart from those on a part-time education course.

The most recent local estimates of education and Work Based Learning for local authorities relate to the end of 2005. Tables showing the rates and absolute numbers for 16 and 17-year-olds in the local authorities requested and their statistical neighbours are placed in the House Libraries.

[1] Employer funded training covers employees who have received training in the past four weeks, other than those in Work Based Learning.

[2] Other education and training covers young people who are studying but are not included in other categories. For example those attending independent colleges or training centres, or those at any college in part-time study not reported as released from job.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in each local authority achieved fewer than 30 per cent. A* to C grades at GCSE in each of the last two years; and what the *(a)* raw scores and *(b)* value added scores of each school were in each of those years. [195594]

Jim Knight: The percentage of pupils in each school achieving 5 A* to C grades at GCSE (or equivalent) and their scores can be found in the Achievement and Attainment Tables in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools had fewer than *(a)* 25 per cent., *(b)* 30 per cent., *(c)* 35 per cent. and *(d)* 40 per cent. of children obtaining fewer than five A* to C grades in GCSE including mathematics and English in each of the last 10 years. [196691]

Jim Knight: The information on the number of maintained mainstream schools is given in the following table.

The number of schools with fewer than 35 per cent. and 40 per cent. of pupils achieving five A*-C GGSE grades, including English and Mathematics, can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number of maintained mainstream schools[1] with fewer than 15 per cent., 20 per cent., 25 per cent., and 30 per cent. of pupils achieving at least 5 A-C GCSE grades (or equivalent), including English and Mathematics, in 1996/97 to 2006/07*

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Below 15 per cent.	566	513	399	340	305	247	254	207	138	91	47
Below 20 per cent.	922	835	695	637	583	482	495	426	338	279	162
Below 25 per cent.	1,262	1,141	993	924	862	778	800	734	608	500	376
Below 30 per cent.	1,610	1,507	1,310	1,241	1,154	1,089	1,098	1,054	924	789	639
Total number of schools	3,169	3,151	3,131	3,119	3,102	3,099	3,095	3,095	3,095	3,072	3,045

[1] Figures relate to all maintained mainstream schools published in Achievement and Attainment Tables, including Academic City Technology Colleges and City Colleges for the Technology of Arts.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools had fewer than *(a)* 25 per cent., *(b)* 30 per cent., *(c)* 35 per cent. and *(d)* 40 per cent. of children obtaining fewer than five A* to C grades in GCSE in each of the last 10 years. [196692]

Jim Knight: The information on the number of maintained mainstream schools is given in the following table. The number of schools with fewer than 35 per cent. of pupils achieving 5 A*-C GCSE grades can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Number of maintained mainstream schools[1] with fewer than 15%, 20%, 25%, 30% and 40% of pupils achieving at least 5 A-C GCSE grades (or equivalent) in 1996/97 to 2006/07*

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Below 15 per cent.	186	180	128	100	74	56	42	27	11	7	..
Below 20 per cent.	363	325	278	242	196	157	112	72	40	15	4
Below 25 per cent.	619	553	488	437	369	294	224	186	110	47	17
Below 30 per cent.	899	828	736	662	819	499	410	843	230	134	64
Below 40 per cent.	1,491	1,418	1,278	1,206	1,128	1,026	923	861	674	487	306
Total number of schools	3,169	3,151	3,131	3,119	3,102	3,099	3,095	3,095	3,095	3,072	3,045

[1] Figures relate to all maintained mainstream schools published in Achievement and Attainment Tables, including academies, city technology colleges and city colleges for the technology of arts.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the 10 most commonly studied, non-compulsory subjects taken to GCSE level were in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by type of school; and how many pupils studied each such subject to GCSE level in the same period; [196992]

(2) which 10 subjects were most commonly studied at A-Level in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by type of institution; and how many pupils took each such subject in the same period. [196993]

Jim Knight: The readily available information has been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of 16 year olds were entered for *(a)* GCSE English, *(b)* GCSE mathematics and *(c)* one or more GCSEs in 2007; [197253]

(2) what proportion of 16 year olds were entered for fewer that *(a)* five GCSEs and *(b)* five GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [197254]

Jim Knight: Numbers and proportions of pupils attempting GCSEs in each subject at the end of Key Stage 4 can be found in table 11 of the January Statistical First Release 'GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2006/07 (Revised)', available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000768/index.shtml

The proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 entered for fewer than five GCSEs was 5.6 per cent. The proportion of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 entered for fewer than five GCSEs including English and mathematics was 9.0 per cent.

These figures are not published for 16-year-old pupils; the figures provided are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. The end of Key Stage 4 signals the end of compulsory education, and the majority of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 are aged 15 at the start of the academic year.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Home Schooling

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children educated at home had achieved five GCSEs graded at A* to C by the age of 16 years in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [196575]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Pupils who are educated at home and for whom the local authority is financially responsible are included in the Alternative Provision Survey. However, it is not possible to separately identify these pupils as they are reported in the category "Not a school" which also includes pupils educated in community homes or units, FE colleges or voluntary sector providers.

Head Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools were without a permanent head teacher for more than three months in the past 12 months. [196574]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the number of temporarily filled full-time head teacher posts in local authority maintained schools in England, January 1998 to 2007.

Temporarily filled full-time head teacher posts[1] in local authority maintained schools in England by phase, January of each year

	Temporarily filled as a percentage of head teachers in post										
	LEA maintained only		*All maintained*								*Number of posts*
	1998[2]	1999[2]	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007
Nursery and primary (percentage)	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.7	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.0	520
Secondary (percentage)	1.8	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.7	2.3	2.3	80
Special (percentage)	4.2	3.8	5.3	4.2	3.7	3.8	4.2	3.9	4.9	3.8	40
Total (percentage)	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.7	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	2.9	640
Total vacancies (number)	580	490	540	650	520	540	570	610	650	640	

[1] Temporarily filled full-time permanent appointments. The definition used is wider than the DCSF standard vacancy definition used elsewhere (bullet points b. and c. as follows are in addition to the normal definition). A post is included in this table:
a. where there is no incumbent who is expected to return to the post;
b. whether or not filled on a temporary basis, i.e. either without a contract or on a contract of less than one year;
c. whether or not advertised; and
d. where an appointment has been made but not yet taken up.
[2] Excludes vacancies in schools that were grant maintained.

Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because of rounding.

Source:
618g survey.

Inclusive Technology

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value is of each contract his Department holds with Inclusive Technology. [196650]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not hold a central record of the nature of individual agreements (be they contracts, consultancies or other services) nor of their value. However, our financial records show that the Department has not made any payments to this company in either of the last two financial years.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments his Department and its predecessor have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193849]

Jim Knight: Details of the amount paid to Ipsos MORI by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are set out as follows:

	£
2006/07	393,691.00
2007 to 18 March 2008	475,113.58

The expenditure relates to payments recorded in the Department's integrated financial information system and credited against Ipsos MORI and its predecessor Ipsos - RSL Ltd.

The purpose of the expenditure relates to a contract in connection with Teachers TV and covers audience measurement, impact and channel evaluation.

Ministers: Correspondence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times a Minister from his Department has written to all *(a)* primary head teachers, *(b)* secondary head teachers and *(c)* local education authorities since 18 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [196571]

Jim Knight: It is departmental policy not to send written communications to schools or local authorities. All correspondence is via email.

We send a regular email once a week to local authorities. There have been 12 sent since 18 December 2007. On occasion we send a bespoke e-mail containing an item of significant importance. There have been three sent since 18 December 2007. We also send a Chief Executive update once a quarter. There has been one sent since 18 December 2007.

We send a regular fortnightly email to schools. There have been one sent since 18 December 2007. On occasion it is necessary to send a bespoke email containing an item of significant importance (or to schools falling within a particular category e.g. admission authorities). Four have been sent since 18 December 2007.

Music: Education

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of his Department's progress towards achieving the five aims of the music manifesto. [196195]

Jim Knight: The 2007 survey of music services estimated that 50 per cent. of Key Stage 2 pupils will be given an opportunity to learn a musical instrument, compared to 22 per cent. in 2006/07. To support the development of a world class workforce we contracted Open University and Trinity College to develop a training programme for classroom teachers and other

professionals involved in music education. Over 1,000 people have so far enrolled in that training.

The Music Manifesto published a report "Making Every Child's Music Matter" in October 2006. This report took stock of how music education in England had progressed since the launch of the Manifesto and made recommendations for further action by the Government and others involved in music education. In response to the recommendations in January 2007 we announced £10 million for a National Singing Programme. In November 2007 we confirmed a major new package of activity continuing funding for Sing Up (£10 million in each of the next three years) and a total investment in music education of £332 million over the next three years. Details of this can be found in the department's press release at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0216

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much each local authority has spent on educational music services in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [196428]

Jim Knight: The available information on music services funding has been placed in the House Library.

Pupil Referral Units

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils aged under 11 years were in pupil referral units in each year since 1997. [197613]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Pupil referral units: Number (headcount) of pupils aged less than 11, position in January each year1997 to 2007, England

	Solely registered pupils and pupils registered with other providers	*Pupils registered in more than one school*
1997	507	899
1998	464	866
1999	471	865
2000	380	998
2001	653	1,016
2002	486	997
2003	797	997
2004	749	1,336
2005	679	1,479
2006	771	1,449
2007	747	1,454

Source:
School Census.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average public expenditure per pupil on education for each age of pupil was in each *(a)* region and *(b)* London borough in each of the last 10 years. [196655]

Jim Knight: The Department is unable to answer the question in the way it has been asked. However, the available information on school based expenditure per pupil by local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England from 1997-98 to 2006-07 has been placed in the House Library.

Pupils: Personal Records

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individuals have been allocated a unique pupil number (UPN); and whether data held on each pupil via the UPN record are deleted from the database when the child leaves education. [193860]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils who have been allocated a unique pupil number (UPN) to date since their inception is not available. The UPN number itself bares no resemblance to the number of UPNs issued. They are based on the local authority number, the school establishment number and a set of randomly generated numbers. UPNs were first introduced in the autumn term of 1999 and cover the maintained schools sector in England.

It was agreed with the Data protection Registrar when the UPN was designed that it would lapse when pupils completed their statutory phase of education. With this in mind, the current policy is that the national pupil database holds the UPN and associated pupil details until that point. After the pupil leaves maintained education the record is retained to enable lifelong learning analyses, but the UPN is removed.

Reading: Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local education authorities participated in the *(a)* initial and *(b)* subsequent pilot using synthetic phonics to teach children to read. [197679]

Jim Knight: The Early Reading Development pilot (ERDp) ran in 18 local authorities during 2005/06.

The local authorities involved in this pilot were:

Barnsley
Cheshire
Coventry
Hertfordshire
Islington
Leeds
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Medway
Nottingham City
Peterborough
Redcar and Cleveland
Stoke-on-Trent
Tameside
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Wiltshire.

In 2006/07, the Communication, Language and Literacy Development (CLLD) programme was developed, implementing the recommendations from the Rose Review. 32 further local authorities participated in the programme (in addition to the 18 local authorities who had been involved in the ERDp):

Bath and North East Somerset
Birmingham
Blackburn with Darwen
Bury

Dorset
Ealing
East Sussex
Essex
Gloucestershire
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Hartlepool
Kent
Kingston-upon-Hull
Knowsley
Lambeth
Lewisham
Middlesbrough
North Tyneside
Oldham
Sandwell
Sefton
Sheffield
Shropshire
Southampton
Southwark
Surrey
Swindon
Thurrock
Torbay.

From April 2008, a further 50 local authorities will join the CLLD programme:

Barking and Dagenham
Bolton
Bradford
Brent
Bristol, City of
Calderdale
Camden
Cornwall
Croydon
Cumbria
Derby
Derbyshire
Doncaster
Dudley
Durham
Enfield
Gateshead
Halton
Hampshire
Hounslow
Kirklees
Lancashire
Leicester
Lincolnshire
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
Norfolk
North East Lincolnshire
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
Nottinghamshire
Plymouth
Rochdale
Rotherham
Salford
South Tyneside
St. Helens
Staffordshire
Stockport
Stockton-on-Tees
Suffolk
Sunderland
Wakefield
Walsall
Wandsworth
Westminster
Wigan
Wirrall
Wolverhampton
Worcestershire.

School Improvement Partners

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) who is responsible for *(a)* employing and *(b)* setting the salary of school improvement partners; [197089]

(2) what advice he has given to *(a)* schools and *(b)* local education authorities on the starting salaries for school improvement partners; [197090]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of hours worked by school improvement partners in each local education authority in the last 12 months; [197091]

(4) what advice he has given to schools on the employment, recruitment and retention of school improvement partners; [197092]

(5) what the total cost was to each local education authority of school improvement partners in the last 12 months; [197093]

(6) how many school improvement partners were employed in each local education authority at the latest date for which figures are available; and what the cost was in the latest period for which figures are available; [197094]

(7) what estimate he has made of the average salaries of school improvement partners in each local education authority in the latest period for which figures are available. [197145]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows.

197089 and 197090

A nationally accredited school improvement partner (SIP) programme has been introduced into every school in phases, the final phase being in April 2008. The programme was made a statutory requirement in the 2006 Education and Inspections Act. The SIP works for, and on behalf of, the local authority (LA) and is the channel for LAs' engagement with schools on school improvement. LAs both employ and set salary levels for SIPs. Pay levels are not determined

centrally, because SIPs work under contract to the maintaining authorities of the schools with which they work. In each case it is for the individual authority to negotiate pay levels with their SIPs.

197091

We do not collect this information centrally. However, on average, we expect a SIP to devote five days to a school every year. Generally around three days of this support takes place in school, while preparation and data analysis occurs out of school and accounts for the balance of the time. In addition, every SIP is expected to set aside a total of four additional days a year for professional development and for attending national, regional and local events.

197092

The Department provides information, advice and guidance to local authorities about deploying, managing, developing and supporting the performance of their SIPs through "School Improvement Partner programme, Advice and guidance for local authorities (3rd edition, ref: 00633-2007BKT-EN)"; the guidance is regularly updated and circulated to local authorities. It fully recognises the unique circumstances and contexts in which each local authority operates, and builds on good practice found in LAs during the first two full years of the SIP programme.

197093

We do not collect this information centrally.

197094

Since September 2006 all secondary schools have had a SIP. Primary SIPs have been introduced in phases with the first phase being completed in April 2008. On 26 March 2008, there were 1,670 primary SIPs working in 114 LAs and 1,172 secondary SIPs working in 150 LAs. Decisions on the deployment of SIPs are determined by LAs. Information on the cost of employing SIPs is not collected centrally and is a matter for the LA that employs the SIP.

197145

We do not collect this information centrally.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* selective places and *(b)* applicants for those places there were in each local authority with schools that selected wholly or partially by ability in each of the last three years. [195596]

Jim Knight: The information requested is as follows.

(a) There are 164 schools designated as grammar schools under section 104 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The number of pupils in grammar schools during the last three years is as follows

	Number
2005	154,065
2006	155,484
2007	156,796

Some 40 schools that did so before 1997 operate partial selection by ability in various proportions. We do not have data on the numbers of selective places in such schools.

(b) The Department does not collect data on the number of applicants for selective places.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have submitted plans to his Department on how they will reduce the number of surplus places in their schools; and if he will make a statement. [196424]

Jim Knight: We have invited authorities to inform the Department of any proposed action to reduce surplus places in their agreed Primary Strategy for Change by 16 June 2008. To date, we have received no responses.

In developing their plans for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), we expect local authorities to think strategically about existing secondary school provision. They should consider factors such as demand for places (including the level of surplus places) and future population changes, as well as standards, diversity, parental preferences, and the condition of existing buildings, to ensure that they are providing the right schools in the right places at the right time. 58 authorities engaged in BSF have submitted proposals, in the form of a 'Strategy for Change' Part 1, or equivalent, for some or all of their secondary schools. These authorities are as follows:

Wave 1

Bristol (also W4)
Bradford (alsoW5)
Gateshead
Greenwich (also W5)
Knowsley
Lancashire
Leeds
Leicester
Lewisham (also W3)
Manchester (also W4)
Newcastle upon Tyne
Sheffield (also W4)
Solihull
South Tyneside
Stoke-on-Trent
Sunderland
Waltham Forest (also W5)

Wave 2

Birmingham (also W4-6)
Hackney
Haringey (also W4)
Islington
Kingston upon Hull
Lambeth (also W5)
Liverpool (also W5)
Middlesbrough
Newham (also W5)
Nottingham City (also W5)
Tower Hamlets (also W5)

Wave 3

Barnsley

Derbyshire
Durham (also W6)
Kent (also W4-6)
Luton (also W6)
North Lincolnshire
Salford
Sandwell (also W5)
Southwark
Tameside
Westminster

Wave 4

Barking and Dagenham
Cambridgeshire
Coventry
Essex
Hertfordshire
Telford and Wrekin
Rochdale
Blackburn with Darwen
Oldham
Somerset

Wave 5

Derby City
Camden
St. Helens
Blackpool
Hartlepool
Ealing
Wolverhampton
Wandsworth
Kensington and Chelsea

Schools: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school days have been lost as a result of schools having to close temporarily during term-time in each year since 1997; what information his Department collects on the reasons for such closures; and if he will make a statement. [196426]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information, and there is no requirement for schools to notify us when they close temporarily during term-time.

Schools: Construction

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the standard of existing school buildings; and if he will make a statement. [196425]

Jim Knight: Data on the suitability and condition of school buildings were supplied to my Department by local education authorities in 2005-06. Similar data were supplied in 2001 and 2003. Analysis of the 2003 data is included in the publication "Schools Asset Management: Data Analysis 2004", available at:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sbamps

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11.

Schools: Cycling

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have received funding for Bikeability training, broken down by local authority area. [191703]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

The Department for Transport has provided funding to 36 local authorities outside of London, to Transport for London and to School Sports Partnerships, to enable around 46,000 children to-be trained to the Bikeability standard. We do not hold data on the number of schools who have received training paid for by this funding.

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were *(a)* built and *(b)* fitted with fire suppression systems in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [195158]

Jim Knight: In 2007, we gathered information from all authorities on the improvements to their school buildings over the previous 10 years. This "School Building Investment Data" is available in the parliamentary Libraries. We also published "Better Buildings Better Design Better Education, A report on capital investment in education" which summarises the headline data for the 10 years from 1997 to 2007. The information collected includes the numbers of new schools in the last five years set out in the following table. These figures include nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, and also academies; and both additional new schools and replacement schools.

	Number
2002-03	121
2003-04	122
2004-05	127
2005-06	171
2006-07	196

We do not keep information on the details of new school designs. However it is our expectation that all new and some refurbished schools designed after the introduction of our new policy in February 2007 will have fire sprinklers installed, although this is not a compulsory measure. There may be cases where local authorities or other promoters of schools consider that sprinklers are not needed. If so, they will need to be able to demonstrate that such schools are very low risk and that sprinklers would not represent good value for money.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposal to reduce the size of school governing bodies contained within the recently published Children's Plan. [197341]

Jim Knight: We believe that smaller, more highly skilled governing bodies, alongside improved governor training will lead to more effective governance in schools. Smaller governing bodies can be consistent with the current stakeholder model of governance. As we indicated in the Children's Plan, we will be consulting stakeholders on reducing the size of governing bodies. Good governance and leadership at school level is essential if we are to achieve better outcomes for all children and young people.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were in Ofsted categories since 1997 and are no longer in such categories. [196626]

Jim Knight: The information is set out in the following table.

Schools placed in Ofsted categories between 1 September 1997 and 31 December 2007

Category	Number of schools placed in each category	Number of schools in each category at 31 December 2007	Number of schools no longer in each category
Special measures	1,806	245	1,561
Significant improvements[1]	667	305	362
Serious weaknesses[1]	1,873	0	1,873
Totals	4,346	550	3,796

[1] The designation of serious weaknesses applied until 31 August 2005. The Ofsted inspection framework was revised from 1 September 2005 and the new category of requiring significant improvement was introduced.

Note:
The table is based on the most recent information published by Ofsted last month.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools were closed on the grounds of poor performance in each of the last 10 years. [197465]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on the reasons for school closure. School place planning is the statutory responsibility of the local authority (LA). Each LA must strive to secure high standards, diversity of provision and increased opportunities for parental choice. They must review school place provision regularly, ensuring there are sufficient places to meet the needs of the population. Where the LA propose to make any changes they must publish statutory proposals which are decided under local decision making arrangements and Ministers have no direct role in the process.

Since 1997, 264 schools placed in the Ofsted special measures category have closed. In addition since 2005, 14 schools placed in the Ofsted inadequate category of requiring significant improvement have closed.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what undertakings on school placements have been given to parents on Canvey Island following the decision to close Furtherwick school. [196961]

Jim Knight: School place planning is a local matter. Where changes are proposed, a statutory process must be followed.

I understand that following a period of statutory consultation to address declining pupil numbers in Essex, Essex county council published a statutory proposal on 7 March 2007. The public notice stated that the following arrangements for pupils affected by the proposal to close Furtherwick Park School from 31 August 2011 would be made:

> Pupils currently attending Furtherwick Park School were to complete their education at the school;
>
> Pupils admitted to Year 7 in September 2007 were to spend all of key stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) at Furtherwick Park, but transfer onto the roll of Castle View School, or to other schools which have places available, in September 2010 for the remaining two years of their statutory education (Years 10 and 11);
>
> No new pupils are to be admitted to Furtherwick Park from 1 September 2008. To accommodate pupils who might otherwise have attended Furtherwick Park, Castle View School is to expand to admit up to 240 pupils from September 2008 into Year 7.

Essex School Organisation Committee on 15 May 2007 approved the closure of Furtherwick Park School with effect from August 2011; an increase in the published admission number from 180 to 240 to Castle View School from 2008-09; and the enlargement and relocation of Castle View School from 904 to 1,200 places into new purpose built accommodation on the current Furtherwick Park School site with effect from September 2011.

Secondary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans there are to introduce small group tuition into secondary schools. [180468]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 113W.

Special Educational Needs

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children have special educational needs; and what forecasts there are for the likely percentage in future years. [196261]

Jim Knight: Details of the percentage of children with special educational needs (SEN) are set out in the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England, January 2007" which was published on 26 June 2007 and is available from:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000732/index.shtml

In January 2007, 2.8 per cent. of pupils had a statement of SEN[1] and 16.4 per cent. of pupils had been identified as having special educational needs but without a statement[2]. Figures based on the January 2008 school census will be published in due course.

The Department has not made recent estimates of the percentage of children with special educational needs (SEN) entering primary and secondary education in forthcoming years. Previous estimates of the total

numbers with SEN are now out of date and will be updated later this year. These should be available in the autumn.

[1] Source: School Census. Published in table 1a of the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England, January 2007".

[2] Source: School Census. Published in table 1b of the Statistical First Release "Special Educational Needs in England, January 2007".

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1101W, on specialised diplomas, what estimate he has made of the cost of training teachers in preparation for the first teaching of diplomas in September 2008. [197054]

Jim Knight: In the financial year 2007-08, the Department has spent £2.63 million to provide face-to-face training for teachers in preparation for the first teaching of diplomas in September 2008.

Specialised Diplomas: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils are entitled to free school meals in each maintained school that will not be offering the full range of diplomas from *(a)* September 2008 and *(b)* September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [196880]

Jim Knight: The vast majority of schools and colleges in England will offer some Diplomas from September 2009 with the support of local universities and employers. We therefore expect the number of maintained schools offering the full range of Diplomas to increase in line with the planned and phased roll out of Diplomas to 2011. All schools will be expected to play a full part in local consortia arrangements to offer all Diploma lines because the 14-19 Entitlement means that from 2013 every young person has the choice to pursue one of 17 Diplomas at an appropriate level for them, wherever they are in the country.

No schools within the Diploma consortia arrangements will be offering the full range of Diplomas in 2008 or 2009 as the full range of Diplomas will not be available until 2011 when the final three Diplomas will be available for first teaching, bringing the total Diploma Lines of Learning to 17.

Teachers: Documents

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many documents were sent from his Department to head teachers of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools either in hard copy or via e-mail since 18 December 2007. [196572]

Jim Knight: It is departmental policy not to send documents to schools either in hard copy or via e-mail. In communications to schools via e-mail we provide links to documents that can be downloaded.

We send a regular fortnightly e-mail to schools. There have been seven sent since 18 December 2007. On occasion it is necessary to send a bespoke e-mail containing an item of significant importance (or to schools falling within a particular category e.g. admission authorities). Four have been sent since 18 December 2007.

Teachers: Labour Turnover

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many qualified teachers left full-time teaching in London in each of the last five years. [196413]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of qualified regular local authority maintained sector teachers who left full-time service in London Government office region in each year from 2000-01 to 2004-05, the latest year available at regional level. The numbers include teachers leaving service, retiring, entering part-time service or entering teaching service of any description outside of London.

Teachers leaving full-time regular local authority maintained sector[1] service in the London Government office region

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05[2]
Out of full-time service in London[3]	5,550	5,360	5,300	4,530	3,990
Retired	740	660	670	700	830
Leavers to part-time service in London	1,120	1,390	1,240	1,300	1,410
Total	7,400	7,410	7,200	6,530	6,230

[1] Left full-time service in London but they may in service elsewhere or in other education sectors.
[2] Provisional. Figures are available for 2005-06 at the national level but not for individual regions.
[3] Excludes academies and CTCs.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Teachers: Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of primary school teachers joining the profession had a *(a)* C, *(b)* B, *(c)* A and *(d)* A* in (i) GCSE mathematics and (ii) GCSE English in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [197252]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

All initial teacher training trainees are required to have at least a GGSE grade C in mathematics and English or their equivalent.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 196W, on teaching methods, (1) how many secondary schools will have funding to support small group academic focused study support in 2009-10; [196561]

(2) what proportion of the money allocated to support the development of extended schools will be used to support small group academic focused study support. [196562]

Jim Knight: The provision of a varied menu of activities for children and young people, including study support, is part of the extended schools core offer, with the Government committed to every school delivering

extended schools core offer by 2010. The Department has made a significant investment in extended schools, and will make available more than £1.3 billion over the next three years to support the establishment of inclusive and sustainable extended schools. Schools are free to use this funding to respond to the needs of children and their community which can include providing study support activity. As part of this funding, £84 million in 2009-10 and £83 million in 2010-11 is to support small group academic focused study support. The funding will be targeted at the most deprived secondary schools, and is expected to support small group academic focused study support in around a quarter of the over 3,000 secondary schools.

Truancy: Penalties

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fixed penalty notices have been issued in relation to condoned absenteeism of pupils; and if he will make a statement. [196573]

Jim Knight: The Department began collecting data in September 2004 on the number of penalty notices issued by local authorities to parents in respect of the offence of failing to ensure their children's regular school attendance. Between 1 September 2004 to 31 December 2007, the data show that 35,229 parents were issued with penalty notices.

Vocational Education

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 14 to 16 year olds spent time in a further education college studying for a vocational qualification in the last 12 months. [195655]

Jim Knight: We estimate that around 95,000 students aged 14 to undertook practical and applied learning in further education colleges in 2006/07, but detailed information by type of qualification is not available.

Information on students in further education colleges is collected by the LSC through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). For 14 to 16-year-olds this information is not compulsory, so information from this will be incomplete. The ILR is a data return that is used primarily for funding purposes, but as 14 to 16-year-old provision is not directly funded by the LSC there has been no requirement for institutions to include details of 14 to 16-year-olds in ILR returns.

Unemployment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* males aged between 16 and 64 years and *(b)* females aged between 16 and 59 years were not in education, employment or training in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001, (iii) 2005 and (iv) 2007. [174637]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has a dynamic and flexible labour market with one of the highest employment rates of the G7 nations. Under this Government youth unemployment has fallen and we now have more 18 to 24-year-olds in employment and full time education compared to 1997.

Government are not complacent and have set out how we will deliver an integrated employment and skills service that will include early skills screening of 18 to 24-year-olds, piloting of mandatory skills health checks and basic skills and job focused provision and new funding for a new adult advancement and careers service.

The following table shows estimates from the Labour Force Survey for England for the second quarter of each year of the numbers and percentage not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Not in education, employment or training (NEET) by gender (England)

Q2 of each year	Males aged 16[1] to 64			Females aged 16[1] to 64		
	NEET	*Total*	*Percentage*	*NEET*	*Total*	*Percentage*
1997	2,372,000	14,902,000	15.9	3,609,000	14,031,000	25.7
2001	2,166,000	15,151,000	14.3	3,294,000	14,342,000	23.0
2005	2,211,000	15,444,000	14.3	3,221,000	14,618,000	22.0
2007	2,296,000	15,602,000	14.7	3,302,000	14,667,000	22.5

[1] Lower age bound is based on academic age 16—that is those aged at least 16 on the previous 31 August and who will therefore have completed compulsory full-time education.

Source

Labour Force Survey Q2 (April to June) of each year

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arms Length Management Organisations: Finance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the remaining Round 6 arms-length management organisations will be informed of the results of their bids for decent homes funding. [195710]

Mr. Iain Wright: 10 of the 15 local authorities under round six of the arms-length management organisation (ALMO) programme have been informed of the results of their bids for decent homes funding.

Officials are in discussions with the remaining five authorities and expect to conclude those negotiations shortly.

Caravan Sites: Travelling People

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take on the absence of proposals from Kent county council for the provision of permanent gypsy sites. [197488]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities in Kent have prepared Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments which have been submitted to the South-East Regional Assembly for consideration as part of the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The RSS will, in turn, inform the development of Development Plan Documents which will allocate specific sites to meet the identified need. Local planning authorities need not await the RSS to take steps to meet accommodation needs, and we expect authorities where there is clear and pressing need for accommodation to take such steps now.

Councillors: Allowances

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements local authorities have to establish independent remuneration panels before increasing councillors' allowances above wage inflation; and what guidelines have been produced on *(a)* the composition of such panels and *(b)* how frequently they should report. [194342]

John Healey: Each local authority is required, under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) England Regulations 2003 to set up and maintain an independent remuneration panel. The independent remuneration panel will make recommendations as it sees fit about the level of basic allowance for all members and the level of special responsibility allowances, and to whom they should be paid.

Advice on establishing independent remuneration panels and their role is contained in "Guidance on Members' Allowances for Local Authorities in England"

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/153902

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195890]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government published its updated Sustainable Operations Policy Statement and more detailed Sustainable Operations Policy in February 2008. The statement is available on the Department's website.

The Department's progress against delivery of the sustainable operations targets is reported annually by the Sustainable Development Commission.

Fire Services: Accidents

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many accidents there were involving fire engines on emergency calls in *(a)* Castle Point constituency and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years. [196800]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 26 March 2008]*: The number of fire appliance accidents in Essex, while on emergency calls, is shown in the following table:

Fire appliance accidents in Essex while on blue light: 2001-02 to 2005-06

	Number
2001-02	76
2002-03	80
2003-04	n/a
2004-05	70
2005-06	79

n/a = Not applicable. *Source:* Annual returns to CLG.

Figures for Castle Point are not available separately.

First Time Buyers: Coastal Areas

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance her Department provides to local first-time buyers living in smaller coastal communities. [192008]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's low cost home ownership scheme "HomeBuy2", introduced in April 2006 operates across England. It is open to social tenants, people on the waiting list (who would be a priority for a social rented home), key public sector workers through our Key Worker Living programme, and first time buyers prioritised for assistance by Regional Assemblies. It operates alongside the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire schemes which enable eligible social tenants to purchase their rented home.

The scheme includes three products: Open 'Market HomeBuy (shared equity), New Build HomeBuy (shared ownership) and Social HomeBuy. The First Time Buyers' Initiative scheme run by English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, is part of the New Build product. These schemes help purchasers get onto the housing ladder with shares from 25 per cent. As announced in the 2007 Budget, from April 2008, we are offering two new equity loans which will be available through the Government's shared equity scheme Open Market HomeBuy. The loans will improve affordability for purchasers and provide more choice in the mortgage which buyers can take out.

As part of the Housing Green Paper we are increasing outputs of new affordable housing to at least 70,000 by 2010-11 which will include at least 25,000 new shared ownership and shared equity homes a year by 2010-11 mainly funded by the Housing Corporation.

Homebuy Scheme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been sold or part-sold under Social Homebuy in each month since the commencement of the scheme. [191667]

Mr. Iain Wright: Social HomeBuy is a voluntary scheme, launched in April 2006, which enables tenants of participating local authorities and housing associations to buy a minimum 25 per cent. share in their rented home at discount. The scheme has been operating as a two year pilot until March 2008. The following table shows the number of sales in each month under the pilot scheme since its commencement.

The 176 sales up to the end of February 2008 have arisen from about 20 of the initial participating landlords, most of whom joined the pilot in late 2006. Since April

2007 a second phase of landlords has joined the scheme and now 77 housing associations and 10 local authorities are offering Social HomeBuy to their tenants. As with normal home purchases, Social HomeBuy transactions can take several months to reach completion.

	2006-07	2007-08
April		
May		
June		2
July		5
August		10
September		13
October		15
November		22
December		9
January		16
February		17
March	18	20
	29	

Social HomeBuy is just one of a range of products which help social tenants into home ownership. Since 1997 the Government have helped over 95,000 households (including social tenants, key workers and other first time buyers) on to the housing ladder through both shared ownership and shared equity schemes.

Homelessness: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were accepted as eligible for assistance for homelessness in Newcastle upon Tyne in each quarter from 1 January 2006; and how many households were in temporary accommodation from 1 January 2006. [196109]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Under the legislation, authorities have a duty to secure suitable accommodation for applicants accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (or take steps to secure that accommodation does not cease to be available if the applicant is likely to become homeless within 28 days). These duties are referred to as "the main homelessness duties", and applicants who are accepted as owed a main duty are referred to as "homeless acceptances". Applicants who are eligible for assistance, but not owed a main duty (for example, because they are not in priority need), must be provided with advice and assistance in any attempts they make to secure accommodation for themselves; they are not recorded as "homeless acceptances".

An authority must secure suitable accommodation for an accepted household. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the number of applicants eligible for assistance (including a breakdown of those who are, and are not, accepted as owed a main duty) is published in our quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, which also includes data on the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter. The Supplementary Tables give figures for each local authority, including Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and are published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 March 2008 and contains data for the period October to December 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/714968

Data for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, taken from the table for the period October to December 2007, are provided below, and give (1) the number of eligible households on which a decision was taken under the homelessness legislation (referred to as "decisions") during the quarter, of which (2) the number that were accepted as owed a main duty ("acceptances"), and also (3) the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter:

Decisions, acceptances and temporary accommodation—Newcastle-upon-Tyne, fourth quarter 2007

	Number
(1) Number of eligible households on which a decision was taken under homelessness legislation ("decisions"), Q4 2007	205
(2) Number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty ("acceptances"), Q4 2007	126
(3) Number of households in temporary accommodation as at the end of the quarter (31 December 2007)	49

Source:
CLG Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release—Supplementary Table: Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts: fourth quarter 2007

Supplementary tables for each quarter back to 2006 are also available on our website (from the following link) and in the Library.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Housing: Disabled

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were used by Tamworth Borough Council to house disabled people in each of the last five years. [195423]

Mr. Iain Wright: Over the last five years, Tamworth borough council used 146 homes to house disabled people.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1996W, on housing: disabled, what the cost to the public purse has been following the settlement; and if she will make a statement. [196237]

Mr. Iain Wright: The details of the settlement are subject to a binding confidentiality agreement but as my previous answer stated, the Government are satisfied that it represented good value for money.

As also stated in my previous answer the settlement negotiated by the Treasury Solicitor's Department and the Legal Directorate at Communities and Local Government was approved by HM Treasury and counsel as an appropriate settlement representing value for money to the public purse having regard to: the chances of success; professional costs and other fees and expenses

likely to be incurred; irrecoverable costs; the duration of proceedings and further delays to the delivery of public services.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of Government receipts from right to buy sales have been spent on housing in the last 10 years, broken down by type of housing. [192038]

Mr. Iain Wright: As I stated to my hon. Friend in my answer to him on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 905-07W, receipts arising from Right to Buy (RTB) sales are interchangeable with all other capital receipts. Therefore, they are not hypothecated to any particular spending at any particular time. However, the Government have consistently invested more in housing than they have received in receipts.

The following table shows total receipts arising from RTB sales as shown in my answer referred above. The Department does not collect how much of those receipts were set aside for debt repayment or paid to the Secretary of State, although it is known that 75 per cent. of these receipts are so treated after administrative, improvement and other costs are taken into account.

The table also shows the overall capital sums invested in housing broken down into investment in council owned housing stock and investment through registered social landlords. The total is greater than the component parts set out as it includes, for the most part, local authority investment in private sector housing. The balance between the total investment figures provided and the sum of the council and registered social landlords figures relate to grants provided to the private sector such as housing market renewal and disabled facilities grant. The figures and this explanation on investment were provided in my answer to my hon. Friend on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1140-41W.

	Right to Buy (RTB) Receipts	*Total CLG capital investment in housing*	*(a) council owned stock*	*(b) registered social landlords*
1997-98	890	1,894	909	727
1998-99	911	2,098	1,135	732
1999-2000	1,374	2,173	1,126	815
2000-01	1,426	2,866	1,959	830
2001-02	1,566	3,312	2,378	823
2002-03	2,210	3,598	2,459	1,030
2003-04	2,936	4,685	2,683	1,805
2004-05	2,575	4,767	2,772	1,626
2005-06	1,544	5,106	3,055	1,609
2006-07	1,145	5,194	2,442	1,953

Housing: Low Incomes

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans her Department has for provision of affordable housing in *(a)* Enfield and *(b)* Greater London; [196795]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to help first-time buyers access affordable housing in the London Borough of Enfield. [196802]

Mr. Iain Wright: The London Plan, the Spatial Development Strategy for London, sets a target of 30,500 net additional homes per year up to 2016-17, which includes 395 for the London borough of Enfield. Of these additional homes, 50 per cent. London-wide should be affordable. As the London borough of Enfield's Unitary Development Plan affordable housing policy was not saved under the new planning system introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the London Plan 50 per cent. affordable housing target is the default target in the borough.

Of the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme 2008-11 budget of £8.4 billion, £3.3 billion will be spent in London. Initial national allocations for new schemes of £3.3 billion were announced in February, of these London received total allocations of £603 million of which around £86 million is for low cost home ownership. Of this Enfield will benefit from over 6m of investment in affordable housing. Rather than allocating all their resources at the start of the programme, the Corporation will be returning to the market at regular intervals to seek further bids for funding affordable housing.

We are improving affordability for purchasers accessing the Government's HomeBuy schemes. From April this year two new equity loan products will be available through the Government's Open Market HomeBuy option. The loans provide first time buyers with more flexibility around the percentage of the value of their home which can be borrowed—up to a maximum of 50 per cent.—and more choice in the mortgage they can take out.

In addition, in the Housing Corporation's 2008-11 Affordable Housing Programme we are improving affordability for purchasers of our New Build HomeBuy/shared ownership scheme through smaller shares and lower rents in the Housing Corporation's 2008-11 Affordable Housing programme.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for development consent she estimates the proposed Infrastructure Planning Commission will deal with annually under *(a)* the single commissioner and *(b)* the panel Procedure. [197749]

John Healey: The Planning Bill Impact Assessment, published in November 2007, estimated that the Infrastructure Planning Commission would consider around 45 major infrastructure projects a year. In addition, the May 2007 Planning White Paper made clear that there would also be a larger number of less complex cases, such as works necessary to ensure the operational effectiveness and resilience of the electricity transmission and distribution network. We anticipate that only 30 applications would require the panel procedure; the remainder could be considered under the Single Commissioner procedure.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely costs for her Department of setting up the Infrastructure Planning Commission proposed in the Planning Bill. [197747]

John Healey: The Planning Bill Impact Assessment, published in November 2007, estimated that the one-off cost of setting up the Infrastructure Planning Commission would be £5 million.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely annual running costs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission proposed in the Planning Bill. [197748]

John Healey: As I stated when giving evidence to the Planning Bill Public Bill Committee, we estimate that the average annual cost of the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be £9.3 million per annum. This was set out in the Planning Bill Impact Assessment, published alongside the Planning Bill in November 2007.

Local Authorities: Foreign Workers

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues to local authorities on safeguarding public money when outsourcing services overseas; what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other restrictions there are on local authorities in undertaking such outsourcing; and if she will make a statement. [196236]

John Healey: Subject to their legal duties, including the duty of best value and public procurement law, local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. Public authorities are not able to exclude a company based in a European Union or World Trade Organisation Government Procurement Agreement signatory country on the basis that some of the work may be sourced overseas. The Department has not published guidance specific to the situation where councils choose to outsource services overseas.

Local Government Ombudsman

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislation governs the powers of the Local Government Ombudsman; what changes have been made to that legislation since enactment; and if she will make a statement. [194200]

John Healey: The legislative framework for the Local Government Ombudsman is provided by Part III of the Local Government Act 1974. This has since been amended by a range of primary legislation to reflect changes in the organisations and local services which fall within the Ombudsman's jurisdiction. Most recently, Part 9 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provided for the modernisation and clarification of the role and working practices of the Ombudsman.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of local government restructuring on the level of council reserves in councils facing restructuring or abolition prior to their restructuring or abolition. [182083]

John Healey: The proposals received by the Government included assessments by each of the proposing councils of the likely call on reserves. On the basis of our independent financial advisers' consideration of the proposals, we judge that creating the nine unitary councils we have decided to implement is likely to require an aggregate one-off call on reserves of less than £80 million which will allow savings of over £100 million annually to be realised.

Manton Community Alliance Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from the public purse Manton Community Alliance neighbourhood management pathfinder received in each year since 2003; what percentage of such funding supported *(a)* salaries and *(b)* overheads in each year; and what proportion of the pathfinder's revenue such funding represented in each such year. [195641]

John Healey *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* As a round two pathfinder, Manton NMP was allocated a maximum of £200,000 during stage two (2003-04) to support the development of their strategy. Manton NMP formally launched its strategy on 27 January 2005, moving to stage three, the implementation stage of the national pathfinder programme. They will receive a further £350,000 on average each year, for a maximum of seven years, subject to satisfactory performance.

Since 2005 it has managed to attract over £400,000 of private funding to support regeneration activities in the locality. No private funding has been used to support either salaries or overheads for the scheme.

Between January 2005 and March 2008 Manton Community Alliance have spent 59 per cent. of their total budget on staffing costs including salaries, on costs, insurances and other expenses in line with local government employment conditions. The breakdown for each financial year is as follows:

January 2005 to March 2006: 56 per cent.
April 2006 to March 2007: 59 per cent.
April 2007 to March 2008: 62 per cent.

Between January 2005 and March 2008 Manton Community Alliance have spent 17.1 per cent. of their total budget on overheads. The breakdown for each financial year translates is as follows:

January 2005 to March 2006 19.4 per cent.
April 2006 to March 2007: 16.2 per cent.
April 2007 to March 2008: 15.6 per cent.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Woking dated 6 February, 27 February and 5 March 2008 on Mr. Graham Jones. [197586]

Mr. Dhanda: I replied to the hon. Member for Woking (Mr. Malins) on 20 March.

Minister for the East of England: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what issues the Minister for the East of England has worked on that apply directly to Essex since her appointment. [197339]

Mr. Dhanda: The Minister for the East of England has worked on a number of region-wide issues that apply to directly to Essex since her appointment. She has been engaged with local area agreements; the Sub-National Review of Regeneration and Economic Development; the region's growth agenda; water supply; issues relating to coastal flooding and defences and she is also due to meet officials to discuss preparations for the Olympics in the east of England.

She met with the previous chief executive of Thames Gateway, Judith Armitt, and attended the launch of the Thames Gateway Delivery Plan (held at the Docklands, London) in November and December last year.

The Minister for the East of England also visited Thurrock in Essex on 25 February as both Minister for Equalities and Minister for the East of England. She visited the South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre and met with representatives from the local authority and the strategic health authority.

She has also met with senior members and officers from Essex county council and Uttlesford council at a number of region-wide events and has been engaged with Essex media such as the *East Anglian Daily Times* and the *Colchester Evening Gazette*.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the Minister for the East of England has visited Essex since her appointment; and for what reasons. [197359]

Mr. Dhanda: The Minister for the East of England visited Thurrock in Essex on 25 February as both Minister for Equalities and Minister for the East of England. She visited the South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre and met with representatives from the local authority and the strategic health authority.

The Minister is also due to visit Thurrock in June to host a region-wide skills meeting and again in July to meet with the county council and other county partners to discuss their priorities.

Planning Permission: Flood Control

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications opposed by the Environment Agency on the basis of flood risk were subject to scrutiny by the Secretary of State in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 25 in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and what the (i) location and (ii) outcome of each application was. [194102]

Caroline Flint: Eleven planning applications were referred to the Secretary of State in 2007 under the Town and Country Planning (Flooding) (England) Direction. These were applications for major development in flood risk areas to which the Environment Agency had objected. Details are tabled as follows. Most of them have been referred back to the local planning authority for decision. This shows that the Direction is working as intended, because it requires the local planning authority, the applicant and the Environment Agency to explore ways in which to address the Environment Agency's concerns.

The Secretary of State called-in and decided a further five planning applications during 2006 and 2007, not under the Direction, where flooding was a main issue. Details of these are included in the following table.

	Application type/Location	*Outcome*
Flooding Direction application		
2007	Ipswich, Suffolk	Referred back to LPA for decision
	Greenwich, London	Referred back to LPA for decision
	Burton on Trent, East Staffordshire	Referred back to LPA for decision
	Worcester, Worcestershire	Referred back to LPA for decision
	Maidenhead, Berkshire	Called-in for decision by Secretary of State
	Weymouth, Dorset	Referred back to LPA for decision
	Heybridge, Essex	Referred back to LPA for decision
	Maidenhead, Berkshire	Called-in for decision by Secretary of State
	Truro, Cornwall	Referred back to LPA for decision
	Ipswich, Suffolk	Called-in for decision by Secretary of State
	Southampton, Hampshire	Called-in for decision by Secretary of State
Called-in planning application		
2006	Egham, Surrey	Planning permission granted
2007	Crowle, North Lincolnshire	Planning permission refused
	Germany Beck, York	Planning permission granted
	Germany Beck, York	Planning permission granted
	St. Austell, Cornwall	Planning permission refused

Planning: Children in Care

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether she has considered amending planning guidance to ensure that private children's homes require planning permission before operating in former private residential properties; [196860]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the regulation of private children's homes operating in residential properties; [196861]

(3) what representations she has received on private children's care homes which operate from residential properties; [196862]

(4) what representations she has received on the operation of private residential children's homes by the company Green Corns; [196863]

(5) whether she has had discussions with the Local Government Association on the regulation of private children's homes operating in residential properties. [196864]

Mr. Iain Wright: Amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 were made in 2005 following extensive consultation. The consultation process did not draw significant concerns regarding the status of children's homes in the Use Classes Order.

Under existing planning regulations, the conversion of a residential dwelling to a children's home may require planning permission, depending on the characteristics of the proposed domestic arrangements and whether these are deemed to result in a material change of use. It is for each local planning authority to determine in the first instance, on a case-by-case basis, whether a material change of use is proposed and therefore whether planning permission is required.

Under the Use Classes Order, a children's home may fall within the C2 Residential Institutions or C3 Dwelling Houses use class. Generally speaking, the conversion of a residential dwelling into a children's home which is considered to fall within the C2 use class would require planning permission, while a conversion to a children's home falling within C3 use class would not.

The key test for whether a dwelling house used for non-family purposes should fall within the C3 Dwelling Houses use class is the concept of a single household. It would be difficult, in planning land-use terms, to differentiate between a dwelling house occupied by a group of young adults living together as a single household, from say a dwelling house used as a small children's home where the occupants live together as a single household.

The single household concept provides more certainty over the planning position of small group homes (such as children's homes) which play a major role in the Government's community care policy. This policy is aimed at enabling people who need an element of care to live as normal lives as possible in touch with the community.

The Department has received a small number of representations on this issue over the last year. One of these representations was from the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen), and contained correspondence from a constituent and a local planning authority. This representation referred to operation of private children's homes by the company Green Corns Ltd.

The Department has not held any recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families nor the Local Government Association on this matter.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies were in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1st April 2007; and if she will make a statement. [189669]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department was established in 2006. The pay costs for the Department's press office in 2006-07 were £1,108,068.75.

For costs of the press office in our predecessor department, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1772W, to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow).

Information on agencies and non-departmental bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Southwest One

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the business case related to the provision of public services by single joint venture partnerships; and if she will make a statement; [194931]

(2) what estimate she has made of forecast effects on costs of the procurement of local services by Southwest One, broken down by area of service provision; [194935]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effects on existing local services in Somerset County Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council of the recent contract with Southwest One; and if she will make a statement; [194938]

(4) how much was paid from the public purse to IBM *(a)* prior to and *(b)* in connection with the establishment of (i) the joint venture partnership in the South West and (ii) Southwest One. [194940]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not been involved in the process of developing the Southwest One partnership. The questions that you raise in relation to Southwest One are for Somerset county council and Taunton Deane borough council to answer. With respect to policy, we believe that councils can gain greater value for money through joint venture partnerships in some cases. Councils should, therefore, consider this as a potential option where appropriate.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what contractual provisions on *(a)* accountability, *(b)* audit and *(c)* assurance of value for money there are in the agreement between Taunton Deane Borough Council and South West One over the provision of public services; what contractual provisions there are in the agreement relating to the role of the Audit Commission; and if she will make a statement; [194137]

(2) who is on the permanent board of Southwest One; [194138]

(3) what estimate she has made of the effect on costs to the public purse of the contract with Southwest One in each of the next five years, broken down by public sector client; [194146]

(4) what her policy is on the provision of *(a)* further public services and *(b)* public services to further public sector clients by Southwest One beyond the borders of the South West Regional Development Agency; and if she will make a statement; [194147]

(5) what the cost of the contract for the provision of services by Southwest One has been to date; how much has been allocated for such provision in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement; [194150]

(6) what estimate she has made of the effect on costs to the public purse of the contract with Southwest One in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and if she will make a statement; [194160]

(7) what process was followed in appointing IBM as preferred bidder to join Somerset County Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council in establishing the joint venture partnership Southwest One; what her role was in this process; and if she will make a statement; [194156]

(8) if she will make a statement on the future of public service provision by Southwest One; and what her policy is on the outsourcing of local services to joint venture partnerships. [194159]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has not been involved in the process of developing the Southwest One partnership. The questions that you raise in relation to Southwest One are for Somerset county council and Taunton Deane borough council to answer.

With respect to policy, we believe that councils can gain greater value for money through joint venture partnerships in some cases. Councils should, therefore, consider this as a potential option where appropriate.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions took place with *(a)* the South West Regional Development Agency and *(b)* the Government Office of the South West prior to the contract with Southwest One for the provision of public services being finalised. [194148]

Mr. Dhanda: As part of their normal interaction with Somerset county council and Taunton Deane borough council, the South West of England Regional Development Agency and the Government office for the south-west were both aware of the developing proposals for Southwest One, but they had no formal discussions with either the local authorities concerned or the Department about it.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 1 April 2008

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Mr. Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission whether the Electoral Commission plans to produce standard forms for *(a)* electoral registration and *(b)* applications for postal votes. [197578]

Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it provides standard forms for electoral registration and for postal vote applications both in print and downloadable format.

These forms are not prescribed in legislation. While electors and Electoral Registration Officers may use the Commission-supplied forms, they are under no obligation to do so. The sole registration form to be prescribed in regulations is the canvass form. The Commission does not provide this form as it is already set out in legislation.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by the Electoral Commission in each of the last nine years. [197520]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the relevant financial records are readily available only from 2003 onwards and since that time no contracts have been awarded to Rackspace.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196945]

David Cairns: We serve wine at all receptions held by the Scotland Office. We have served Fairtrade wine at one reception in the past three years. The Scotland Office has a policy of using local produce wherever possible so as to reduce 'food miles' and our carbon footprint in line with Government targets for sustainable development. The wine served is organically grown and uses recycled packaging materials. We are currently drafting a policy for hospitality procurement. The policy will be designed to promote Fairtrade and sustainable development wherever possible.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196814]

David Cairns: No payments were made to these companies and other firms for consultancy work during 2006-07.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195896]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice for these purposes. The Ministry of Justice published its Sustainable Development Action Plan on 14 March 2008. It sets out the vision for sustainable development in the Ministry of Justice, how sustainable development will be incorporated into the operations and policy making of the Department, the key commitments and how the plan will be delivered.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197069]

David Cairns: None.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195897]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office encourages staff to consider video conferencing facilities first before travelling to meetings. However, this does not always prove possible and a target is not considered appropriate.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by his Department in each of the last nine years. [197518]

David Cairns: Nothing.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Visitor Reception Building

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the Cromwell Green Visitor Entrance will be opened; and what the reasons for the time taken are. [197903]

Nick Harvey: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply I gave on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 3W. A large scale internal trial was successfully carried out on 28 March, and limited use by the public has now begun to complete the trial programme.

TREASURY

Freedom of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1489W, on Northern Rock: freedom of information, (1) how many of the 31 freedom of information requests have been refused; and what were the grounds in each case; [195905]

(2) in how many cases information was *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partly exempted; and how many requests were answered in full. [193518]

Angela Eagle: HMT assesses FOI requests on their individual merits and summary data on the Department's cases are collated and published by MoJ on a quarterly basis. Since your previous request further FOI requests have been received.

Many of these requests seek extensive amounts of information and exceed the costs regime for processing FOI requests. In these cases, requestors have been invited to narrow their requests to bring them within the cost limit. Other requests seek information that has already been published or information that the Government intend to publish in the future; in six cases HMT has refused in full as the information sought comprised information provided to the Government in confidence, commercially sensitive information, and policy advice where the policy process is yet to conclude.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193451]

Angela Eagle: Other than in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192050]

Angela Eagle: For information on 2006-07 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury, my hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1022W. For information on 2005-06 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1743W. Information on earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Economic Situation

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to contribute to *(a)* tackling the turbulence in the international financial markets and *(b)* preventing such crises in future. [195187]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* On 30 January 2008 the Treasury, Bank of England and the FSA published the consultation paper Financial stability and depositor protection: strengthening the framework. It includes proposals related to strengthening the stability and resilience of international financial markets and preventing crises in the future. The Government have also taken actions to address problems in the markets for mortgage backed securities (MBS). On 6 March the Government introduced new regulations for covered bonds, which will increase the pool of potential investors and strengthen market confidence in the longer term. The Government announced at Budget a Working Group that will take forward market initiatives to improve liquidity in the MBS market. Financial market turbulence has been global and also demands a global response. That is why the Government support, and is heavily involved in, the EC and G7 work programmes aimed at improving the stability and resilience of the financial system for the future.

Northern Rock: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long Goldman Sachs will be retained in its role as financial adviser to HM Treasury on Northern Rock. [188857]

Angela Eagle: The financial adviser in question will be retained for as long as necessary for the purpose of restructuring of Northern Rock, as is normal and proper in company restructuring of a similar scale to this.

Northern Rock: Nationalisation

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer who among his ministerial team has lead responsibility for Northern Rock while in temporary public ownership; if he will take steps to provide for the answering of oral questions by that Minister on Northern Rock under arrangements equivalent to those established for the Minister for the Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [190569]

Angela Eagle: Responsibility rests with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, assisted by other Treasury Ministers as appropriate. The Chancellor has undertaken to keep the House informed of developments relating to Northern Rock. He has no plans to change the arrangements for answering parliamentary questions on the matter.

Norwich Union

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has had discussions with Norwich Union and the Prudential on their inherited estate proposals; and if he will make a statement. [198256]

Angela Eagle: The management of the insurance inherited estate is a matter for the Regulator, the Financial Services Authority (FSA), which sets the rules covering the management of with-profits funds.

Private Finance Initiative: Liability

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timescale is for ensuring that private finance initiative and private public partnership liabilities will henceforth be recorded as Government liabilities. [190037]

Angela Eagle: Budget 2008 announced that from 2009-10 the annual accounts of Government Departments would be prepared using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) adapted as necessary for the public sector.

The accounting guidance in relation to private finance initiative and public private partnership (PPP) under IFRS is being finalised. The Treasury is working with the Financial Reporting Advisory Board to include the guidance in the IFRS based Government Financial Reporting Manual. It will form the basis for determining the appropriate balance sheet treatment of all PFI and PPP liabilities.

Tobacco: Belgium

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make representations to the relevant EU Commissioner on the effects on independent tobacco retailers in the United Kingdom of illegal sales of tobacco imported from Belgium. [196872]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* HM Revenue and Customs has a strategy in place to tackle tobacco smuggling which was refreshed at Budget 2006 when the Government published a paper 'New Responses to New Challenges: Reinforcing the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling Strategy'. New measures have recently been introduced to address the smuggling of tobacco from other countries, including legislation which places an obligation on tobacco manufacturers not to facilitate smuggling, and the incorporation of a covert anti-counterfeit security mark on packs of cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco. The introduction of the security mark supports legitimate retailers by creating a deterrent to counterfeit products infiltrating the retail supply chain.

In addition, HM Revenue and Customs is committed to supporting legitimate businesses and in this context works closely with the Tobacco Alliance: Retailers Against Smuggling'.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has for provision of financial support to farms after 2013. [196198]

Jonathan Shaw: Decisions on financial support to farms under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2013 will be reached during the EU future financing negotiations for 2014-20, which should commence in 2010-11.

The joint DEFRA/Treasury Vision for the CAP, published in 2005, envisages the abolition of Pillar 1, including direct support payments to farmers, by 2015-20. A central tenet of this Vision is that farmers should be rewarded by the market for their outputs, and by the taxpayer only for producing societal benefits that the market cannot deliver. Our Vision foresees that with Pillar 1 abolished, residual EU spending on agriculture would be based on Pillar 2.

Atlantis Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on his Department's initiative of the Atlantis Initiative; which other Government Departments and other bodies participate in it; what funding has been allocated to it; and who co-ordinates this Initiative. [197398]

Mr. Woolas: Atlantis is a combined initiative by organisations within Government to make data more readily accessible to support flooding and water management.

Organisations in the Atlantis Initiative are Ordnance Survey, the Met Office, the British Geological Survey, the Hydrographic Office, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the Environment Agency.

There is no funding available to the Atlantis Initiative. Co-ordination is through a Programme Executive Board made up of chief executives of each organisation or their representatives.

Birds: Trade

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the EU ban on wild bird imports on the illegal wildlife trade in birds in the UK; what research his Department has conducted on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [197007]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* In December 2006, DEFRA let a contract to assess the impact of the restrictions brought in by Commission Regulation 318/2007 in March 2007. The contractors were asked to assess the impact of the current import ban on wild birds on illegal trade levels, as well as the related risk of the introduction of exotic diseases to native and domestic bird populations. Completion of the report was delayed to enable the contractors more time to obtain and assess data. The contractors draft report has however now been submitted to DEFRA.

and it is being considered to ensure its accuracy and that the contract terms have been met. It is anticipated that the report will be finalised and published either in April or May. In addition, Government continue to support the national wildlife crime unit which acts as a monitor on the illegal trade in such species in the UK.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contingency arrangements are in place for higher than expected demand for bluetongue vaccinations. [196211]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* At this stage it is difficult to forecast the extent to which Bluetongue will have spread geographically by the time vaccine is delivered, or what demand for vaccine will be. However, following some estimates of likely take-up of vaccine from industry and expert recommendations on where we could expect the disease to be present this year, we have ordered 20 million doses for use in England (and a further 2.5 million doses are reserved for use in Wales). The UK was the first member state affected by the current outbreak to place an order for vaccine. We are considering with industry how best to secure future supplies.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many serotypes of bluetongue a vaccine is available; and for how many serotypes vaccine research is being conducted. [196216]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Live attenuated vaccines have been developed for most Bluetongue serotypes. However, we would not normally consider using live vaccines as a disease control measure as there are significant potential risks associated with them.

We are aware of inactivated vaccines which have been developed for Bluetongue serotypes 1 and 4. An inactivated vaccine is currently being developed and produced for serotype 8, the serotype currently in circulation in parts of England, and the UK has placed an order with Intervet for 22.5 million doses.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* wholesale and *(b)* final on-farm price of bluetongue vaccine in (i) 50 ml and (ii) 20 ml bottles. [196435]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The vaccine we have ordered from Intervet will be available in 50 ml and 20 ml bottles, and livestock keepers will be able to purchase vaccine through their private vets via veterinary wholesalers. The wholesale "list" price is likely to be £22.02 for the 50 ml bottles and £13.10 for the 20 ml bottles. However, it is expected that the final on-farm price is likely to be between £27.50 and £33.00 for the 50 ml bottles (i.e. around 55 to 66 pence per ml) and between £16.35 and £19.65 for the 20 ml bottles (i.e. around 82 to 98 pence per ml) plus VAT. This will allow the wholesalers and veterinary organisations to cover the overhead, handling and administration charges throughout the distribution process. The on-farm price will be dependent on arrangements between keepers, their private vets and veterinary wholesalers.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccinations

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the merits of a compulsory national vaccination programme against bluetongue disease. [196203]

Jonathan Shaw: In collaboration with a core group of industry stakeholders, the Government fully considered the option of a compulsory vaccination programme. However, this would cost the farming industry at least 50 per cent. more than voluntary vaccination and, because of the associated increase in regulatory burdens, would slow down the distribution of vaccine in a situation where speed will be of the essence. Moreover, the lack of scientific evidence to support an immediate prospect of eradication through vaccination suggests that the case for compulsion is weak.

Together with the core group, the Government have therefore developed a vaccination plan that avoids the negative consequences of compulsion, but promotes mass take-up of the vaccine through an industry-led campaign.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of agricultural land comprises farms affected by bovine tuberculosis in the last 12 months. [196204]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held by DEFRA or Animal Health.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in *(a)* England, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* Copeland have recorded cases of bovine tuberculosis over the last five years. [196205]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of individual new bovine TB herd breakdowns in England and Cumbria in each of the last five years is given in the following table. It is not possible to break the data down to a constituency level.

Number of new bovine TB herd breakdowns

	England	*Cumbria*
2003	2,516	70
2004	2,612	65
2005[1]	2,904	41
2006[1]	2,721	28
2007[1]	3,183	15

[1] 2005-07 figures are provisional and subject to change as more data becomes available.

Source:
Animal Health database (Vetnet)

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how his Department plans to reduce the spread of bovine tuberculosis involving badgers. [196202]

Jonathan Shaw: Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) is a complex issue which must be considered in the round, not in terms of badger culling versus cattle controls. We know that the disease can be spread by both cattle and badgers.

Our improved cattle control measures, including pre-movement testing and the increased use of the gamma interferon blood test, are having a positive effect by helping detect infected animals that would otherwise have been missed. We have also been working with stakeholders to raise awareness of simple biosecurity measures to keep cattle and badgers apart. We intend to continue to work with farmers and vets to encourage a high level of compliance with these vital measures.

We are also investing in an extensive programme of research, including improved diagnosis of the disease and developing a vaccine for cattle and/or badgers.

No decision has yet been made on badger culling to control TB in cattle. However, we are carefully considering all the evidence, including the Final Report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB, the assessment of the evidence on badger culling produced by the former Chief Scientific Adviser, and the recently published report of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.

Any decision will need to take account of the impact of any proposed measure on the disease, the science, public acceptability and the practicalities of implementation. Whatever the decision, cattle controls will continue to be vital in our fight against bTB.

Carbon Emissions: Companies

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the performance of and *(b)* the methods used by energy companies in achieving their energy efficiency commitments. [196886]

Mr. Woolas: Ofgem administers the Energy Efficiency Commitment. For EEC2, which is due to finish on 31 March 2008, Ofgem has published regular quarterly updates on the progress made by suppliers to meet their targets. The latest report was published in February 2008 and indicates that all suppliers have met their non-priority group targets, but that, with one quarter remaining, there was still some activity remaining in the priority group. Ofgem will publish the final report on EEC2, with details of insulation and other measures employed, in July 2008.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192226]

Jonathan Shaw: The core departmental expenditure on advertising initiatives for the past four available financial years are listed in the following table:

Campaign	*Financial year*	*Spend (£)*
Are you Doing Your Bit	2002-03	141
Illegal Imports	2002-03	293,143
Illegal Meat Imports	2003-04	119,146
FMD Exercise	2004-05	4,145
Passports for Horses	2004-05	46,719
Climate Change	2005-06	661,120
Environment Direct	2005-06	221,337
Illegal Food Imports	2005-06	75,030
Climate Change	2006-07	627,216
One Planet Living	2006-07	459,659
Environment Direct	2006-07	89,773
Illegal Meats	2006-07	38,582

This includes communications on a wide range of matters, much of it necessary or beneficial to the public and the wide range of industries in which DEFRA has an interest, together with local government, voluntary organisations and other bodies.

Individual records of spend for DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies, agencies and financially sponsored organisations are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what access to the Environment Agency's national flood and coastal defence database is provided to insurance companies. [197754]

Mr. Woolas: Insurance companies do not have direct access to data from the national flood and coastal defence database.

Some specific datasets and associated attributes (for example, historic flood events and spatial flood defences) have been approved for access and are, therefore, available under licence from the Environment Agency. The Association of British Insurers have been made aware of these.

Any other requests for information from the national flood and coastal defence database are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Floods: Housing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with insurance industry representatives on proposals within the Thames Gateway Interim Plan area to build homes in areas vulnerable to flooding; and if he will make a statement. [197241]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA is involved in discussions with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) at official and ministerial level. The Government works with the ABI to maximise the availability of flood insurance cover which remains available to the great majority of households in areas of flood risk.

The Environment Agency has had continued dialogue with the ABI regarding the Thames Estuary 2100 Project. Both the ABI and individual insurers have been invited to participate in Environment Agency consultations which have been designed to develop the draft Final Plan (which will, in turn, go out to consultation in spring 2009).

The Environment Agency has not had specific engagement with the ABI regarding current development

and flood risk in the Thames Gateway, but the Agency does apply the guidance set out in PPS25 (Development and Flood Risk).

Foot and Mouth Disease: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the financial cost to the farming industry of the foot and mouth outbreaks in 2007. [196197]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's current estimate of the economic cost to the UK livestock sector of the movement restrictions and the ban on exports, imposed as a result of foot and mouth disease and bluetongue, is over £100 million.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid to firms involved in the Warm Front scheme. [197041]

Mr. Woolas: Warm Front spend since the scheme's inception in 2000 is outlined as following:

Scheme year	*Approximate total spend/budget (£ million)*
2000-01	72
2001-02	197
2002-03	163
2003-04	164
2004-05	166
2005-06	192
2006-07	320
2007-08	350

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are in place to ensure that work carried out by contractors for the Warm Front scheme is done by qualified staff. [197042]

Mr. Woolas: Installers working on Warm Front must hold current qualifications to professionally recognised standards, such as Corgi, NICEIC and BBA, and as a minimum must carry £10 million Employers and £3 million Public/Products Insurance liability cover.

Installers are audited twice yearly on operational, financial and health and safety practises, which include random checks of works carried out and the qualifications of persons who undertake them.

Meteorological Office: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who co-ordinates work on flooding carried out by *(a)* the Meteorological Office and *(b)* Ordnance Survey. [197401]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is responsible for providing the lead on fluvial and coastal flooding.

The Environment Agency works closely both with the Met Office and Ordnance Survey who provide weather information and mapping information respectively. This is then used to aid the Environment Agency in their decision making on flood-related work.

Nanotechnology

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward the timing of the decision on moving to a compulsory reporting scheme on nanotechnologies. [196965]

Mr. Woolas: The Department intends to review the voluntary reporting scheme on nanotechnologies in October 2008, as planned. However, in liaison with industry and academia, we are currently seeking to remove disincentives to reporting by simplifying the guidance and providing assistance with completing the documentation.

Ozone Layer: EC Law

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to implement EC Regulation 2037/2000 on the disposal of ozone depleting substances. [197117]

Mr. Woolas: EC Regulation 2037/2000 on ozone-depleting substances is directly applicable in the UK. This includes Article 16, which deals with the recovery for destruction or for recycling or reclamation of ozone-depleting substances. Under separate national regulations applicable to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, any person having control of such substances has a duty to comply with Article 16. Any person who fails to do so is committing an offence.

Thermal Insulation: Housing

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ofgem, *(b)* energy companies and *(c)* the devolved administrations on the insulation of hard-to-treat homes; and if he will make a statement. [196883]

Mr. Woolas: My ministerial colleagues and I have had regular discussions with Ofgem, energy companies and the devolved administrations as part of developing the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), launched on 1 April. CERT has been specifically designed to encourage suppliers to promote innovative measures appropriate to hard to treat homes, such as solid wall insulation and heat pumps, by way of an uplift in scores. Suppliers can also use an option in the Priority Group, under which they receive a further uplift for solid wall insulation installed in the homes of those on benefits or for ground source heat pumps installed in the homes of those on benefits and off the gas grid.

Equally, the Government's review of the Fuel Poverty Strategy is exploring the role of alternative technologies in alleviating fuel poverty, including those who could not be assisted by established insulation or heating measures.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of feasible methods of insulating hard-to-treat homes; and if he will make a statement. [196884]

Mr. Woolas: Finding innovative, cost-effective and attractive ways of insulating hard to treat homes will be core to both our carbon saving and fuel poverty alleviation ambitions. To inform policy development and stimulate market transformation:

we commissioned a study from the Building Research Establishment to look at the extent of hard to treat homes in England and to consider different technical options for treating them. Part one of the study (on the extent) has already been published with the second part to be published in the summer;

we included an innovation ring-fence and flexibility option under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target to allow suppliers to trial more expensive measures—we expect 150,000 households to benefit from Solid Wall Insulation under CERT;

we are providing the Energy Saving Trust with £1 million under the Environmental Transformation Fund to support market research into several innovative efficiency products, including the development and field trials of alternative forms of solid wall insulation, and;

Warm Front, the Government's main programme for eradicating fuel poverty in vulnerable households, has mechanisms in place to locate and assess the suitability of alternative technologies for use in the scheme, with a particular emphasis on those that could potentially provide solutions for hard-to-treat properties. As part of this process, we are currently piloting solar thermal units in off-gas property.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public; and what the cost of each such campaign was in each of the last 10 years. [192222]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not available for the last 10 years. The following table provides information on the initiatives which have been advertised to the public by the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07.

	Initiatives Advertised to the Public	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	Stay Safe Stay Secure	56,777.80
	Theft from Vehicles	88,918.96
	Total	145,696.76
2005-06	Unknown Caller TV Ad	104,935.29
	Theft from Vehicles	86,365.57
	Community Safety Week	26,196.00
	Neighbourhood Watch Signs	12,996.00
	Project RIOH	8,415.35
	Tackling antisocial behaviour leaflet	3,200.00
	Newry Plasma Screen	60,000.00
	Youth Conference TV advert	47,100.00
	Total	349,208.21
2006-07	Domestic Violence[1]	50,000.00
	Knife Carrying[1]	58,000.00
	Project RIOH	57,081.79
	Domestic Burglary	51,298.89
	Theft from Vehicles	30,000.00
	HIPA Scheme	6,186.09
	Business Crime Postcards	6,894.53
	Message in a Bottle	25,843.00
	Crime Prevention and Home Safety Tips for Older People	1,298.00
	SOS Bus	42,553.19
	Community Safety Magazine	4,784.00
	Total	333,939.49

[1] The NIO jointly funded these campaigns with the DHSSPS and PSNI—amounts shown are the NIO's contribution to the campaigns.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197152]

Mr. Woodward: My predecessor attended a summit of the British Irish Council at the Excel Conference Centre, London, on 2 June 2006.

Neither myself, nor my predecessors have visited any of the other listed venues in a ministerial capacity between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196444]

Mr. Woodward: The hourly rates paid to employment agencies for agency staff used by the Department varies from agency to agency and is not readily available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The hourly rates paid to staff on fixed term contracts and on temporary contracts for less than 51 weeks in each of the last 12 months could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table provides a snapshot of the position in two particular months over the last 12 months.

	Hourly rate of pay	*Number of staff*
March 2007	£17.26	3
	£15.82	1
	£13.72	1
	£11.48	1

	Hourly rate of pay	Number of staff
	£11.32	1
	£9.38	1
	£7.88	1
	£5.51	21
Total		30
February 2008	£18.25	2
	£17.79	1
	£16.25	1
	£14.02	1
	£11.87	1
	£11.75	1
	£11.60	3
	£8.23	1
	£5.78	15
Total		26

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193559]

Mr. Woodward: There were 65 members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office (3 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2007.

This has decreased to 63 members of staff (but remains at 3 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) who were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2008.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195876]

Mr. Woodward: My Department has aligned itself with the NI Sustainable Development Strategy and Implementation Plan, launched by the then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my right hon. Friend the Member for Neath (Mr. Hain) in 2006, and now being taken forward by the NI Executive.

The NI Executive is currently carrying out a review of its approach to Sustainable Development and as part of that process has asked Departments to revise their policy statements. The NIO is revising its policy statement and when this exercise is completed we will place a copy of the new statement on the NIO website and in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197068]

Mr. Woodward: One person attended the Managing your Confidence training course in the past 12 months at a cost of £1,149.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195877]

Mr. Woodward: My Department makes regular use of the video conference facilities it has in its offices in Belfast and London. These facilities are capable of handling multi person meetings and therefore significantly reduce the level of travelling required between both locations. Staff are actively encouraged to use these facilities to reduce travel cost and save time. The possibility of a VCR meeting is always considered before travel is approved.

The amount of travel undertaken fluctuates depending on business pressures at the time, and some meetings can only be effectively undertaken face to face, therefore I do not believe it is possible to set targets in this area.

The NIO participates in the DEFRA-managed Government Carbon Offsetting Scheme which offsets the carbon emissions from ministerial and official air travel.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196743]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All authorship and publication by Department for International Development (DFID) staff of material which draws on official information or experiences is governed by the Civil Service Code, which states:

"You must not:...disclose official information without authority. This duty continues to apply after you leave the Civil Service".

Guidance to DFID staff states that if they wish to publish books or other works (articles, electronic media including blogs, broadcasts etc.) which draw on official information or experiences, they must, at the outset, apply for permission to do so from the Director of Finance and Corporate Performance (FCPD). If initial permission is granted, they must then submit the final text for scrutiny and clearance to the Director FCPD before proceeding with the publication.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1273W, on departmental publications, if he will place in the Library a copy in electronic format of his Department's web-based staff handbook. [197409]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1273W. The Department for International Development's staff handbook has been replaced by a new web-based system, PeopleSight, that provides a wide variety of information for DFID staff. This information could be downloaded only at disproportionate cost.

However, I have arranged to place in the Library a document setting out the contents of PeopleSight.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution his Department plans to make to the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund to support the work of the Quartet Special Envoy in financial year 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [197187]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There are currently no plans to allocate more support to the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund in addition to the £400,000 provided in 2007. The UK, however, continues to give vital assistance to the office of the Quartet Special Envoy, including the key secondment positions of chief of staff and governance adviser.

The joint Department for International Development (DFID) and World Bank New Market Development project is one of the 'confidence building measures' promoted by the Quartet Special Envoy. Through this project, DFID will provide £3 million in matching grants for Palestinian firms and business associations over three years.

Overseas Aid

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 609W, on overseas aid; when he expects to announce the funding allocated to civil society through the Partnership Programme Agreement for 2008-09 to 2010-11; and whether he expects this allocation to increase in proportion to the overall change in his Department's expenditure. [196766]

Mr. Malik: We informed Partnership Programme Agreement (PPA) partners on 28 February about their PPA funding allocation for 2008-09 to 2010-11. Each PPA partner will receive an increase of 3 per cent. per year over this period.

I anticipate that overall support to civil society through central schemes over the next three years will grow by around 50 per cent. in line with overall growth in the Department's expenditure.

United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, to question 195258, on the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund, what the *(a)* grade and *(b)* pay band was of the civil servant seconded from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [197186]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The civil servant seconded was employed at grade A1. The pay scale for this grade for 2005-06 was £49,189 to £62,728.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who has advised her Department on air cabin quality and possible contamination in the last five years; to which institutions they are affiliated; which other organisations they have advised over that period; and which of those organisations operate on a commercial basis. [196733]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: The advice the Department is acting upon comes from two sources; the Committee on Toxicity, an independent scientific committee that provides advice to the Food Standards Agency and Government Departments, and whose evidence review into cabin air was published in September 2007; and the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee whose report into Air Travel and Health was published in December 2007. Following this advice the Department is developing cabin air sampling research with a number of participating airlines to assemble real time data on substances which may be in cabin air during fume events. We are taking technical advice from a research team and steering group on how to collect and analyse the air samples.

Airports: Security

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers went through airport security in Great Britain in the last 12 months; how many of them had their hold luggage searched by hand; and how many *(a)* arrests, *(b)* charges and *(c)* convictions arose from these searches. [196794]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Aviation Security Programme requires that all passengers departing from a UK airport must pass through security and their cabin and hold baggage must be screened prior to being allowed on to an aircraft. The Government do not maintain any records of the number of passengers passing through security or how many had their hold baggage hand searched or any consequences arising from this.

Bus Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials met representatives from (i) Stagecoach, (ii) First Group, (iii) Go-Ahead and (iv) Arriva to discuss bus-related matters. [195973]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: Ministers and officials have met representatives from these companies on many occasions since 1 January 2007 to discuss bus-related matters.

Car Sharing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government have taken to encourage car sharing. [197625]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Car sharing is one of the sustainable travel measures ('Smarter Choices') being promoted by the Department. We encourage local authorities to include schemes, such as car sharing, in their local transport plans. The Government provide Local Transport Plan funding through the integrated transport block grant (£372 million in 2008-09) and the transport component of the revenue support grant. It is for local authorities to decide how they spend this money. We have provided best practice advice and guidance, including 'Making Car Sharing and Car Clubs Work' in 2005.

On 20 March the Secretary of State opened the UK's first motorway high occupancy vehicle lane on M606/62 between Bradford and Leeds. We will continue to consider such lanes for use across the network alongside other measures.

Transport Direct provides links to car sharing organisations, which are provided along with the results of journey plans. We also propose this year to develop car sharing messages under the ACT ON CO_2 campaign. Car sharing can be an important part of workplace, school and other travel plans. As such we have included it in guidance on travel planning, such as the Essential Guide to Travel Planning, and promote it via our National Business Travel Network.

Dartford Tunnel: Tolls

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the net change in annual revenue of ceasing to levy the Dartford Crossing toll. [197901]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ceasing to levy the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing Road User Charge would mean there was no annual revenue. Revenue for 2006-07 was £69.0 million.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of her departmental staff, in each pay band, have been working on high speed rail links from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Scotland in each of the last five years. [195177]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* Departmental staff work on matters relating to inter-urban rail, though none have been dedicated to work on high-speed rail links.

The Secretary of State recently invited Network Rail to begin work to develop a better understanding of some of the complex rail options, such as new lines, that we may have in future.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance is issued to members of her Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if she will make a statement. [196747]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In pursuing Transformational Government's objectives to rationalise the web presence of Government Departments, our aim is to ensure that any new departmental information published online is published on either the DfT/Executive Agency websites for corporate content; Directgov, for citizen-facing content; and Business Link, for business-facing content.

We publish material in accordance with cross-Government guidance on propriety and the Civil Service Code. In addition, our departmental intranet provides guidance on how to get content published on the website. This guidance sets out the steps involved, which include the need for ministerial approval and procedures for converting documents into HTML (in accordance with Government web guidelines).

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195886]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's sustainable operations policy statement was published on 25 October 2007 and is available for viewing on the DfT website as follows:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/sr/susopsdftest

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in her Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197056]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total number of staff in the Central Department for Transport and its agencies who have attended the aforementioned National School of Government courses over the last 12 months, and the costs are set out in the table:

	Working Assertively		*Managing your Confidence*		*Influencing with Integrity*		*Emotional Intelligence*		
Department/ Agency	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Number*	*Cost (£)*	*Total (£)*
Department for Transport (C)	1	726	1	1,149	3	2,178	0	0	4,053
Driving Standards Agency	0	0	0	0	1	726	0	0	726
Highways Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,495	1,495
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,495	1,495

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187660]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Travel arrangements are made in the most efficient and cost effective way, all official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Department/agency staff handbook.

DfT(C) and five of its agencies do not record travel expenditure differentiated by staff grade or class of travel. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Two of the Department's agencies record first class travel separately. DVLA spent £431,000 during the last 12 months, but do not record staff grade. Highways Agency spent a total of £1,780,142 broken down as follows:

Grade (HA Pay Band)	*Value (£)*
2	12,341
3	42,984
4	56,770
5	228,786
6	627,062
7	449,401
8	181,196
SCS	111,251
Non civil servants	70,351

These figures do not include costs paid for by the individual and reclaimed through a travel and subsistence claim. Details of this additional expenditure could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driver Information Systems

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to publish her conclusions arising from the consultation on in-vehicle information systems. [196319]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department intends to publish a summary of the results of the initial consultation on in-vehicle information systems this spring. It will be available on the departmental website and copies will be sent to the Libraries of both Houses.

Drivers: Training

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new light goods vehicle drivers were trained in the last 12 months; and how many foreign light goods vehicle drivers were working in the UK. [197857]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DVLA does not keep information on LGV driver training nor can we identify the number of foreign LGV drivers working in the UK. We do, however record volumes of applications being processed for vocational drivers, which includes both LGV and PCV.

For the 12 month period ending December 2007, the number of first applications processed for vocational drivers was 73,475. This figure includes 60,119 provisional and 13,356 substantive applications.

Driving: Safety

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to educate the public on the possible effects of driving long distances when tired. [197624]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport continues to educate the public on the possible effects of driving long distances when tired through the THINK! road safety education campaign and motorway variable message signs. Drivers are encouraged to plan regular breaks on long journeys through a mix of:

Radio advertising;

Ambient advertising in service stations;

Online advertising on journey planning websites;

Partnership marketing activity;

Truck Back advertising;

Public relations activity; and

Distribution of promotional materials to road safety stakeholders for regional campaigns and the general public.

Advice on how to avoid and combat driver tiredness is in the Highway Code and on the Department's THINK! website at:

www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk/campaigns/drivertiredness/drivertiredness.htm

Environment Agency: Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the Environment Agency's response to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation; and what steps she plans to take as a result. [197540]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* We have received many thousands of responses to our recent consultation on further development at Heathrow and these are still being analysed. No decisions will be taken until we are in a position to consider the totality of responses.

Heathrow Airport: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation document did not refer to the effects of incoming international flights in estimating the likely impact of a third runway on carbon dioxide emissions. [197539]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The method used to estimate the impact of additional capacity at Heathrow on UK aviation CO_2 emissions in the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation document is referenced at paragraph 2.23 of the impact assessment (annex B). Full details of the forecasting method can be found in chapter 3 of 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts', available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

There is no internationally agreed way to allocate to individual countries the CO_2 emissions from international flights. For reporting purposes, the UN framework convention on climate change requires each nation to report emissions based on aviation bunker fuel consumption, which is closely related to fuel used on departing flights. To ensure consistency with historic reported totals, and to avoid double-counting CO_2 emissions, our forecasts include international aviation emissions on a departing flight only basis.

Heathrow Airport: Complaints

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints the Government received over delays and inefficiencies at Heathrow Airport in each of the last five years. [196169]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Department for Transport receive a number of letters about a variety of issues at airports e.g. baggage, disability issues, security, passenger information, delays; and these are sometimes taken up with the airport, airline or agency most concerned. The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost as these letters are not filed by airports.

Lorries

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to implement the findings of the recently published study by her Department of trials of longer, heavier vehicles. [190170]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The report of the study is due to be published shortly. Its purpose is to inform policy making rather than to advise on whether to allow trials. At present, we have no plans to introduce longer or heavier vehicles.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles were travelled by heavy goods vehicles in England in each of the last five years. [197534]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides the total distance travelled by heavy goods vehicles in England from 2002 to 2006.

	Heavy Goods Vehicles (billion vehicle miles)
2002	15.3
2003	15.4
2004	15.8
2005	15.6
2006	15.6

Lorries: Accidents

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* injuries have been caused by other vehicles hitting a heavy goods vehicle in each of the last 10 years; how many of these were attributed to poor visibility; and if she will make a statement. [198210]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured casualties resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one heavy goods vehicle and at least one other motor vehicle in Great Britain in 1997 to 2006 are shown in the following table. It is not possible to determine the number of these accidents in which a heavy goods vehicle was hit by (rather than hit) another vehicle.

	Number of casualties	
	Killed	*Injured*[1]
1997	399	15,580
1998	441	15,350
1999	465	16,244
2000	412	16,334
2001	415	15,850
2002	380	14,453
2003	391	14,317
2004	321	13,413
2005	370	13,014
2006	302	12,094

[1] Seriously or slightly injured

Details of contributory factors to road accidents have been recorded since 2005. In 2005 there were a total of 21 fatalities and 700 people injured in accidents involving at least one heavy goods vehicle and at least one other motor vehicle which had "vision affected" recorded as a contributory factor. In 2006, the equivalent figures were 14 fatalities and 669 people injured.

The contributory factor category "vision affected by" includes contributory factors "stationary or parked vehicle(s)", "Vegetation", "Road layout (e.g. bend, winding road, hill crest)", "Buildings, road signs, street furniture", "Dazzling headlights", "Dazzling sun", "Rain, sleet, snow or fog", "Spray from other vehicles", "Visor or windscreen dirty or scratched" and "Vehicle blind spot".

Further information about contributory factors can be found in the 'Contributory factors to road accidents' article in 'Road Casualties Great Britain' at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221549/227755/rcgb2006v1.pdf

Motor Vehicles: Fines

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place to determine whether there are outstanding and unpaid penalties relating to vehicles leaving the UK. [197648]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The enforcement of a civil penalty charge—for example a penalty charge arising from parking, certain moving traffic contraventions, or from a road user charging scheme—is a matter for the issuing local authority. The Government are not aware of local authorities making arrangements to monitor vehicles leaving the UK for this purpose.

The enforcement of criminal penalties is an operational matter for HM Courts Service. HMCS does not routinely monitor vehicles leaving ports for the purpose of fine enforcement. The EU Framework on Mutual Recognition of Financial Penalties, once implemented, should ensure that future offenders from other EU member states pay the penalty for the criminal offences they commit.

Motorcycles: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instructors have been trained to oversee tests under the second European driving licence directive for motorcycles; how many will be required to implement the tests; and if she will make a statement. [196708]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Driving examiners, not instructors, will conduct the motorcycling tests under the second European driving licence directive.

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has trained 95 examiners to conduct the new practical test and a further 16 are to undergo training before the end of April 2008.

To meet the demand for tests in a full year the Agency estimates that it needs to have the full time equivalent of 75 examiners.

Parking Offences: Lorries

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers she plans to provide to the police to enable the enforcement of parking penalties imposed on foreign lorry drivers. [197781]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Provisions are included in the Local Transport Bill currently progressing through Parliament which will enable DVLA to request information from foreign registration authorities on behalf of UK authorities or the police, who wish to pursue unpaid penalties incurred by motorists in foreign registered vehicles.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197500]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department was formed in May 2002. Since this date the central Department has placed orders for work totalling £17,619 (excluding VAT) with Rackspace Managed Hosting Ltd. as follows:

	£
2005-06	5,234
2006-07	11,445
2007-08	940

The Department's agencies have not awarded any work to Rackspace since May 2002.

Railways: Overcrowding

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to minimise overcrowding on trains; and if she will make a statement. [196926]

Mr. Tom Harris: The rail White Paper, published in July, committed £15 billion in total Government support to the railway over the period from 2009 to 2014. £10 billion of that will be devoted specifically to increasing capacity. Among a range of measures, there will be an extra 1,300 new carriages which will be targeted at the most congested routes on the network.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2532W, on biofuels, under which of the articles of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 the Renewable Fuels Agency has been asked to conduct its review into the impacts of biofuel production. [197402]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Fuels Agency has been asked to lead the announced review into the wider impacts of biofuel production. Article 15 of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 gives the Renewable Fuels Agency various duties to report as requested to the Secretary of State on a variety of matters and the power to publish reports and guidance as it thinks fit.

Road Safety Act 2006

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what range of offences she plans to specify in the orders bringing sections 11 and 12 of the Road Safety Act 2006 into effect; if she will include lorries parking illegally in the range of offences; and if she will make a statement. [197777]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There will be a comprehensive list of offences relating to motor vehicles and we will be consulting on this and other aspects of the secondary legislation later in the year.

Roads

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of road there are in *(a)* the St Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England for which her Department is responsible. [198377]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent figures available for road mileage relate to 2006. In 2006 there were 4,620 miles of public road in Cornwall and 189,000 miles in England. Road mileage figures below local highway authority level are not available.

The road lengths provided are the total length of roads maintained by the Highways Agency and local authorities. Private road lengths are not included.

Shipping: Firearms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on merchant ships carrying firearms to guard against raids by pirates; and if she will make a statement. [197770]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government do not encourage the carriage of firearms on board UK registered merchant ships. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Government condone the use of armed guard protection on board such ships. For example, certain shipments of nuclear material and certain VIP passenger

movements have received armed guard protection. In these exceptional circumstances, ship owners should ensure that the guards are properly trained in the effective use of firearms in order to minimise accidents.

In line with their policy of discouraging the carriage of firearms on board UK registered merchant ships, the Government have not set rules of engagement for armed guards at sea. Any company providing an armed guard protection service to a UK registered merchant ship is fully accountable under UK law and the laws of any state in whose territorial and internal waters the firearms are carried.

While the Government do not encourage the carriage of firearms on board UK registered merchant ships, there are legal provisions governing their carriage. Firearms are controlled under the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended) and these provisions were explained in Merchant Shipping Notice 1704 published in January 1998. Permits to carry firearms on ships are issued by the police under guidance issued by the Home Office. Where firearms are carried on board UK registered merchant ships the ship security plan should detail how and where they are stored and state the procedures for accessing them.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will *(a)* follow the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines and *(b)* display ICRA's label on the websites for which it is responsible. [191774]

Mr. Thomas: Content on the core Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform website does meet the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA) guidelines. The current review of BERR's website will determine whether it is possible to display ICRA's label in future.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197120]

Mr. Thomas: During the last 12 months, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and its agencies has made the following use of the listed training courses run by the National School of Government:

(a) Influencing with Integrity: four staff at a cost of £2,904

(b) Emotional Intelligence: one staff member at a cost of £1,495

(c) Counselling Skills for the Workplace: 0

(d) Managing your Confidence: 0

(e) Balancing Work/Life Realities: 0

(f) Working Assertively: one staff member at a cost of £726

Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2235W, on mineral waters, how much bottled water was purchased by his Department's contracted service provider. [196778]

Mr. Thomas: During the last 12-month period, my Department's contracted service provider has purchased 43,680 litres of bottled mineral water, at a cost of £16,161.60. However, since November 2007, all mineral water for official functions, meetings, etc. is provided via a table water bottling system and no pre-packaged water is provided.

Employment Dispute Resolution Review

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what further steps he plans to take on the Gibbons proposals on employment dispute resolution; and if he will make a statement. [197248]

Mr. McFadden: Legislative measures which aim to simplify and improve employment dispute resolution are included within the Employment Bill. Additionally, the Government are making up to £37 million available over the next three years which will allow ACAS to boost its helpline and advice services and enable it to facilitate informal resolutions at any stage of a dispute. A full account of the changes to employment dispute resolution which the Government propose will be included in the Government's response to the consultation "Resolving disputes in the workplace", which will be published in due course.

Environment Agency

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the annual budget for *(a)* Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution and *(b)* the Environment Agency has been for evaluating the research work on radioactive waste disposal carried out by Nirex since its inception. [193638]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

In June 2003, the Environment Agency (EA) entered into a formal agreement with Nirex to scrutinise the company's research, under section 37 of the Environment Act 1995. Following the integration of Nirex into the NDA, this agreement has continued between the Environment Agency and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), and has a budget of up to £350,000 per year.

The EA had no specific arrangements to scrutinise Nirex research between 1995 and 2003. This reflected the Nirex planning application for an underground rock characterisation facility near Sellafield and the redefined role of Nirex following the planning inquiry. There was however ongoing liaison with the company during this period.

Any extant details of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution's budget for evaluating Nirex's research work between 1992 and 1995 will be held at the National Archives.

Papua: Prince Andrew

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether HRH Prince Andrew recently visited West Papua as part of his role as Special Representative for Trade and Investment. [196294]

Mr. Thomas: As part of his visit to Indonesia as UK Special Representative for Trade and Investment, HRH Prince Andrew visited BP's Tangguh LNG Project in West Papua on 5 March.

Post Office: Empty Property

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate Post Office Ltd has made of its liability for empty property rates in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [197861]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the number of post offices which will close under the Network Change Programme; and if he will make a statement. [191912]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's response in May 2007 to the national public consultation on the post office network committed funding support for strategic changes to the network with up to 2,500 compensated closures nationally. Closures under the network change programme began in January and the programme is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices are planned to be closed in each constituency under the Network Change Programme; and if he will make a statement. [192147]

Mr. McFadden: Proposals for post office closures by parliamentary constituency are published on an area plan basis at the start of local public consultations. Details of area plans published to date are available on Post Office Ltd.'s website:

www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with Post Office Ltd on the formula to be used to *(a)* earmark and *(b)* determine post offices for closure. [193903]

Mr. McFadden: In identifying post offices proposed for closure and subsequent final decisions, Post Office Ltd is required to comply with the access criteria set by Government, to take account of local geography and to consider local demographic and economic factors as set out in the Government's response to the national public consultation on the post office network. Ministers do not play any role in identifying which individual post office branches should close.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how much subsidy has been paid to those post offices proposed for closure in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in the last 10 years; [198148]

(2) how many customers have used each of the post office branches proposed for closure in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland over the last 10 years; [198149]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of Post Office customers in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland who access and receive Post Office services on-line or remotely outside of Post Office opening hours; [198151]

(4) what recent assessment criteria the Post Office has made of any over-provision of Post Office branches in urban areas; [198153]

(5) what consideration the Post Office has given to *(a)* deprivation indicators, *(b)* rurality, *(c)* public transport links and *(d)* wider socio-economic issues in producing its Post Office branch closure proposals in Copeland. [198154]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Services: North West

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what criteria are being applied in Royal Mail's review of its mail distribution services in the North West. [196376]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* This is an operational matter for which Royal Mail has direct responsibility. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide a direct reply to the hon. Member.

A copy of the response will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regeneration: Kent

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much financial support has been given by *(a)* the South East Regional Development Agency and *(b)* English Partnerships to the regeneration of derelict sites in the former East Kent Coalfield; and if he will make a statement. [195738]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has not made any specific assessment of the financial

support given by the South East Regional Development Agency (SEEDA) and English Partnerships to the regeneration of derelict sites in the former East Kent coalfield. However, other related assessments have taken place.

As part of the Department's sponsorship framework of the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), a general assessment of the performance of the RDAs is undertaken by the National Audit Office in the form of Independent Performance Assessment (IPA). This assesses five criteria; ambition, prioritisation, capacity, performance management and achievement. The last IPA report on SEEDA was published in November 2006 (and can be found on SEEDA's website: www.seeda.co.uk).

More specifically, SEEDA itself commissioned consultants BBP and SQW to undertake an interim evaluation of the East Kent coalfields programme. The purpose of this was to establish the impact of regeneration activity to date in the East Kent coalfields area and to assess how well the coalfields programme has addressed its targets. This report was presented to SEEDA in August 2007 in draft and is currently being refined to include 2007 data.

BBP and SQW were previously commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) to conduct an independent evaluation of the coalfields regeneration programme in England. This was published in March 2007. The report provided strong evidence of the positive impact of English Partnerships' National Coalfields Programme on our former coalfield communities, including the East Kent coalfields. The report, 'Regenerating the English Coalfields—Interim evaluation of the coalfield regeneration programmes' is available on the Communities and Local Government website:

http:www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/regeneratingenglish

Training: Elderly

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people aged over 50 years took up training schemes offered through his Department in Easington constituency in each of the last five years. [192572]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the total number of learners aged 50 and over in Easington constituency for the latest five years for which information is available (numbers have been rounded).

LSC funded adult learners (on further education provision, Train to Gain and Adult and Community Learning)

Academic year	*Number*
2002-03	1,740
2003-04	2,170
2004-05	2,370
2005-06	1,920
2006-07	1,350

Overall Government investment in the further education sector has increased by 52 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2007. Participation funding for adults will increase to around £3.6 billion in 2010-11, an increase of over 17 per cent. compared with 2007-08.

We have continued to realign funding towards basic literacy and numeracy, full level 2 and full level 3 qualifications providing skills for employment and further progression in learning away from, for example, very short or low quality courses. This has enabled us to support significant increases in participation for young people and adults in these key programmes, providing them with the education and skills they need to fully participate in an economically successful and socially cohesive society.

This Department and the LSC are working closely with the Department of Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus to implement the proposals outlined in "World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England" and the Green Paper, "In Work, better off," both published in July this year. These include supporting individuals, including older workers into sustainable employment and progression in work and in skills.

In line with this we are working with employers through Train to Gain and the Skills Pledge to meet skill needs and to ensure that all employees including older people have the basic skills, including literacy and numeracy and Level 2 skills (equivalent to five good GCSEs) needed to sustain and progress in employment. To support this we are increasing funding for Train to Gain from £440 million in 2007-08 to over £900 million in 2010-11. We want to encourage all employers in England to make a Skills Pledge that is a specific promise that every eligible employee will be helped to gain basic skills, and a full Level 2 qualification.

We recognise the importance of FE and adult learning in meeting a range of social and community needs and remain fully committed to ensuring that older learners can benefit from a wide range of learning opportunities, including learning for its own sake, for personal fulfilment and to sustain an active role in the community. In addition we have committed £210 million per annum until 2010-11 to safeguard learning opportunities for personal fulfilment, community development and active citizenship.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 803W, on 101 calls, what the annual cost of maintaining the national 101 infrastructure is; and which local authorities are funding their own pilots of the 101 service. [192452]

Mr. McNulty: The annual cost to the Home Office of maintaining the national 101 telephony infrastructure will be £950,000. This funding will ensure that the 101 number continues to be available for all local areas to use to maintain or develop their own locally funded 101 services, informed by the benefits and good practice successfully demonstrated in the initial live areas.

We welcome the decisions taken to date by local authorities in partnership with local police in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Sheffield and Cardiff to continue to operate the 101 service on a locally

funded basis. We also welcome the piloting of a locally funded 101 service by the Greater London Authority together with individual boroughs, London councils, and the Metropolitan Police Service.

Armed Forces: Peterborough

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 786W, if she will ask the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire to provide the information requested. [196774]

Mr. McNulty: Following the previous answer, my right hon. Friend's question was passed to the chief constable of Cambridgeshire on 14 March 2008 asking that you be provided with the information requested.

Arrests

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what occasions the police have arrested an individual *(a)* on an aircraft at a UK airport and *(b)* at the airport after an individual has landed in the last 10 years; [190484]

(2) on how many occasions police in the course of their duty have been denied access to an aircraft at an airport in the UK in the last 10 years; [190485]

(3) what powers the police have to prevent an aircraft from taking off from a UK airport in order to effect an arrest. [190486]

Mr. McNulty: The statistical information requested is not held centrally.

In England and Wales, section 17 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 provides that a constable may enter and search any premises, including aircraft, for the purpose of executing a warrant or to arrest a person for an indictable offence. In Northern Ireland, Article 19(1)(b) of the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 provides a constable with the power to enter and search any premises, including aircraft, for the purposes of affecting an arrest of a person for an indictable offence. In Scotland if a constable has grounds to believe that a crime has been committed anywhere within an airport, including an aircraft which has landed and is stationed at a terminal, they can investigate in the same way as for any other crime committed elsewhere within their force area.

Arrest may also be made under European or international warrant. In addition, the Manual of Air Traffic Services enables the police to instruct air traffic controllers to withhold permission for an aircraft to take off.

Asylum

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attempts to deport asylum seekers were unsuccessful because the receiving country refused to accept them after the flight had left the UK in the last 12 months. [192833]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Community Support Officers

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of police community support officers; and if she will make a statement. [195426]

Mr. McNulty: PCSOs are an invaluable addition to policing with their main focus on engaging with their local community, providing high visibility reassurance policing and dealing with low level crime and antisocial behaviour.

The National Policing Improvement Agency is leading a review of PCSOs, considering their role, as well as standardisation of equipment, uniforms, training and career development. The review will report shortly.

Community Support Officers: Complaints

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints in each category of complaint *(a)* in total and *(b)* against police community support officers were received by the police complaints and discipline department of each police authority in England and Wales in the last year in which figures are available. [195697]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally. Such complaints are a matter for each police authority.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females, broken down by age group, were (i) arrested, (ii) prosecuted and (iii) convicted of unlawful public demonstrations in Parliament Square in each of the last three years for which information is available. [192539]

Mr. McNulty: Data showing the number of males and females, by age group, proceeded against and found guilty of organising or carrying out a demonstration in a designated area in 2005 and 2006 are found in the following table. The Ministry of Justice are unable to separate offences committed in Parliament Square from those committed in other locations within the designated area.

The Home Office does not collect the information requested on arrests centrally. However I understand from the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police that since Section 132 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 came into force until the end of December 2006, there have been 91 arrests of individuals for a range of offences connected to demonstrations in the vicinity of Parliament. Data on the number of arrests in 2007 are not available.

Number of males and females, by age group, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty of organising, taking part in or carrying out a demonstration in a designated area[1], England and Wales, 2005 to 2006[2,3,4,5]

	2005		2006	
Sex and age	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Male				

Number of males and females, by age group, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty of organising, taking part in or carrying out a demonstration in a designated area[1], England and Wales, 2005 to 2006[2,3,4,5]

	2005		2006	
Sex and age	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
10 to 11	–	–	–	–
12 to 14	–	–	–	–
15 to 17	1	–	1	1
18 to 20	–	–	2	1
21 and over	5	1	13	11
Total	6	1	16	13
Female				
10 to 11	–	–	–	–
12 to 14	–	–	–	–
15 to 17	–	–	–	–
18 to 20	–	–	–	–
21 and over	1	1	6	5
Total	1	1	6	5
Total	7	1	22	18

[1] (a) The designated area includes Parliament Square and other locations within the Westminster area - as detailed in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, Designated Area Order (No 1537).
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] The above data cover the following statutes:
Section 132(1)(a),(b) and (c), Section 136(1) and (2) of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.
[5] The above named Act came into force on 7 April 2005.

Departmental Pay

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in discretionary bonuses to staff in her Department in each of the last five years. [187251]

Jacqui Smith: Within Home Office Headquarters and the Border and Immigration Agency discretionary bonuses may be awarded in the form of annual, appraisal-related awards based on exceptional contribution throughout the year; or special bonuses for exceptional outstanding achievements by staff in particularly demanding tasks or situations. senior civil servants can be awarded bonuses as set out in the Senior Salaries Review Body report number 62.

The following table provides information about the amount paid in end of year bonuses (annual appraisal related) in the last five years, and includes information for senior civil servants across the Home Office Group, and staff working within Home Office Headquarters and the Border and Immigration Agency. It does not include figures for special bonuses, as this is not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

	Amount paid (£)
2002-03	2,067,878
2003-04	3,361,516
2004-05	4,287,676
2005-06	4,449,667
2006-07	4,135,224[1]

[1] Figures for 2006-07 are subject to some change as data is not yet complete.

Staff in the Identity and Passport Service receive end of year corporate bonuses, and change agent bonuses. As the corporate bonuses were only introduced in 2003-04 the following table provides information for the last four years only:

	Appraisal bonus	*Special bonus*
2003-04	388,874	12,375
2004-05	734,484	23,060
2005-06	1,068,482	41,663
2006-07	1,253,045	106,219
2007-08 ytd		71,799

Staff in the Criminal Records Bureau do not receive end of year bonuses. Staff do receive special bonus payments but this information is not available without incurring disproportionate costs.

Data are not available from the Prison Service, who were formally an agency of the Home Office prior to transferring to the Ministry of Justice, as obtaining this data is possible only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of questions tabled for answer on a named day to her Department received a substantive answer on the day due in the last year for which figures are available. [162615]

Mr. McNulty: Details of how many and what proportion of named day parliamentary questions the Home Office answered since 2006-07 is given in the following table:

	Session	
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Named day questions received	1,260	404
Answered substantively on the named day[1]	443	155
Proportion answered substantively on the named day (percentage)	35	38

[1] All questions not answered substantively on the named day receive a holding answer.
[2] To 12 March 2008.

Information prior to 2006-07 is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what proportion of written parliamentary questions her Department did not answer on the grounds of disproportionate cost, in each of the last five years; [193169]

(2) what proportion of named day written parliamentary questions her Department answered on the date named in the latest period for which figures are available; [193170]

(3) what the average length of time taken for her Department to answer written parliamentary questions was in the latest period for which figures are available; [193171]

(4) how many written parliamentary questions to her Department were answered within *(a)* one, *(b)* two,

(c) three, *(d)* four, *(e)* five and *(f)* six months in each of the last five years. [193172]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* Information on written parliamentary questions answered on grounds of disproportionate costs is not held centrally.

Information on the number of named day parliamentary questions answered on the date named since the 2006-07 session is given in the following table:

Session	*Named day questions received*	*Answered substantively on the named day*[1]	*Proportion answered substantively on the named day (percentage)*
2006-7	1260	443	35
2007-8[2]	404	155	38

[1] All questions not answered substantively on the named day receive a holding answer.
[2] Data based on questions answered up to 12 March 2008

The average length of time taken for the Department to answer written parliamentary questions is not held centrally.

The number of parliamentary questions answered within one to six months since 2006-07 is given in the following table:

	Session			
	2006-07[1]		*2007-08*[2]	
Number of written parliamentary questions answered in months	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
One	5,680	95	1,815	97
Two	187	3	59	3
Three	74	1		
Four	12	0.2		
Five	6	0.1		
Six	3	0.05		

[1] Based on 5,964 questions answered in 2006-7.
[2] Data based on 1,874 questions answered in 2007-08 to 12 March 2008.

Information prior to 2006-07 is not held centrally in the format requested.

Dorset Police Authority: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding is being made available to Dorset Police Authority in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10, *(d)* 2010-11 and *(e)* 2011-12 for security for the 2010 and 2011 Sailing World Championships and the 2012 Olympic Games and their preparatory events. [197004]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* The Home Office has made available £416,311 in 2007-08 to enable Dorset police to plan and prepare for security at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. We are in discussion with Dorset police authority about funding for the remaining years. The Home Office has not made any additional funding available to Dorset police for the staging of the Sailing World Championships.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Chief Constable of Dorset police on the security requirements for the Olympic sailing events in Dorset up to and including 2012. [197005]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* The Home Secretary is the Minister accountable for the delivery of the wider security for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. The security requirements for the events are part of the security strategy and operational planning which is being led by the multi-agency Olympic Security Directorate, including Dorset Police. The Director of Olympic Safety and Security in the Home Office and the Olympic Security Directorate are in discussion with Dorset police about their requirements.

Emergency Calls: Hoaxes and False Alarms

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of emergency calls to the police were classified as prank calls in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [197266]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not centrally collected.

EU Immigration

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was received by the UK in each year to date from the *(a)* European Refugee Fund, *(b)* External Borders Fund, *(c)* Integration Fund and *(d)* European Return Fund as part of the EU General Programme, Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows; and how much is expected to be received in each year up to 2013. [195787]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* The amount allocated to the UK for these funds in 2007 and 2008 is publicly available in the Committee General Programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows dated 20 July 2007.

The 2009-13 allocations are scheduled for announcement by the European Commission no later than 1 July of every preceding year.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many additional illegally residing foreign nationals she expects to be able to return to their home countries as a result of the European Return Fund in each year between 2008 and 2013. [195790]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* No firm estimates are available at this time as a result of the newly established European Return Fund.

Human Trafficking: Arrests

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted of human trafficking offences as a result of operations by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. [195541]

Jacqui Smith: The Serious Organised Crime Agency records data on organised immigration crime, including people trafficking and human smuggling. In the first six months of 2007-08, there were 55 arrests and 17 convictions in operations where organised immigration crime was the main threat.

In its 2006-07 annual report, SOCA reported 749 arrests flowing from SOCA casework in the United Kingdom. Of these, 128 were in operations where organised immigration crime was the main threat.

In its 2006-07 annual report, SOCA reported 271 convictions in UK courts. Of these, 31 were in operations where organised immigration crime was the main threat.

Immigration: EC Law

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what submissions the UK has made on the adoption of EC Decision No 575/2007/EC establishing the European Return Fund; and if she will make a statement. [196310]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* In line with other EU member states under the jurisdiction of the EU Commission's Common Committee Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows, the UK submitted the appropriate Explanatory Memorandum under references 8690/05 and 9930/06.

Metropolitan Police: Recruitment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were recruited to the Metropolitan Police in each year since 1997; and what proportion of them were recruited directly from other police forces in each of those years. [195616]

Mr. McNulty: The available data for the numbers of police officer standard direct recruits and police officer transfers to the Metropolitan Police, have been collected centrally from 2002-03 onwards and are given in the following table.

Police officer standard direct recruits and transfers (FTE)[1] for Metropolitan Police from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Police standard direct recruits	*Police transfers*[2]
2002-03[3]	2,434	407
2003-04	2,971	319
2004-05	1,886	351
2005-06	1,050	182
2006-07	1,216	478

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Between 2002-03 and 2006-07 1,594 police officers transferred to other forces from the Metropolitan Police.
[3] Excludes Quarter 1, data are not available.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officers were recruited into the Metropolitan Police from the London Borough of Enfield in each of the last 10 years. [196844]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is collected at the police force level only.

The deployment of police officers within the force is an operational matter for the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Personation: Crime Prevention

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to reduce the number of offences related to identity theft since 1997. [197681]

Meg Hillier: We are involved in a variety of activity to reduce the incidence of offences related to identity theft. A public-private sector work programme, the Identity Fraud Steering Committee (IFSC), was set up in 2003 to co-ordinate this work.

We have sought to ensure better co-ordination in prosecuting fraudsters. This has involved the establishment of a network of single points of contact in all police forces and a range of Government Departments and agencies dealing with identity fraud investigations and prosecutions.

Legislation has also been strengthened. Tougher criminal penalties have been introduced for driving licence and passport offences, alongside offences in the Identity Cards Act 2006 to target those who possess and use false identity documents and genuine documents belonging to someone else.

More powers to share data to combat fraud have been enacted in the Serious Crime Act 2007, and most recently the Disclosure of Death Registration Information Scheme, under the Police and Justice Act 2006, was launched on 16 January 2008.

We have introduced systems to confirm the validity of UK passports presented to other organisations and interviews for first time passport applicants over 16-years-old now take place to verify the identity of individuals.

The IFSC produce a leaflet and a website www.identitytheft.org.uk to increase public awareness of the problem. The material advises on how to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity fraud, warning signs to look out for, and what someone should do if they do fall victim.

On 9 October 2007 the Attorney-General announced that funding had been approved for the proposals arising from the Government's Fraud Review. This includes the development of a National Fraud Strategic Authority, together with a National Fraud Reporting Centre, the establishment of the City of London Police as the lead force on fraud, and proposals for measurement of fraud. These measures will help to tackle fraud in general and increase our understanding of the nature and extent of the problem.

Finally, our plans for a National Identity Scheme will provide people with a highly secure means of protecting their identity and help citizens to prove their identities easily, quickly and with vastly improved security.

Police: Accidents

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many accidents there were involving police vehicles on emergency calls in *(a)* Castle Point constituency and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years. [196801]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* The available data for the number of road traffic collisions involving police vehicles during immediate/emergency response and police pursuits are collected at the police force level only and the data supplied by Essex are given in the following table.

Number of road traffic collisions involving police vehicles during immediate/emergency response and police pursuit, from 2002-03 to 2006-07—Essex

	Number
2002-03	127
2003-04	22
2004-05	21
2005-06	67
2006-07	92

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which recommendations of the police bureaucracy taskforce report 2002 *(a)* were accepted and *(b)* have been implemented. [195606]

Mr. McNulty: The last formal update on the recommendations of the police bureaucracy taskforce report 2002 that were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* implemented was undertaken in November 2005. This information is available on the Home Office website via the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-publications/publication/police-reform/trafficlightsummary.pdf?view=Binary

The report has been placed in the House Library.

Sir Ronnie Flanagan was asked in April 2007 to look at further progress in this area as part of his independent review of policing, the final report of which was published on 7 February 2008. The Secretary of State for the Home Department set out her initial response to this report in her statement to the House of Commons on 7 February 2008. The Home Office, together with the National Policing Improvement Agency and other policing partners, is currently considering Sir Ronnie's recommendations more fully and the Home Office will be setting out its response shortly.

Police: Career Structure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the review of the OSPRE procedure; and if she will make a statement. [195689]

Mr. McNulty: After trialling a new promotions process incorporating work-based assessment, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) held a consultation in the autumn of 2007 to decide the future of promotion to the rank of sergeant and inspector. It outlined four options: extending the trial; reverting to OSPRE; full rollout of the trialled system; and phased rollout of the trialled system. There were 48 responses, of which a clear majority favoured a phased rollout. All forces involved in the trial wanted to continue using the new promotions process as they said it delivered better quality sergeants and inspectors.

An analysis of this consultation can be found on the NPIA website: www.npia.police.uk and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Police: Death

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers *(a)* were killed on duty and *(b)* received bravery awards in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [195700]

Mr. McNulty: The information is as follows.

(a) The numbers of fatal assaults on police officers have been published each year by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in their annual report. HMIC have advised that these assaults data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 would be the last series of data to be published. The available data are given in the following table.

(b) The UK Honours System (including awards for merit, service or bravery) is managed by the Cabinet Office Ceremonial Secretariat and details of awards are published in the *London Gazette*. The number of police officers receiving such awards is not collected centrally within the police personnel statistics series.

Fatal assaults[1] on police officers 1999-2000 to 2004-05[2,3]

Force	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Manchester[4]	1	1	0	1	—	0
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire[5,6]	0	0	0	0	—	—
Leicestershire	0	0	0	2	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police[7]	0	—	—	—	—	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	1	0	0
South Wales[8]	—	0	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands[5,6]	0	0	1	0	—	—

Fatal assaults[1] on police officers 1999-2000 to 2004-05[2,3]

Force	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[3] HMIC did not publish a force breakdown of assaults prior to 1999-2000. HMIC have advised that assaults data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 is the last series of these data to be published.
[4] Greater Manchester was not able to provide data in 2003-04.
[5] Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2003-04, however the number of overall assaults was 462 and 1,112 respectively.
[6] Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2004-05, however the number of overall assaults was 521 and 910 respectively.
[7] Metropolitan Police was unable to provide data in 2000-01 and was unable to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults from 2001-02 to 2003-04.
[8] South Wales was not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 1999-2000.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of changes in the level of crime on the police funding formula in each of the last 10 years. [195644]

Mr. McNulty: The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics, which are heavily weighted by changes in population, to allocate grant and reflect the relative needs of each police authority.

Changes in the level of crime are not factored into the police funding formula when calculating grant allocations per se, as to do so, would create perverse incentives for police authorities and forces.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces in England and Wales are receiving funding *(a)* above the formula funding level, *(b)* at the formula funding level and *(c)* below the formula funding level in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [195692]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The damping mechanism exists to protect all authorities against financial instability and ensures all authorities receive an increase in grant at least equal to the "floor" level on a like-for-like basis year-on-year.

For the three years of the comprehensive spending review we have set the funding floor at 2.5 per cent. This will mean that each police authority in England and Wales is guaranteed an increase of at least that amount in each of the next three years while enabling us to move towards fuller implementation of the needs based funding formula.

Police grant floors 2007-08

£ million

	2007-08 allocation		
Police authority	*Before floors and ceilings[1,2]*	*After floors and ceilings[2,3]*	*Amount gained or lost*
English shire forces			
Avon and Somerset	179.8	167.9	-11.9
Bedfordshire	70.6	66.4	-4.3
Cambridgeshire	79.2	76.5	-2.7
Cheshire	109.1	114.8	5.7
Cleveland	91.2	93	1.8
Cumbria	52.2	64	11.8
Derbyshire	111.5	105.8	-5.7
Devon and Cornwall	175.6	177.5	1.9
Dorset	60.9	62.2	1.3
Durham	82	87	5.0
Essex	169.4	168.5	-0.9
Gloucestershire	55.9	56.5	0.6
Hampshire	198.6	197.3	-1.3
Hertfordshire	119	114.4	-4.6
Humberside	117.7	122	4.3
Kent	182.1	182.6	0.5
Lancashire	192.1	193.7	1.6
Leicestershire	114.5	111.5	-3.0
Lincolnshire	62	60.5	-1.6
Norfolk	79.8	83.4	3.6
North Yorkshire	66.2	73	6.8
Northamptonshire	71.1	71.7	0.6
Nottinghamshire	137.6	132.5	-5.1
Staffordshire	114.5	114.3	-0.3
Suffolk	65.4	67.6	2.2
Surrey	95.7	97	1.3
Sussex	154.9	161.7	6.8
Thames Valley	234	225.9	-8.1
Warwickshire	53.1	51.5	-1.7
West Mercia	107.1	116	8.9
Wiltshire	60.2	62	1.8
Greater Manchester	446.2	432.7	-13.5
Merseyside	255.7	253.8	-1.8
Northumbria	209.2	238	28.8
South Yorkshire	193	194.3	1.2
West Midlands	498.3	450.2	-48.1
West Yorkshire	332.6	317.6	-15.1
GLA – police	1,850.6	1,883.7	33.1
Welsh forces			
Dyfed-Powys	47.3	51.8	4.5
Gwent	75.5	78.7	3.2
North Wales	67.7	76.3	8.6
South Wales	175.6	172.2	-3.4

[1] Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated using the Police Funding Formula for 2004-05. This includes the Metropolitan Police special payment.
[2] Figures for the City of London are excluded because these are allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The City of London is grouped with education authorities for floors and ceilings purposes.
[3] Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England) and Local Government Finance Report (Wales). This includes the Metropolitan Police special payment, and the effects of floors and ceilings.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how changes in population are taken into account when calculating the total resource allocation formula for police forces. [195703]

Mr. McNulty: The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics, which are heavily weighted by changes in population, to allocate grant and reflect the relative needs of each police authority.

When calculating formula grant allocations, the best information available at the time that treats all authorities on a consistent basis is used. Population data is provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were *(a)* shot at, *(b)* injured by shootings and *(c)* killed by shootings in each police force area in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [19561[c]]

Mr. McNulty: Information on firearms offences (excluding air weapons) in which the weapon was fired but did not cause injury and the principle victim was a police officer on duty, from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is given in table (a).

Data relating to crimes recorded by the police in which a police officer on duty was injured by a firearm (excluding air weapon) by the weapon being fired, from 2002-03 up to and including 2006-07 and are given on table (b).

Table a: Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which a firearm (excluding air weapon) was fired but did not cause injury and the principle victim was a police officer on duty, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Police force area	Number of offences
2002-03[1]	Metropolitan	14
	Nottinghamshire	1
	England and Wales total	15
2003-04	Avon and Somerset	1
	Mèrseyside	1
	Metropolitan	7
	Surrey	1
	West Midlands	2
	West Yorkshire	1
	England and Wales total	13
2004-05[2]	Greater Manchester	2
	Humberside	1
	Metropolitan	2
	England and Wales total	5
2005-06	Greater Manchester	1
	Leicestershire	2
	Metropolitan	3
	Northamptonshire	1
	Northumbria	1
	West Yorkshire	3
	England and Wales total	11
2006-07	Greater Manchester	2
	Merseyside	1
	Metropolitan	2
	West Mercia	1
	West Yorkshire	1
	England and Wales total	7

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
[2] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Table b: Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which a police officer was injured[1] by a firearm (excluding air weapons), by police force area and injury type, 2002-03 to 2006-07

		Injury type			
	Police force area	Fatal injury	Serious injury[2]	Slight injury	Total injuries
2002-03[3]	Gloucestershire	—	—	1	1
	Metropolitan	—	1	5	6
	Northamptonshire	—	—	2	2
	West Midlands	—	—	3	3
	England and Wales total	—	1	11	12
2003-04	Cheshire	—	—	1	1
	Devon and Cornwall	—	—	1	1
	Metropolitan	—	1	6	7
	Nottinghamshire	—	—	1	1
	West Midlands	—	1	1	2
	West Yorkshire	1	1	—	2
	England and Wales total	1	3	10	14
2004-05[4]	Avon and Somerset	—	—	2	2
	Greater Manchester	—	—	6	6
	Humberside	—	—	1	1
	Metropolitan	—	1	4	5
	West Midlands	—	—	2	2
	England and Wales total	—	1	15	16
2005-06	Cheshire	—	—	1	1
	Devon and Cornwall	—	—	2	2
	Lancashire	—	1	—	1
	Merseyside	—	—	1	1
	Metropolitan	—	—	5	5
	Nottinghamshire	—	1	—	1
	West Midlands	—	1	3	4
	West Yorkshire	1	3	—	4
	England and Wales total	1	6	12	19
2006-07	Cheshire	—	—	1	1
	Gloucestershire	—	—	3	3
	Greater Manchester	—	—	1	1
	Humberside	—	—	1	1
	Leicestershire	—	—	1	1
	Merseyside	—	1	—	1
	Metropolitan	—	1	2	3

Table b Crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in which a police officer was injured[1] by a firearm (excluding air weapons), by police force area and injury type, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Injury type			
Police force area	*Fatal injury*	*Serious injury*[2]	*Slight injury*	*Total injuries*
West Midlands		1	4	5
West Yorkshire			2	2
Wiltshire			1	1
England and Wales total		3	16	19

[1] By the weapon being fired.
[2] A serious injury is one which necessitated detention in hospital or involve fractures, concussion severe general shock penetration of a bullet or multiple shock wounds.
[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
4. More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Police: ICT

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces are equipped with the National Strategy for Police Information Systems for managing *(a)* custody records and *(b)* case files; when she expects the remaining police forces to adopt the systems; and if she will make a statement. [195607]

Mr. McNulty: The police forces equipped with the National Strategy for Police Information Systems (NSPIS) for managing custody records and case files are shown in the following table.

The forces that have not contracted for the NSPIS products have implemented alternative custody and/or case preparation that conform to the same data standards.

All of these implementation projects are now completed or are in their final stages. The Metropolitan Police Service is introducing NSPIS case preparation in parallel with the deployment schedule for the HM Court Service Libra system. All 43 forces will have an approved custody of case preparation system live at all sites by the end of 2008.

Force	*NSPIS custody fully rolled out*	*NSPIS case prep fully rolled out*
Avon and Somerset	Yes	Yes
Bedfordshire	Yes	Yes
Cambridgeshire	Yes	Yes
Cleveland	Yes	Yes
City of London Police	Yes	Yes
Cumbria	Yes	Yes
Derbyshire	Yes	Yes
Devon and Cornwall	30 May 2008	Yes
Dorset	n/a	Yes
Durham	Yes	Yes
Essex	Yes	Yes
Gwent	Yes	Yes
Hertfordshire	n/a	Yes
Humberside	Yes	Yes
Leicestershire	Yes	Yes
Lincolnshire	Yes	Yes
Metropolitan Police	Yes	31 December 2008
Norfolk	Yes	Yes
Northamptonshire	Yes	Yes
Nottinghamshire	Yes	Yes
South Yorkshire	n/a	Yes
Staffordshire	Yes	Yes
Suffolk	31 March 2008	31 March 2008
Surrey	n/a	30 July 2008
Sussex	28 March 2008	28 March 2008
Thames Valley	Yes	Yes
Warwick	Yes	Yes
West Mercia	Yes	Yes
Total completed	21	24
Total remaining	3	4

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces are *(a)* equipped with and *(b)* piloting niche record management software. [195608]

Mr. McNulty: The following forces are equipped with Niche record management software (RMS):

Cheshire Constabulary
Cleveland Police
Hampshire Constabulary
Merseyside Police
Police Service of Northern Ireland
North Wales Police
North Yorkshire Police
South Wales Police
West Yorkshire Police
Wiltshire Constabulary.

Niche Technology Inc. develops software which is commercially available. I am not aware of any forces, other than those listed, that are currently piloting Niche RMS in a "live" environment.

Police: Pensions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much was spent on the police pension scheme in each year since 1980-81; what forecasts she has made of how much will be spent in each year between 2007-08 and 2050-51; how many members of the scheme there are; and if she will make a statement; [195680]

(2) what the cost of pension provision to each constabulary was in each year since 1997; and what percentage of the budget of each force this represented in each of those years [195691]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested on the total cost of police pensions and on the cost of pension provision as a share of police spending for each constabulary for the years before 2006-07 is not held centrally as the administration of the police pension schemes is the responsibility of individual police authorities. Information on financial statistics, including expenditure on police pensions and overall spending, for police forces is included in the annual reports published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This information is gathered independently of the Home Office.

However, the system for financing police pensions changed on 1 April 2006. Under the new system, police

authorities no longer have to meet the cost of pensions in payment out of their operating accounts. Police authorities now have a separate pensions account for this purpose, into which are paid officers' contributions and a new employer's contribution. Where the pensions account does not have enough funds to meet the cost of pensions in any year it is topped up with a grant from central Government; any surplus is recouped. A key benefit of this change is that it takes away from police authorities the responsibility for meeting the rising cost of pensions in payment as a result of an increase in the number of pensioners.

Figures from the annual police pensions financing reporting cycle show that based on police forces' unaudited accounts for 2006-07, the estimated pensions expenditure from forces' pensions accounts under the new system across the service was £1.96 billion—£1.46 billion net of the contributions made by serving officers.

The following figures are the most recently published projections of total future expenditure on police pensions in England and Wales, net of the contributions made by serving officers. These were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) as part of the consultation process on the new system for funding police pensions in 2005. GAD advise that in view of the time elapsed since the figures were produced they should be viewed only as indicative as the likely future trend of police pensions expenditure. No projections are available for 2013-14 to 2050-51.

The following table outlines figures for the expenditure of each police force on employer contributions for police pension purposes, based on their unaudited accounts, set against each force's budget requirement for 2006-07 as a percentage.

Membership figures are not held centrally, but we estimate that there are approximately 140,000 active members of one or other of the two Police Pension Schemes. We also estimate that there are approximately 120,000 police pensioners, including survivor pensions, and a further 20,000 police deferred pensioners. This gives a total estimate of 280,000 members of the police pension schemes.

Financial year	*Estimated pensions expenditure (£ billion)*
2007-08	1.61
2008-09	1.74
2010-11	1.88
2011-12	2.00
2012-13	2.25

Financial year 2006-07

Police force	*Budget requirement 2006*	*Un-audited accounts 2006-07 Employers contributions (£000)*	*percentage of budget*
Avon and Somerset	236,729,347	26,609	11.240
Bedfordshire	87,335,239	210	10.546
Cambridgeshire	110,474,455	11,253	10.186
Cheshire	150,305,000	17,097	11.375
City of London	61,206,000	7,556	12.345
Cleveland	114,975,143	113,156	11.442
Cumbria	90,328,000	9,866	10.922
Derbyshire	145,328,989	15,829	10.892
Devon and Cornwall	246,273,836	27,233	11.058
Dorset	103,055,700	11,725	11.377
Durham	102,583,311	13,432	13.094
Dyfed-Powys	79,892,792	9,575	11.985
Essex	231,985,273	24,944	10.752
Gloucestershire	91,489,400	10,204	11.153
Greater Manchester	503,504,176	61,560	12.226
Gwent	106,054,899	11,507	10.850
Hampshire	269,722,000	13,060	10.568
Hertfordshire	164,225,494	7,161	9.812
Humberside	158,052,928	7,716	11.216
Kent	247,311,000	12,474	11.302
Lancashire	239,533,000	12,380	11.585
Leicestershire	148,270,715	17,331	11.689
Lincolnshire	86,492,378	9,439	10.913
Merseyside	296,426,757	34,294	11.569
Metropolitan	2,425,700,000	254,974	10.511
Norfolk	124,672,108	12,503	10.029
Northamptonshire	105,398,000	10,286	9.759
North Wales	118,675,632	12,600	10.617
Northumbria	260,475,000	31,672	12.159
North Yorkshire	122,894,000	12,915	10.509
Nottinghamshire	170,490,070	19,629	11.513
South Wales	222,649,897	25,908	11.636
South Yorkshire	230,581,818	26,240	11.380
Staffordshire	164,024,687	18,053	11.006
Suffolk	97,352,382	10,259	10.538
Surrey	172,396,784	14,973	8.685
Sussex	227,247,669	24,035	10.577
Thames Valley	329,137,246	32,224	9.790
Warwickshire	76,560,000	8,198	10.708
West Mercia	176,766,000	18,670	10.613
West Midlands	501,612,139	61,670	12.294
West Yorkshire	380,196,015	43,344	11.400
Wiltshire	91,633,000	9,722	10.610

Police: Political Impartiality

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent guidance has been given to chief constables on the use by political parties of photographs of named police officers in election leaflets. [196296]

Mr. McNulty: Regulation 6 of the Police Regulations 2003 as amended by the Police (Amendment) Regulations 2004 states that:

"a member of a police force shall at all times abstain from any activity which is likely to interfere with the impartial discharge of his duties or which is likely to give rise to the impression amongst members of the public that it may so interfere. A member of a police force shall in particular (a) not take any active part in politics".

No guidance has been issued to police forces on the interpretation of these provisions.

Police: Retirement

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average retirement age for a police officer was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the average age was at which police officers retired on invalidity pensions in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [195701]

Mr. McNulty: Retirement age cannot be separately identified from the data collected within the police personnel statistics series.

The available data are the age on leaving the service within the following time bands only: 25 and under, 26 to 40, 41 to 55 and over 55.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of retirements from each police force in England and Wales have been on medical grounds in each year since 1997. [195702]

Mr. McNulty: The numbers of police officer medical retirements have been published each year by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in their annual report. HMIC have advised that these data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-05 would be the last series of data to be published.

The format of the published data was changed from 2001-02, and the available data are given in the following tables.

Police officer medical retirements as a percentage of all retirements[1] (FTE)[2] by force from 1996-97 to 2000-01[3]

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Percentage 2000-01
Avon and Somerset	39.8	53.7	30.0	38.5	38.5
Bedfordshire	39.5	50.0	55.1	46.2	58.1
Cambridgeshire	40.0	25.0	37.0	26.3	25.6
Cheshire	38.0	25.9	36.1	25.8	35.5
City of London	26.9	15.8	20.7	37.9	33.0
Cleveland	57.9	32.0	26.9	26.3	21.4
Cumbria	39.1	44.4	50.0	40.0	45.3
Derbyshire	58.2	65.4	42.0	33.3	30.8
Devon and Cornwall	18.4	20.0	20.8	17.9	13.6
Dorset	21.6	20.0	35.6	20.4	22.2
Durham	53.5	34.7	45.5	25.0	22.9
Dyfed-Powys	48.0	45.8	40.0	38.7	35.9
Essex	32.2	24.8	34.7	41.1	34.0
Gloucestershire	24.4	16.1	26.9	22.2	20.0
Greater Manchester	64.9	60.9	63.5	56.2	46.3
Gwent	56.0	46.9	38.2	50.0	37.2
Hampshire	21.0	30.0	28.0	15.5	15.2
Hertfordshire	18.5	32.7	17.8	14.9	24.5
Humberside	36.5	33.8	23.4	14.9	22.7
Kent	16.5	20.0	16.7	17.7	28.2
Lancashire	41.4	24.6	24.0	21.5	28.6
Leicestershire	55.8	42.4	51.1	47.8	48.8
Lincolnshire	23.4	48.3	40.8	23.8	8.9
Merseyside	77.0	53.0	36.5	38.8	37.3
Metropolitan Police	50.6	39.5	46.4	34.5	33.3
Norfolk	23.4	21.5	27.7	26.7	20.4
Northamptonshire	58.3	40.9	51.5	19.2	24.2
Northumbria	62.5	62.9	47.3	42.2	31.1
North Wales	55.0	27.5	40.8	38.5	49.2
North Yorkshire	76.5	48.9	62.1	49.0	57.8
Nottinghamshire	50.8	42.6	59.3	31.8	21.3
South Wales	36.1	49.3	46.0	49.1	62.8
South Yorkshire	44.6	31.2	21.8	24.0	28.8
Staffordshire	55.3	49.6	28.6	5.7	17.6
Suffolk	39.3	39.2	65.9	40.5	26.9
Surrey	41.4	13.7	18.4	25.9	34.6
Sussex	29.0	18.3	16.4	15.0	15.2
Thames Valley	44.0	32.5	43.0	17.3	21.9
Warwickshire	38.5	33.3	55.8	34.6	37.5
West Mercia	47.6	37.5	35.8	33.8	35.9
West Midlands	37.5	29.2	18.2	15.5	17.0
West Yorkshire	35.4	25.0	34.8	29.4	27.5
Wiltshire	16.4	19.2	25.0	17.0	15.2

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC.
[2] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

Police officer number of medical retirements per 1,000 officers[1] (FTE)[2] by force from 2000-01 to 2000-01[3]

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Number 2004-05
Avon and Somerset	14	14	11	3	5
Bedfordshire	17	8	6	1	2
Cambridgeshire	9	7	6	3	1
Cheshire	11	11	12	7	5
City of London	13	10	5	9	5
Cleveland	6	14	7	6	7
Cumbria	23	6	6	3	2
Derbyshire	7	5	6	1	4
Devon and Cornwall	5	6	3	2	3
Dorset	9	7	2	6	3
Durham	5	9	7	4	4
Dyfed-Powys	13	12	10	6	8
Essex	12	11	7	5	4
Gloucestershire	6	9	11	4	2
Greater Manchester	16	8	5	1	2
Gwent	13	18	16	6	9
Hampshire	5	8	3	3	2
Hertfordshire	7	4	3	1	0
Humberside	11	5	5	1	4
Kent	9	11	6	2	2
Lancashire	9	12	6	4	3
Leicestershire	14	3	4	3	3
Lincolnshire	3	3	8	2	6
Merseyside	12	14	12	6	6
Metropolitan Police	9	8	5	2	2
Norfolk	7	11	9	4	6
Northamptonshire	7	5	3	2	2
Northumbria	7	8	5	2	1
North Wales	22	13	9	4	4
North Yorkshire	28	11	6	5	5
Nottinghamshire	7	6	7	5	6
South Wales	24	16	10	4	2
South Yorkshire	9	9	5	4	1
Staffordshire	4	11	10	6	6
Suffolk	12	11	10	6	2
Surrey	9	12	6	5	3
Sussex	6	6	3	1	4

Police officer number of medical retirements per 1,000 officers[1] (FTE)[2] by force from 2000-01 to 2000-01[3]

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Number 2004-05
Thames Valley	5	4	7	4	2
Warwickshire	16	7	8	4	3
West Mercia	14	14	9	5	4
West Midlands	4	4	3	2	1
West Yorkshire	9	13	5	2	1
Wiltshire	5	3	13	2	5

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC.
[2] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.

Police: Sick Leave

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rates of sick leave were reported in each police force in each year since 1997. [195617]

Mr. McNulty: The data for the amount of police officer and police staff working time lost to sickness, have been collected centrally from 2002-03.

Police officer and police staff sickness absence data for 2002-03 onwards are available on the Home Office website, located at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

For 2002-03 and 2003-04, the data are given in the 2003-04 Police Performance Monitoring report, in the form of police officer and staff days lost per person per year.

For 2004-05 onwards, the data are given in the annual Police Performance Assessment reports, in the form of average number of police officer and staff hours lost per person per year.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to resize safer neighbourhood teams. [195107]

Mr. McNulty: Decisions over the size of a Safer Neighbourhood or Neighbourhood Policing Team are operational considerations for the chief constable, in consultation with community partners and the communities themselves. Sir Ronnie Flanagan has recently endorsed this in his review, saying that there should be no "one size fits all" model or strategy.

Terrorism: Convictions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were convicted of terrorist offences in the UK in each year since 1978. [194235]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 March 2008]:* The number of individuals convicted since 1978 under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974 and 1976 is available on the Home Office website in "Statistics on the Operation of the Prevention of Terrorism Legislation, Great Britain". This publication details detentions under this Act and outcomes including statistics on individuals found guilty. It is available quarterly through the 'archive' page back to 1979.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbarchive.html

The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001. Statistics compiled from police records are available on the Home Office website from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/?view=Standard

These detail arrests under this Act and under other legislation where the investigation is considered terrorist related and the outcomes to those arrests, including convictions.

For this period, there were 41 Terrorism Act convictions. There were also 183 convictions under other legislation.

In addition to the aforementioned, statistics on the number of convictions in significant terrorist cases are collated for 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 37 individuals were convicted in 15 significant terrorist cases. 21 of those individuals pleaded guilty. So far in 2008, 21 people have been convicted in seven significant terrorist cases. Of these 21, 10 individuals pleaded guilty.

Figures are complied from police records and are subject to change as cases go through the system. The Home Office is currently working with the police to review how terrorism statistics are collated.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 19 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 505W, on terrorism: detainees, if she will provide an update on the numbers of people *(a)* held, *(b)* charged and *(c)* released without charge. [195178]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* Pre-charge detention came into force on 25 July 2006 as part of the Terrorism Act 2006. The latest figures are given in the following table. To date 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days pre-charge detention. Six individuals have been held for the maximum 27 to 28 day period. Of these three individuals were charged and three individuals were released without charge. Statistics are collated from police records and are updated accordingly.

Pre-charge detention to date

Period of detention (days)	Number of persons held	Charged	Released w/o charge
14 to 15	1	1	
18 to 19	1	1	
19 to 20	3	3	
27 to 28	6	3	3

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions under what circumstances *(a)* criminal and *(b)* credit checks of employers claiming access to work funding are undertaken. [198253]

Mrs. McGuire: At present there are no criminal or credit checks on employers of Access to Work customers.

Access to Work Programme: Fraud

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are in place to prevent fraudulent claims for access to work funding. [198254]

Mrs. McGuire: Jobcentre Plus has a responsibility to use taxpayers' money wisely. Access to Work assessment procedures evaluate customer needs and identify the most cost effective but suitable support solution. In the majority of cases, external assessors carry out workplace based assessments. Once support has been agreed the customer or their employer purchase the support from a supplier of their choice up to the agreed funding level and claim reimbursement from Access to Work.

Managerial checks are carried out to ensure validity of applications and that claims are adequately checked before payments are made. These checks also ensure that the correct amount is paid promptly to the relevant person or organisation and the amounts claimed are in line with the spend profiled for the customer.

To further mitigate the risk of fraudulent claims or inappropriate support, all Access to Work customers receiving ongoing support are reviewed at least once annually to confirm that the appropriate support is being claimed and received. All customers complete a renewal declaration stating that any change of circumstances has been notified and the support meets their needs.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 205-06W, on children: maintenance, what the reasons were for recent statements by the staff operating the Child Support Agency (CSA) MP hotline that they are unable to contact the Bolton office of the CSA by telephone. [196304]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephan Geraghty, dated 1 April 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, with reference to the Answer of 17th July 2007, Official Report, columns 205-6W, on children: maintenance, what the reasons were for recent statements by the staff operating the Child Support Agency (CSA) MP hotline that they are unable to contact the Bolton Office of the CSA by telephone. [196304]

In my previous letter to you I confirmed that when the Agency received a complaint relating to a clerical case managed by the Bolton site, the initial contact with the Bolton site was by email to ensure that all the necessary information to progress and resolve the client's concerns was gathered.

Since my last response to you in July 2007, the Agency has addressed the concerns that you and others have raised about how the Bolton site was managing complaints. Our Minister, Lord McKenzie, also wrote to all Members of Parliament in July last year announcing the Agency's decision to increase the resource dedicated to managing the clerical caseload. All complaints involving Members of Parliament or the Independent Case Examiner were transferred to specialist caseworkers within the Agency at the end of last year. In addition the Agency now retains new clerical cases until the first maintenance payment has been received, allowing the Bolton site to concentrate on collecting and paying maintenance for children.

These changes now mean that clerical cases are progressed in five separate sites across the Agency. To support these changes the Agency introduced a new database which allows all sites receiving queries relating to clerical cases to deal with all but the most complex of issues. Where the Agency is unable to resolve a query relating to a clerical case from the MP Hotline by reference to the database, the Agency now co-ordinates the response through a specialist team based in our Falkirk Centre. This team then takes responsibility for resolving the query and will contact the Member of Parliament to progress the case.

I can assure you that the Agency is committed to improving the service to those clients whose cases are managed clerically and as a result of the additional resource dedicated to this area client service will continue to improve.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Construction: Death

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the Health and Safety Executive has ended its publication of a running current total of construction fatalities. [196432]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive does not publish a running total of construction fatalities. Its practice of providing such information to inquirers on request continues, on the understanding that numbers given are unvalidated, and therefore subject to change.

Partially validated statistics on fatal injuries for all industries (including construction) are published on the HSE website on a quarterly basis, as are unvalidated details of fatalities presented in monthly reports made by HSE's Chief Executive to Health and Safety Commission (HSC) meetings.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in England entitled to but not claiming council tax benefit at the latest date for which figures are available; and what savings accrue to the public purse from such non take-up of entitlement. [195252]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the numbers not claiming their entitlement to council tax benefit, and the amount of council tax benefit that is not claimed are available in the DWP publication series entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005-06". Estimates relate to Great Britain only. Copies of the latest publication, plus past reports, can be found in the Library.

There is no saving, relative to spending plans, from take-up of benefits being lower than 100 per cent. Forecasts of spending on benefits are based on estimates of those who will actually receive the benefit, not those who are entitled. This is in accordance with Government accounting rules that require forecasts to be taut and realistic.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2806W, on the departmental intranet, whether his Department's IT system is able to provide a record of Wikipedia entries *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from within his Department. [195834]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions is not able to provide a record of Wikipedia entries *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from within the Department as the cost of obtaining such data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196445]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195816]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not collate records of the total or average hours that were worked by it's employees.

To extract this information from individual records for the period requested would be at a disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1122-3W, on housing benefit: antisocial behaviour, what level of proof is needed for *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households to (i) be made the subject of an order for possession on grounds of anti-social behaviour and (ii) be found to have unreasonably refused to engage with the help and support offered as specified in a written warning notice. [197027]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* The Anti-social Behaviour Act ensures the courts must give particular consideration to the actual or likely effect which the antisocial behaviour has had or could have had on others when considering whether it is reasonable to grant a possession order on the grounds of nuisance or annoyance. This consideration does not remove the duty on the court to consider fairly the case against the tenant who is accused of committing or failing to prevent antisocial behaviour. This might include any particular circumstances that may have led to such conduct, (issues of mental health or drug or alcohol abuse for example). But in doing so, the court must also take into account the effect of their behaviour on their victims and the wider community.

When a sanction in housing benefit is being considered, decisions on whether a household has unreasonably refused to engage with the help and support offered, will normally be made by a panel composed of senior officers drawn from relevant local authority departments and key support agencies. The panel should ensure that the package of support offered was properly determined, that a reasonable attempt has been made to engage with the household and also consider whether the household has good cause for failing to undertake action specified in the warning notice.

The Department for Work and Pensions has issued detailed guidance on all aspects of the operation of the pilot schemes to the eight local authorities in the pilot areas; a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

ICT: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what projects his Department has to assist disabled people to use computers; and how much funding each of these programmes received in the last 12 months. [196985]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions is responsible for a range of mainstream and specialist employment programmes which can help disabled people move into or retain work.

For example, subject to an assessment, Access to Work can provide whatever adjustment a customer needs to access a computer in order to do their job. Some WORKSTEP provision can assist customers to use computers if the job requires use of computers. Work preparation courses can also assist customers to use a computer if this is necessary to achieve and sustain their job goal. However, it is not possible to allocate programme costs specifically by activity.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents in receipt of income support in the most recent period for which figures are available had *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* five or more children. [197144]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* The requested information is in the following table.

Number of children in lone parent families in receipt of income support in Great Britain

Number of children	*Lone parents in receipt of income support*
All claimants	765,630
One child	351,820
Two children	246,700
Three children	110,410
Four children	39,690
Five or more children	17,000

Notes:
1. Lone parents are defined as single claimants with children under 16 and not receiving incapacity benefits.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Data are to May 2007.

Source:
100 per cent DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Industrial Health and Safety: Directors

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what format the evaluation of the voluntary health and safety guidance addressed to directors of corporate bodies and their equivalents in the public and third sectors will take; and when he expects to publish his findings. [196952]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* The HSE will commission an evaluation from independent researchers in two phases:

(i) a survey focussing on the distribution, penetration and reception of the guidance within the target audience of directors of corporate bodies and their equivalents in the public and third sectors. This will be undertaken six months after launch, in May 2008.

(ii) a survey designed to assess the extent and nature of change in behaviour of directors of corporate bodies and their equivalents in the public and third sectors. It is planned that this work should be undertaken within 18 months to two years of the launch of the guidance; with a final report published early in 2010.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of all organisations have agreed, in accordance with guidance issued by the Health and Safety Executive, to appoint voluntarily a director to take responsibility for safety and health duties in the *(a)* private, *(b)* public and *(c)* third sectors. [196953]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* There is no evidence yet available on the impact of the guidance on director leadership issued jointly by the HSC and the Institute of Directors, published in November 2007.

However, a programme of research was undertaken over four years following the issue in 2001 by the HSC of guidance on directors' responsibilities. This research involved a telephone survey examining the health and safety responsibilities of company directors and management board members in large organisations, and found:

Percentage where a board director has responsibility for health and safety

	Percentage of type		
	2001	*2003*	*2005*
Top 350	85	90	82
Large Firms	73	87	84
Public Sector	74	77	89
Voluntary	86	55	[1]
All	75	82	85

[1] Voluntary organisations were not surveyed in 2005 as the previous surveys found that the number of large voluntary organisations was relatively small and hence it was difficult to secure a response.

There is separate evidence available from a postal survey carried out as part of an evaluation of HSE's enforcement policy statement in 2004. This covered firms of all sizes (including sole traders, micro and small firms) and found that 44 per cent. of all organisations questioned, reported having a 'Health and Safety Board Director'. This included 33 per cent. of the charities questioned; 86 per cent. of central Government organisations; 67 per cent. of local government organisations; and 50 per cent. of social services.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he is considering the introduction of statutory health and safety duties for company directors; and if he will make a statement. [196955]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* Government are committed to promoting greater director leadership, and supports Health and Safety Commission efforts to achieve high standards of board level leadership through advice, guidance and enforcement.

Government are keeping the question of new legal duties for directors on health and safety under review.

Industrial Health and Safety: Prosecutions

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions of company directors there were for breaching section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 in each of the last six years for which figures are available, broken down by industrial sector. [196954]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* For the period 1994 to 2004, section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 was used to bring proceedings against a total of 111 company directors in relation to various health and safety management matters. Of these, 86 were convicted and 11 jailed.

The more detailed breakdown of the figures requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit and *(c)* income support who were living abroad in each of the last 10 years. [185963]

Mr. Plaskitt: Neither jobseeker's allowance, nor income support are payable to people who live outside Great Britain. Further, 0.45 per cent. only of incapacity benefits claimants live abroad.

An EC regulation co-ordinates member states' social security schemes for workers who move between member states. The EC regulation provides that generally, sickness and invalidity benefits must be exported if a beneficiary moves to another member state, although there are some restrictions on the export of sickness benefit. In effect, people in Great Britain who qualify for contributory incapacity benefit (IB) because they have made sufficient national insurance contributions, can continue to receive their benefit if they take up permanent residence in one of the other EU member states. The agreement also extends to the states of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. The UK also has reciprocal arrangements with a number of non-European countries (e.g. USA, Jamaica) some of which include similar arrangements for people from Great Britain to continue to receive contributory benefit when they move there and vice-versa.

Of those receiving IB abroad most live in the Republic of Ireland and Spain and smaller numbers across a wide range of other European countries. Very few live outside Europe. They include both British expatriates and nationals of other countries who have worked and paid contributions

in Great Britain and have then returned to their own country. They also include "pro rata" cases where the benefit is paid partly by the UK and partly by a foreign authority as customers have contributed to insurance schemes in both Great Britain and an EEA state.

The available information for incapacity benefits is in the table.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in Great Britain and abroad, as at May each year

Quarter ending	*GB*	*Claimants living abroad*
1998	2,784,500	9,400
1999	2,744,300	9,000
2000	2,728,090	10,230
2001	2,795,340	10,430
2002	2,807,630	10,800
2003	2,815,660	11,360
2004	2,814,710	11,740
2005	2,783,720	12,130
2006	2,730,000	12,050
2007	2,685,320	12,010

Notes

1. Caseload figures prior to May 2000 are rounded to the nearest 100, and to the nearest 10 thereafter.
2. Incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimant figures include IB credits only cases.
3. Caseload figures prior to May 2000 have been produced using 5 per cent. data and rated up proportionally using 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
4. Great Britain totals may include a small number of claimants living abroad.
5. It is possible to receive IB/SDA in another country in the European Economic Area (EEA) or a country which has a social security agreement with the United Kingdom, or short-term IB for up to 26 weeks under certain conditions.

Source

IAD Information Centre 5 per cent. samples—May 1998 to May 1999 and DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 100 per cent. data—May 2000 onwards.

Social Security Benefits: Prisoners

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid to prisoners in each type of benefit in each of the last five years. [196653]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the winter fuel allowance was worth, expressed as a percentage of *(a)* average fuel bills and *(b)* average pensioner fuel bills in each of the last 10 years for which information is available, broken down by region. [185891]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The winter fuel payment is intended to provide a contribution towards winter heating bills which account for around 60 per cent. of the total annual fuel bill. The payment provides a significant contribution to these higher winter costs. Winter fuel payments have increased from £20 in 1997-98 to the current value of £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 years of age, and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

Next winter, 2008-09, a one-off additional payment will be made. Households with someone aged 60 to 79 will receive an extra £50 giving them £250 and households with someone aged 80 or over will receive an extra £100 giving them £400.

The following table shows the winter fuel payment as a percentage of average winter fuel bills for all households, by region. Information relating to pensioner household expenditure on fuel broken down by region is not available. Obviously these figures will be significantly affected by the Budget announcement.

Year and rate of winter fuel payment (WFP)

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2005-06*
Region	*£20*	*£20*	*£100*	*£200*	*£200*	*£200*	*£200*	*£300*	*£200*	*£300*	*£200*	*£300*
WFP as a percentage of average winter fuel bill for all households												
North East	5	6	27	57	53	55	56	84	56	84	54	81
North West	5	5	26	54	56	55	55	83	54	81	51	76
Yorkshire and the Humber	5	6	27	56	59	58	58	87	54	81	51	76
East Midlands	5	6	27	55	55	53	54	81	53	80	52	78
West Midlands	5	5	26	53	55	56	56	84	55	82	51	76
East of England	6	6	28	58	54	55	54	81	53	79	50	74
London	6	6	29	59	61	61	59	89	57	86	53	80
South East	6	6	28	57	53	55	54	81	54	81	51	76
South West	6	6	29	57	55	53	53	80	53	79	51	76
Wales	5	5	25	53	54	54	53	79	50	76	48	72
Scotland	5	5	25	52	53	52	52	78	50	76	48	71

Notes:

1. From winter 2003-04 the winter fuel payment increased to 300 for people aged 80 or over.
2. The percentage figures in the tables are based on an average of all households expenditure on fuel, by region.

Source:

Family Spending Surveys 2002-03 to 2005-06.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics with reference to the answer of 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1630-31W, on the London Olympics, whether the detailed plan being developed by Constructing London 2012 to deliver locally available construction skills to build the Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure has been published. [197411]

Tessa Jowell: ConstructionSkills will be publishing its Greater London Strategy later this year, which will include skills and employment programmes for the 2012 games and other major construction projects scheduled for the capital in the next five years.

In the meantime, ConstructionSkills is part of the partnership which is delivering the Employment and Skills Strategy launched by the Olympic Delivery Authority in February. The strategy sets out how the ODA will work with a range of public and private sector partners to help its contractors recruit the 9,000-10,000 construction workers that will be needed at peak in 2009-10 while at the same time helping people develop sustainable skills and a long term career path after the games.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she has taken to provide to the local workforce training in the specialist skills required to fill the 33,500 additional jobs identified by Construction Skills as necessary to complete preparations for the London 2012 Olympics. [197443]

Tessa Jowell: The London Development Agency, which leads on maximising the employment and skills benefits of the games in London, forecasts the demands for jobs on site. It also provides important recommendations about workforce training requirements, directly informing the joint construction training programme, as set out in the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA's) Employment and Skills Strategy. The strategy sets out how the ODA will work with a range of public and private sector partners to help its contractors recruit the 9,000-10,000 construction workers that will be needed at peak in 2009-10, and helps local employees develop their skills.

The Olympic site becoming a National Skills Academy for Construction (NSAfC) is a critical part of this. The NSAfC co-ordinates training provision to meet the identified needs of the project, bringing together contractors and their supply chains, colleges and private providers, funding bodies and other agencies. Detailed plans are currently being prepared, which are expected to include targets for training local people.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* quality and *(b)* quantity of food supplies to (i) British forces and (ii) ISAF forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [197012]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All food supplied to all British and ISAF forces meets EU Quality and Food Safety Standards. Quality assurance checks are carried out throughout the supply chain and food quality is continually monitored by deployed chefs and food supply staff. UK technical staff also regularly visit theatre to monitor quality.

In terms of quantity, a large reserve of both operational ration packs (ORPs) and commercial food is held in Kabul to ensure that all demands from the front line are met. Both Main Operating Bases and Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) that are catering with ORPs are also provided with fresh food, the quantities of which are only ever impeded by the physical logistics of the challenging environment.

The feeding arrangements in main ISAF locations are the responsibility of NATO. I am aware, however, that UK NATO Food Services Staff have regular discussions with the Contractor and NATO regarding the dining facilities and that no official complaints have been received.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to prevent menu fatigue amongst UK forces in Afghanistan issued with 24-hour operational ration packs; and if he will make a statement. [197015]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We place the utmost importance on ensuring our troops are properly fed on operations, and indeed throughout the world. Huge effort goes into nutritional analysis, designing and planning menus, delivering food stocks and preparing food to ensure our men and women have all the proper nutrition they need to carry out their demanding and important tasks. We are aware that menu fatigue can arise, however, and every effort is made to alleviate it.

There are 10 General Purpose menus available in the 24 hour Operational Ration Packs (ORP), and plans are under way to increase this number to 14. There are also five Halal, five Sikh/Hindu and five Kosher/Vegetarian variants and five 10 Man ORP variants available. The majority of remote operating locations also receive supplies of fresh food at least once a week which are used to supplement ORPs.

Royal Logistics Corps chefs have now been deployed to all of the Forward Operating Bases, and provide cooked meals for personnel using ORPs and fresh food supplies. Meals in the larger bases are generally provided from a three to four week multiple choice menu cycle. All chefs supporting the British armed forces on operations take great pride in providing a varied and high quality menu and are very responsive to customer feedback. Unit commanders are also provided with guidance on how to ensure that personnel remain properly nourished and hydrated on operations.

Armed Forces: Fisheries

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours were spent policing fisheries legislation in the Irish Sea and North Channel by *(a)* RAF Nimrods, *(b)* RAF aircraft other than Nimrods and *(c)* Royal Navy vessels in the last 12 months; and what personnel were involved. [197271]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Air Force does not undertake fishery protection duties.

The Royal Navy does not keep records of hourly activity of fishery protection vessels (FPVs), but records patrol days (24 hr period). In the last 12 months—1 March 2007 to 29 February 2008—FPVs were on task in the Irish sea (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Area 107A) for 78 days: 55 days by river class vessels and 23 days by hunt class vessels. The average ships complement numbers for river class vessels is 32 and for hunt class vessels it is 37.

Armed Forces: Food

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maximum period is that UK forces are expected to subsist on 24-hour operational ration packs alone. [197014]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no defined maximum period for the use of 24 hour operational ration packs (ORP) as the main source of nutrition. A recent study commissioned by the MOD found that, providing it is consumed in its entirety, there is no nutritional evidence to suggest that healthy personnel could not subsist on 24 hour ORPs indefinitely. Personnel deployed on extended patrols usually live on ORP for the duration of their task, although whenever possible, ORPs (both the 24 hour and 10 man variants) are supplemented by fresh produce cooked by service chefs.

Armed Forces: Housing

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on disposing of homes which have become surplus to the needs of forces personnel; and if he will make a statement. [197417]

Derek Twigg: The majority of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales were sold to Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) in 1996 and then leased to the Ministry of Defence (MOD). When they become surplus to defence requirements the properties are handed back to AHL for disposal.

Other surplus SFA in the UK is usually sold on the open market to achieve best value in accordance with Treasury guidelines, unless they are required by other public bodies (e.g. English Partnerships, Scottish Executive) or there are former owner (Crichel Down) considerations.

Where the opportunity exists for a bulk sale of SFA at market value, MOD will discuss the way forward with the local authority and registered social landlords.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many homes his Department sold in each local authority area of Scotland in each year since 1997; and what proportion of those homes were sold or otherwise transferred to the relevant local authority or a registered social landlord in each of those years. [197418]

Derek Twigg: Records of all Service housing sold in Scotland since 1997 are either not held centrally or no longer available. It will take a time to establish what information can be provided without incurring disproportionate cost and effort. I will write to the hon. Member.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, on armed forces: influenza, whether the supplies of *(a)* influenza vaccine, *(b)* anti-virals and *(c)* face masks deployed to theatre in the event of an influenza pandemic will also be made available to (i) coalition partners and (ii) local inhabitants; and if he will make a statement. [195256]

Derek Twigg: For NATO deployments, force protection is a national responsibility. The World Health Organisation is ultimately responsible for the protection of civilian local inhabitants. As with any medical supplies, decisions on their use in specific instances will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account operational and humanitarian factors.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department holds stocks of *(a)* vaccines and *(b)* anti-virals for use by the armed forces for the treatment of seasonal influenza; and if he will make a statement. [195352]

Derek Twigg: The Department holds stocks of both vaccines and antivirals for the treatment of seasonal influenza. These will be offered if necessary to specific groups of personnel (such as key workers in the Defence Medical Services), in accordance with the national guidance from the UK Departments of Health.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to paragraph 15 of the Defence Medical Services Department's policy letter of 20 January 2006, entitled "The use of influenza vaccines and anti-virals in the event of an influenza pandemic by the Defence Medical Services", reference DMSD/13/1/4; whether he has any plans to use anti-virals for prophylaxis before a pandemic is established; and if he will make a statement. [195354]

Derek Twigg: MOD's policy on the use of vaccines and antivirals with regard to an influenza pandemic follows the Department of Health's national guidelines. For the majority of armed forces personnel there are no plans for prophylactic use, as this is not in accordance with the UK national policy.

Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* inflow, *(b)* outflow and *(c)* voluntary outflow rate was of officers at (i) OF-1, (ii) OF-2 and (iii) OF-3 levels in each service in each year since 1997. [196621]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is provided in the following tables:

Inflow[1] rates[2] to UK regular forces[3] from civil life by rank

Rate per 100 people

Financial year	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Navy[4]										
OF-3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.2	r0.1
OF-2	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.6	1.1	r0.9

Inflow[1] rates[2] to UK regular forces[3] from civil life by rank

Rate per 100 people

Financial year	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[6]*
OF-4	34.0	34.0	36.1	35.0	34.1	34.6	31.0	30.7	43.2	[7]44.6
Army[5]										
OF-3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	[7]0.1	0.1
OF-2	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.2	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.4
OF-1	12.7	9.3	10.7	8.7	7.9	9.2	7.2	5.8	5.8	6.9
RAF										
OF-3	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
OF-2	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.0
OF-1	24.1	23.1	23.2	21.7	20.6	22.1	25.0	17.9	19.8	21.7

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Outflow[1] rates[2] from UK regular forces[3] by civil life by rank

Rate per 100 people

Financial year	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[6]*
Navy[4]										
OF-3	7.2	6.7	8.0	6.2	6.6	6.2	6.1	6.5	7.2	[7]6.6
OF-2	7.2	6.3	6.5	5.1	6.4	5.1	4.5	5.0	5.3	[7]5.1
OF-1	10.6	6.7	5.6	6.6	6.3	7.8	7.1	8.6	7.9	[7]9.9
Army[5]										
OF-3	6.2	6.9	6.4	7.1	7.3	6.3	6.0	6.9	7.0	8.7
OF-2	10.6	10.8	8.1	8.0	6.7	5.7	5.6	6.8	7.7	8.3
OF-1	5.7	7.0	5.6	6.4	4.7	5.1	5.1	5.4	2.9	3.4
RAF										
OF-3	7.3	7.6	7.1	6.6	8.3	6.3	6.7	9.0	8.6	11.8
OF-2	4.5	4.7	4.2	5.5	4.4	3.9	4.9	4.8	5.0	6.7
OF-1	3.3	2.9	2.9	2.2	3.0	2.3	2.1	4.2	2.7	2.7

Voluntary outflow rates[8] from trained UK regular forces[3] by civil life by rank

Rate per 100 people

Financial year	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07[6]*
Navy[4]										
OF-3	2.6	2.8	4.1	2.9	3.7	2.4	2.9	2.6	3.4	[7]3.3
OF-2	2.3	2.6	3.7	2.5	3.8	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.7	[7]2.7
OF-1	0.6	0.0	1.4	0.8	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	[7]0.0
Army[9]										
OF-3	3.5	3.9	3.7	4.8	5.0	3.6	4.1	4.4	4.7	n/a
OF-2	4.5	4.4	3.5	4.3	4.5	3.4	4.0	4.5	4.9	n/a
OF-1	0.7	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.2	n/a
RAF										
OF-3	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.5	3.2	2.0	1.8	2.6	2.8	3.8
OF-2	1.5	1.8	1.6	2.3	2.0	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9
OF-1	0.4	1.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	1.4

n/a = unavailable

[1] Figures show all intake to UK regular forces including re-enlistments and rejoined reservists.

[2] Inflow and outflow rates have been calculated using total (trained and untrained) strength as at 1 April of each year.

[3] Figures are for UK regular forces and therefore excludes Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. NATO Rank is based on JPA field 'Paid Rank', if this field is blank then NATO Rank is based on JPA field 'Substantive Rank'.

[4] Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system, Naval Service statistics from 1 October 2006 are provisional and subject to review.

[5] Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system, Army outflow data by rank for 1 March 2007 to 31 March 2007 are not available. Consequently, Army figures for 2006-07 are the latest available, comprising flows during the period 1 March 2006 to 28 February 2007.

[6] Denotes provisional.

[7] Figures show all outflow from UK regular forces including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment.

[8] Voluntary outflow rates have been calculated using trained strength only as at 1 April of each year.

[9] Due to ongoing validation of data from the new personnel administration system, Army voluntary outflow data for 2006-07 are currently unavailable.

Source:
DASA (Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average pay for soldiers at each rank was in each year since 1997. [196611]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides tri-service estimates of average annual basic pay by rank for each year since 1997.

Estimate of average annual salary[1] by NATO rank[2]

	NATO rank							
	OR9	OR8	OR7	OR6	OR4	OR3	OR2	OR1[3]
1997-98	26,800	24,800	23,400	20,500	18,200	15,600	12,400	9,300
1998-99	27,700	25,600	24,200	21,100	18,800	16,100	12,900	9,600
1999-2000	29,000	26,800	25,300	22,100	19,700	16,900	13,500	10,100
2000-01[4]	30,200	27,900	26,400	23,100	20,500	17,700	14,200	10,670
2001-02	33,400	31,100	29,400	26,000	22,900	19,300	15,300	11,600
2002-03	35,000	32,300	30,500	27,000	23,700	20,000	15,900	12,100
2003-04	36,200	33,400	31,600	27,900	24,700	20,700	16,500	12,500
2004-05	37,200	34,300	32,500	28,700	25,400	21,300	17,000	12,909
2005-06	38,300	35,300	33,500	29,500	26,100	21,900	17,500	13,200
2006-07	39,500	36,400	34,500	30,400	26,900	22,600	18,100	13,700
2007-08	40,800	37,600	35,600	31,500	27,800	23,300	18,800	14,500

[1] Estimates of average annual salaries are based on basic pay only and do not include any allowances. They are calculated by multiplying fixed pay level strengths by the corresponding yearly pay rates. As such they will not include the effects of changes to the spread of pay levels within each rank caused by annual increments, promotions, exits and intakes. The figures provided in this table are taken from calculations used for the Military Salaries Index, a copy of which is available in the UK Defence Statistics at Table 2.26

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/ukds/2007/c2/table226.html

Note that UKDS Table 2.26 also includes illustrative rates. These are actual rates corresponding to the pay level populated by the most service personnel of that rank and will therefore differ from the estimates of average rates of pay provided in this answer.

[2] An explanation of the relationship between NATO rank codes and UK service ranks is provided on page 3 of TSP9 available at http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp9/tsp9tab4.html

[3] OR1 estimates include personnel on New Entrant rates of pay and personnel on Artificer Apprentices, Probationary Medical and Communications-Technicians rates of pay.

[4] There is a discontinuity between 2000-01 and 2001-02 signified by the blank row which is due to the introduction of a new pay system, Pay 2000. The resulting changes to the structure of military salaries meant that the individual pay rates could not be tracked over this period. As such while estimates since 2001-02 are based on strengths by pay level as at 1 May 2005 estimates prior to this will be based on historic pay strengths under the previous pay structure.

Note:

All estimates of average annual salary are rounded to the nearest £100.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of beneficiaries of pension-sharing orders for armed forces pensions under the age of 65 years whose former spouse already receives a pension. [196187]

Derek Twigg: The precise number of beneficiaries of pension-sharing orders for armed forces pensions under the age of 65 years where the former spouse already receives a pension is not held, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As a broad estimate, however, there are some 1,800 beneficiaries whose pension share will become payable from age 60, and another 450 that will commence from age 65.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what caps or restrictions have been placed on the recruitment for the (*a*) Army, (*b*) Navy and (*c*) RAF in each year since 2005; and what plans there are for the next financial year. [196618]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Restrictions are placed on military recruiting in terms of the overall manning requirement and quality of the individuals applying. The numbers of recruits required every year are derived from the requirement for trained manpower to sustain the service's delivery of operational capability and the manning structures that support it. In order to assure operational capability, recruits must meet the three services' entry standards.

Services recruitment achievement levels (percentage)

	2004-05	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Target	Intake/ percentage	Target	Intake/ percentage	Target	Intake/ percentage	Target	Intake/ percentage
Naval Service	3,753	3,690	3,933	3,940	4,029	[1]3,770	4,272	[1]3,760
		98		100		94		88
Army	12,252	11,720	13,402	12,730	13,950	[1]14,300	14,544	[1]14,550
		96		95		103		100
RAF	2,209	2,180	1,500	1,480	1,887	1,720	3,085	[1]2,510
		99		99		91		81

Services recruitment achievement levels (percentage)

2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Target	Intake/ percentage	Target	Intake/ percentage	Target	Intake/ percentage	Target	Intake/ percentage
All services	18,214	17,590	18,835	18,150	19,866	19,790	21,901	20,830
		97		96		100		95

1 Due to ongoing JPA data validation the figures are provisional and subject to review. Therefore the tri-service total is provisional

Notes

1. Recruiting/target figures provided by single services. Figures for FY 2007-08 show position as at 31 January 2008.

2. All intake from civil life figures have been provided by DASA (Quad-Service) - TSP 1. Numbers have been rounded to nearest 10. Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not equal the sum of the parts.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from Yorkshire and the Humber were recruited into each of the armed services in each year since 2001. [197138]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested to allow the identification of those recruited to the armed forces who originated from a particular region within the UK. It is possible, however, to ascertain the number recruited through the Armed Forces Career Offices within the Yorkshire/ Humberside area and these are given in the following table. Please note that figures are not available for RAF personnel before 2003-04 as these were not centrally held. Figures for naval officers are also not included as they are recruited through the auspices of the Officer Career Liaison Offices of which there are six nationwide. These cover too wide a geographical area to provide useful information in this response.

	Royal Navy	Royal Marines	Army	RAF
2001-02	282	114	1,334	
2002-03	300	92	1,569	
2003-04	206	84	1,301	297
2004-05	192	65	1,015	191
2005-06	178	101	1,110	156
2006-07	178	70	1,386	206
2007-08 (as at 25 March)	170	65	1,210	259

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to extend the skill force programme in schools. [195275]

Derek Twigg: Skill Force was started in September 2000 by the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Children, Schools and Families). It uses ex-military instructors to provide the teams which support schools to re-engage disaffected 14 to 16-year-olds with vocationally based education. It was always intended that Skill Force should become a charity and in 2004 it received charitable status.

Since then MOD has provided Skill Force with £10.3 million and funding from other Government Departments (DfES now DCSF) amounts to £9 million. Skill Force will become fully self-supporting in Financial Year 2009-10 when further funding from MOD will cease. Thereafter, the expansion of Skill Force into schools will not be an MOD responsibility.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the (*a*) orders outstanding for, (*b*) initial date of announcement for procurement and (*c*) expected delivery date are for the (i) Pitbull, (ii) Mastiff, (iii) Bulldog and (iv) Ridgeback armoured vehicles. [196613]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no vehicle named Pitbull in UK military service. The hon. Member may be referring to the Mobility Weapon Mount Installation Kit (MWMIK), now to be named Jackal in service with UK armed forces. Of the 130 vehicles in the initial order, some 60 have now been delivered. We have announced our intention to procure a further 72 vehicles, with the full quantity of over 200 vehicles expected to be delivered by the end of the year. We announced our intention to procure the initial order in June 2007.

We have ordered over 280 Mastiff vehicles. The first tranche has been completely delivered, with 174 remaining to be delivered by mid 2009. The intention to procure the first tranche of Mastiff was announced in July 2006.

We are converting 900 FV430 vehicles with an upgraded drivetrain to the Mk3, or Bulldog, specification. For operations in Iraq over 100 of these vehicles have been upgraded further (including with additional protection) and this variant has been fully delivered. We announced our intention to procure up-armoured Bulldog in July 2006.

The intention to procure some 150 Ridgeback was announced in December 2007. As contract details have still to be finalised, none have been delivered and schedules have not yet been set.

Charter Flights

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on chartering transport aircraft in 2007. [197424]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Chartered aircraft are used to transport freight and personnel when RAF assets are not available, generally due to operational commitments, and when there is a requirement for additional or specialist airlift that it would not be cost-effective to provide in-house.

The expenditure in 2007 was £111 million in direct support of operations and £7 million on core general business.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192515]

Derek Twigg: Statistics for appeals made to the Civil Service Appeal Board (CSAB) by MOD Civil Servants prior to 2004 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The information in the following tables represents both departmental and agency figures as some agencies have only one or two cases and there exists a duty to protect the identity of individuals concerned within the scope of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The figures for appeals made to the Civil Service Appeal Board by MOD Civil Servants from 2004-2005 onwards are:

2004-05

	Number/percentage
Number of CSABs heard	15
Number of CSAB upheld	3
Upheld (percentage)	20

Successful Appellants

1. Compensation award £30,684.66—CSAB found insufficient evidence of fraudulent intent.

2. Compensation award £17,667.55—CSAB found dismissal unfair on grounds of failing to satisfy the substantive issue.

3. Original Departmental Review Board compensation award increased from 75 per cent. to 100 per cent. due to new medical evidence.

Failed Appellants

Original reason for dismissal:

Six gross misconduct

Three unsatisfactory attendance

Two redundancy

One unsatisfactory performance.

2005-06

	Number/percentage
Number of CSABs heard	16
Number of CSAB upheld	1
Upheld (percentage	6

Successful Appellants

Original compensation award increased by 50 per cent. due to medical evidence.

Failed Appellants

Original reason for dismissal:

10 gross misconduct

Three redundancy

Two unsatisfactory attendance.

2006-07

	Number/percentage
Number of CSABs Heard	14
Number of CSAB Upheld	4
Upheld (percentage)	29

Successful Appellants

1. Compensation award £66,226.13 failure to provide internal appeal process.

2. Compensation award ongoing failure to provide internal appeal process.

3. Dismissal had been procedurally unfair, no award on the basis of 100 per cent. contributory fault.

4. Dismissal had been procedurally unfair, no award on the basis of 100 per cent. contributory fault.

Failed Appellants

Original reason for dismissal:

Five gross misconduct

Four unsatisfactory attendance

One unsatisfactory performance.

Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make available empty Ministry of Defence residential dwellings in Colchester constituency for *(a)* the short-term and *(b)* long-term use by (i) Colchester Borough Council and (ii) relevant housing associations; and if he will make a statement; [195985]

(2) what estimate he has made of how much has been received by Annington Estates in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* the previous 10 years for which figures are available in payments for rent in respect of vacant residential dwellings for military personnel in Colchester constituency. [195986]

Derek Twigg: Service family accommodation (SFA) is provided to house service personnel and their dependants, and in England and Wales most SFA is owned by Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL). Surplus properties are returned to that company. In Colchester some unoccupied properties have been used to accommodate single service personnel while new single living accommodation (SLA) blocks are being built. However, as new SLA becomes available the SFA properties are returned to AHL. For instance around 100 properties have been identified for return to AHL in Financial Year 2008-09. For these, among other, reasons we have no current plans to make empty SFA available for non-military use.

Out of the 1,094 SFA properties at Colchester some 219 are currently void (not in use for their intended purpose). Void stock includes SFA being held for planned moves of service units, or awaiting planned upgrades, sale or release, modernisation or demolition. The Department is taking a number of steps to reduce the amount of void SFA. Since March 2007, the total number of void SFA worldwide has reduced from 13,336 to 12,240 properties.

Whether SFA is occupied or not, we pay the same rent to AHL, an average of £3,500 per annum per property. It is thus not possible to identify the rent paid to AHL for void properties in this and previous years, as no separate assessment of the cost of void SFA is made.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* companies based in the United States and *(b)* UK subsidiaries of US companies have been contracted by his Department and its agencies to provide services involving the use, storage, processing or analysis of databases of personal information held by the Government on UK citizens in the last five years. [188223]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My Department including its agencies has engaged a US registered service provider and UK subsidiaries of US registered service providers to manage storage, processing or analysis of personal information during the last five years.

The Data Protection Act 1998 includes provisions to ensure that personal data benefits from adequate protection when it is transferred outside the European economic area[1] by UK data controllers. Contracts are based on UK contract law with the applicable statutory safeguards.

[1] The 27 EU member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196452]

Derek Twigg: Due to the way historic records are held, individual hourly rates of pay by month could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the average hourly rate of basic salary for 1,329 casual staff paid in March 2008 was £9.42. These figures exclude any employer contributions such as national insurance.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2347W, on departmental translation services, how much was spent on translation services into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages in (i) 2003-04 and (ii) 2004-05. [197544]

Derek Twigg: The following was spent on centrally-contracted MOD translation services into:

Welsh

2003-04: £2,378

2004-05: £2,785

Other languages

2003-04: £57,403

2004-05: £101,865

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195826]

Derek Twigg: The annual number of hours worked by civil servants in the Ministry of Defence during 2007-08 was about 140.5 million, representing an average per employee of about 1,950 hours (equivalent to 37.5 hours per week). This figure is extrapolated from an analysis of hours worked in the first week of March 2008. It includes basic conditioned hours plus overtime and any other additional working hours, but excludes staff employed in MOD Trading Funds or locally employed staff overseas.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many press officers are employed by his Department. [153074]

Derek Twigg: On 27 July 2007 there were 22 press officers employed in the Ministry of Defence's central press office in London, and seven press officers employed in Regional Press Offices. This answer does not include those employed as press officers in Defence Agencies, the Permanent Joint Headquarters, single Service Commands or at unit level, some of whom have a press officer task in addition to their main role. An audit is being conducted by MOD of overall numbers and roles of personnel involved in communications in order to assist with implementation of the Defence Communications Strategy. When this audit concludes, key findings will be made available through the MOD's website and I will write to you.

Substantive reply from Derek Twigg to Mark Hoban:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 3 September 2007 (Official Report, column 1619W) about the number of press officers employed at the Ministry of Defence. I noted that this information was not available for staff outside the Department's Press Office, but that an audit was being conducted.

In July 2007 there were 22 press officers employed in the MOD Central Press Office in London, and 7 press officers employed in Regional Press Offices.

The audit I have undertaken is now concluded, and it indicates that across Defence the number of people performing press officer functions is around 70, although it is impossible to give a precise figure, and some of these also have other duties. A number of other individuals are involved in communication activity but do not have a press officer role.

I hope this information is helpful, and I am very sorry that it has taken me so long to get back to you.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Compensation

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government paid in compensation to Iraqi nationals injured by British armed forces in Iraq in each year since 2003. [198014]

Des Browne: Since 2003 the Ministry of Defence has paid £3,340,000 in compensation to Iraqi nationals injured or killed by British forces as follows:

Financial year	*Total payments (£)*
2003-04	753,000
2004-05	331,000
2005-06	98,000
2006-07	158,000
2007-08	2,000,000

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flying hours were completed by *(a)* Apache Attack helicopter, *(b)* Gazelle, *(c)* Lynx Mk3, *(d)* Lynx Mk7, *(e)* Lynx Mk8, *(f)* Lynx Mk9, *(g)* Merlin Mk1 and *(h)* Merlin Mk3 helicopters in the armed forces in the last 12 months. [197097]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The flying hours completed during the last 12 months, broken down by helicopter type, are as follows:

Helicopter type	*Flying hours*
Apache Attack Helicopter	11,777
Gazelle	12,032
Lynx Mark 3	6,392
Lynx Mark 7	13,607
Lynx Mark 8	5,407
Lynx Mark 9	4,550
Merlin Mark 1	6,683
Merlin Mark 3	5,466

Radar: Wind Power

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1311W, on radar: wind power, what guidelines his Department provides on the siting of wind farms in relation to maintaining working aerial defences; and how many planning applications have been refused on the grounds that windmills may interfere with defence equipment. [198225]

Derek Twigg: All wind farm applications which are assessed to fall within line of sight of an air defence radar are subject to individual consideration. This scrutiny includes consideration of a range of factors which will be particular to each application in order to assess the likely operational impact of the scheme should it proceed. An objection will be lodged if the operational impact is assessed as being unmanageable. Where an objection is lodged mitigation options will be suggested to the developer where possible.

The Ministry of Defence does not hold information on planning applications refused, however, since 2005 the Department has objected to 54 pre-planning applications for wind turbines on the grounds of interference with defence equipment. Of those objections, three were subsequently withdrawn.

Rapid Reaction Corps

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Rapid Reaction Corps to move to RAF Innsworth; and if he will make a statement. [197270]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1604W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2121-2W, on cultural heritage, how many people each percentage figure represents. [194820]

Margaret Hodge: Pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2121-2W, the table previously supplied is repeated with additional information relating to population.

The table shows the percentage of people from our priority groups and the population as a whole who had made at least one visit to a designated heritage site during the 12 months prior to interview. Population figures have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.

	2005-06		*2006-07*	
Priority group	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
Black and minority ethnic	50.7	1,980	48.3	1,900
Limiting disability	59.5	5,090	60.2	5,110
Lower socio-economic	57.1	9,000	57.3	9,140
All adults	69.9	27,730	69.3	27,640

All data are taken from the DCMS 'Taking Part' survey, which provides national data on engagement in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

Cultural Heritage: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his Department's press release of 13 February 2008 entitled young people to get five hours of culture a week—£135m funding boost announced, how he plans to measure the number of hours of arts and culture a week children receive in the pilot areas; and what estimate he has made of the number they currently receive. [194873]

Andy Burnham: The Find Your Talent pilot programme will test different ways of delivering a range of cultural opportunities over the next three years, including ways of ensuring all children are able to experience at least five hours.

The pilots will build on the considerable amount of cultural activity already taking place in and out of school and the investment we put into this area. They will also be asked to audit current level of provision and the take up of cultural activities by children and young people. What we learn from them will give us the information we need to make decisions about implementing the scheme nationally.

Although I am unable to give figures for how many hours young people currently receive, the 'Taking Part' survey showed that overall 99 per cent. said they had engaged in cultural sector at least once during the last 12 months. Within this, 61 per cent. of young people said they had engaged in cultural activities at least once a week during the last 12 months, and a further 21 per cent. said at least once a month.

The numbers quoted here relate to the percentage of 11 to 15-year-olds living in private households in England, both in and out school. The interviews were conducted between January and December 2006.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197149]

Andy Burnham: I have not visited any of the listed venues in a ministerial capacity since my appointment.

My ministerial predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) visited Manchester Central on 6 and 7 July 2007 to attend the Manchester International Festival and on 19 October 2007 to speak at the Supporters Direct Annual Conference. He also visited the ExCel Conference Centre on 5 August 2007 for the London Triathlon.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) when Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport visited the Business Design Centre on 25 January 2005 to speak at a NESTA Conference, the Queen Elizabeth Centre on 5 March 2005 to speak at the Capital Woman 2005 Conference and on 16 March 2005 to speak at the Tourism UK 2005 Conference. On 27 and 28 August 2005, she attended the Edinburgh International Conference Centre for the Edinburgh TV Festival. She also visited the International Conference Centre, Birmingham on 8 November 2005 and spoke at the EU Gender Equality Conference. On 23 November 2005, she spoke at the Thames Gateway Conference at the Excel Conference Centre.

During 2006, on 23 October she spoke at the Museum Association Conference at the Bournemouth International Conference Centre and on 23 November at the Thames Gateway Forum at the Excel Conference Centre.

On 18 June 2007, she spoke at the Emergency Planning Society Annual Conference at the Riviera Centre, Torquay and on 25 June 2007 at the International Conference Centre, Birmingham with regional stakeholders about the 2012 Olympics.

Digital Broadcasting: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on preparations for digital television switchover in the North East region. [197260]

Andy Burnham: Digital UK is the body charged with communicating with the public and co-ordinating the technical works to upgrade the terrestrial television network to digital. Digital UK operates both national and regional information campaigns. A communications campaign dedicated to the Tyne Tees region, as well as work to upgrade the television transmitters serving the Tyne Tees region, will commence in 2010 to enable the switch to digital to be completed in 2012.

S4C

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of trends in figures for S4C. [194858]

Andy Burnham: Given S4C's independence, it is not necessary for my Department to monitor S4Cs viewing figures closely or make assessments of this kind.

In the first two months of this year, 32 S4C programmes each attracted over 100,000 viewers. Weekly viewing figures for the most popular programmes on S4C are shown on the S4C website:

<http://www.s4c.co.uk/>.

Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many visits were organised as part of the Sporting Champions Mentoring programme in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [198228]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were 509 Sporting Champions visits between April 2006 and March 2007, and 513 visits between April 2007 and March 2008.

Sports: Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on the *(a)* Sporting and *(b)* Cultural Champions initiatives since each was established. [198227]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England's current available records indicate that they have allocated the following amounts to the Sporting Champions programme since 2001-02.

	£
2001-02	297,737
2002-03	338,714
2003-04	329,737
2004-05	336,026
2005-06	300,000
2006-07	300,000
2007-08	300,000

DCMS does not fund a "Cultural Champions" programme but we do fund a mentoring programme, which use mentors from sport, music and the media to help young people that are at risk of social exclusion engage with positive activities and make positive life choices. DCMS has allocated £1 million per year to this programme since it was established in 2006-07.

Sports: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1157-8W, on sports: per capita costs, if he will provide the figures in 2007-08 prices. [198347]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Using information from the Office for National Statistics website the estimated Population of England in each of the last three years is shown in the following table:

	Population England Millions
Mid 2005	50.432
Mid 2006	50.763
Mid 2007	51.017

Based on the above information and Treasury GDP Deflators at Market Prices and Money GDP - Revalorised to baseline 2007-08, the following tables show spend on sport per capita in England for the last three years at 2007-08 prices from:

(a) Public Funding

	Spend per capita (£)
2005-06	5.78
2006-07	7.72
2007-08	7.96

It should be noted that the Exchequer figures (above) include funding from Department for Children Schools and Families and the Capital Modernisation Fund for School Sport and Space for Sports and Arts respectively.

(b) Lottery

	Spend per capita (£)
2005-06	8.82
2006-07	6.99
2007-08	4.16

Tourism

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which recommendations of the Allnutt Review of Tourism Statistics have been implemented; which recommendations remain to be implemented; which recommendations he does not plan to implement; and if he will make a statement. [196759]

Andy Burnham: The Allnutt Review of Tourism Statistics, published in June 2004, made 14 major recommendations. The implementation of these has necessarily been framed against available resources, the evolution of needs and taking advantage of opportunities that have arisen.

A main recommendation of the review was to establish and resource an effective organisation to develop and maintain tourism statistics of appropriate quality. This 'Tourism Statistics Unit' was recommended to most appropriately be located in the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The recent formation of the English Tourism Intelligence Partnership (ETIP) has led to significant progress being made against this recommendation and planning is under way for the unit to be established, in the ONS, this summer. The work plan for a new 'Tourism Intelligence Unit' (TIU) is being drawn up, and will include fully reviewing the recommendations and preparing costed proposals for future development and implementation.

A brief summary of progress against each of the other recommendations is provided as follows:

Recommendation 1: UK Tourism Survey (UKTS) and Leisure Day Visits Survey (LDVS) should be subject to a major redesign

The UKTS was redesigned and recommissioned in 2005 to address serious concerns about the erosion of data quality. The LDVS was most recently conducted by Natural England in 2005 (England only). The ONS has identified a cost-benefit analysis of the possible future inclusion of these two surveys within the ONS' new Integrated Household Survey as part of their provisional work plan for the TIU.

Recommendation 2: Some interim improvements should be made to the LDVS

Improvements were made to the methodology for the 2005 England Day Visits Survey. VisitBritain have been exploring possible options for a more regular, consistent, day visits survey.

Recommendation 3: The International Passenger Survey (IPS) should be improved as a source of tourism statistics

A recent change to the survey methodology has extended the weighting of the survey results to a regional basis, but other significant improvements—such as the regular inclusion of a detailed expenditure trailer—would require major financial investment. However, the IPS in its current format continues to provide credible and reliable data on inbound and outbound tourism.

Recommendation 4: The registers of accommodation and other tourism businesses should be improved

The provisional work plan for the TIU includes development and publication of a better statistical picture of the 'supply side' tourism data—drawing on ONS business data.

In 2007, VisitBritain commissioned a project aiming to measure the level of serviced and non-serviced accommodation stock across England, by region, using their own extensive database of accommodation data from regional partners and commercial organisations.

Recommendation 5: The UK Occupancy Survey (UKOS) should be improved to cover all types of commercial accommodation and provide viable statistics of occupancy and visitor nights

The methodology for the England part of the occupancy survey was changed in 2007, with a switch to an online-only approach to speed up reporting and improve response rates. The survey still covers serviced accommodation only.

Recommendation 6: The Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions (SVVA) should be amended to focus more on the quality and completeness of its statistics of visitor numbers

The National Tourism Organisations continue to each conduct a separate annual Survey of Visits to Visitor Attractions. In addition, VisitBritain has addressed the call for timelier visitor data by launching the quarterly England Attractions Monitor in 2006.

Recommendation 7: Regional input-output tables of the best possible quality, and supplementary statistics from relevant businesses, should be produced as key input to the proposed development of Tourism Satellite Accounts

A pilot UK Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) was published in 2004, with a follow-up pilot TSA for the English regions published in 2005. Proposals for future development of TSA work will be scoped and costed by the TIU.

Recommendation 8: Panel surveys should be developed to provide timely short-term indicators of trends for a range of relevant indicators

VisitBritain launched a 'Domestic Industry Panel' in 2006 to help identify reasons behind the trends seen in the quantitative surveys. It is conducted three times a year and involves interviews with senior people in leading tourism businesses.

The England Attractions Monitor, launched by VisitBritain in 2006, is a quarterly panel of 500 visitor attractions across England.

A 'Trip Tracker' survey is also run by VisitBritain in advance of major holiday periods—Easter, Christmas and the August bank holiday—in order to monitor short-term trends. However, the survey is a random telephone survey rather than a panel survey.

Recommendation 9: Methods for producing local tourism statistics should be developed and piloted

The proposal for improved production of local area tourism statistics will be reviewed by the TIU.

Recommendation 10: Arrangements should be established for tourism interests to influence the development of employment and related statistics

The provisional work plan for the TIU includes the development and publication of a better statistical picture of the 'supply side' tourism data, drawing on ONS business data—this will include undertaking basic statistical analyses of employment and other economic data.

Recommendation 11: The dissemination of tourism statistics, and information about the basis and quality of those statistics, should be improved

VisitBritain have greatly improved the communication of research and market intelligence to the industry. They produce rich 'Market Profiles', quarterly round-ups of research and intelligence and have revamped their research web pages (to replace the Star UK website).

The provisional work plan for the TIU includes development of a series of guidance notes that will outline the basis and quality of all key tourism statistics.

Recommendation 12: Various steps should be taken to improve the quality of statistics of Business Tourism

No significant progress—in line with review's recommendation to see as low priority.

Recommendation 13: The review also makes a number of other, relatively minor, recommendations

No significant progress—also low priority.

WALES

Brofiscin Quarry: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to his answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 819W, on Brofiscin Quarry: hazardous substances, what the timetable was of action taken by the Environment Agency following the receipt of information relating to cattle mortality and deformed cattle foetuses in the vicinity of Brofiscin Quarry. [196355]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I am informed by the Environment Agency Wales that the information relating to cattle mortality and deformed cattle foetuses reported in the vicinity of the Brofiscin Quarry was received by the Environment Agency in the course of its investigations under Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990. The cattle mortality investigation took place in the 1960s, was not conducted by the Environment Agency but the information was reviewed and found not to be related to pollutant linkages included in the Record of Determination produced by the local authority.

Any information was passed to the local authority who retain responsibility for investigating other potential pollutant linkages, including livestock.

In accordance with Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990 and statutory guidance, regulatory authorities are not authorised to carry out any action that is not referable to a significant pollutant linkage.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196748]

Mr. Paul Murphy: All officials are instructed to liaise with members of the Wales Office Communications Team over items to be uploaded to the Wales Office websites. All officials are also contractually bound to follow Ministry of Justice guidelines on internet usage.

Local Transport Bill (Draft)

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library copies of communications and correspondence between the Wales Office and the Welsh Assembly Government relating to the Local Transport Bill. [197361]

Mr. Paul Murphy *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: Identifying copies of all communications and correspondence between the Wales Office and the Welsh Assembly Government relating to the Local Transport Bill, and placing it in the Library, would incur disproportionate costs. However, on the Bill's introduction we placed an Explanatory Memorandum on the Framework Power—agreed between the Wales Office and the Welsh Assembly Government—in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what role his Department played in the inclusion of clauses 115 and 116 in the Local Transport Bill. [197493]

Mr. Paul Murphy *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: The Secretary of State for Wales is responsible for Welsh provisions in the UK Government's legislative programme. As a result my Department is involved in discussions between the Welsh Assembly Government and UK Government sponsor Department at all stages in legislation relating to Wales. The Local Transport Bill is no exception.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Carbon Emission

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2544W, on carbon emissions, whether the amount of carbon dioxide offset referred to in the answer was of equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide. [198176]

Phil Hope: Yes, the amount of carbon dioxide offset referred to in the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2544W, was of equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the February 2008 edition of the White Book of the Central Office of Information will be placed in the Library. [198193]

Mr. Watson: The latest edition of the White Book was delivered to the Library on 27 March 2008.

Ministers: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which former Ministers have been awarded severance pay since 28 June 2007; [196566]

(2) how much was paid in severance pay to Ministers leaving the Government in each year since 1997. [197532]

Mr. Watson: The Ministerial and Other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991 sets out the circumstances in which severance is paid to certain office holders. Information on Ministers who have left office is a matter of public record.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment the Social Exclusion Task Force has made of the effects on social inclusion of post office closures. [196429]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) and the right hon. Member for Wells (Mr. Heathcoat-Amory) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 909.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years; [197510]

(2) what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by the Office of the Leader of the House in each of the last nine years. [197501]

Mr. Watson: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Smith Institute

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the status is of the Charity Commission's investigation into the Smith Institute; and if he will make a statement. [198199]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. The Commission has told me that it cannot, at this stage, provide a precise timeline for the completion of its inquiry, but that it is currently expected to be concluded by early summer. The Commission will, as is its normal practice, publish a report of its findings after the inquiry is completed, setting out any wider lessons for the charity sector.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Basic Needs Safety Valve Fund

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to announce the result of the recent applications for the basic needs safety valve fund for *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* other authorities. [197303]

Jim Knight: I would hope to announce the result of the recent applications for the basic need safety valve for *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* other authorities by close on 4 April 2008. Achievement of this target will depend upon further correspondence with local authorities, and their replies, regarding financial details entered on their application forms. If queries cannot be resolved by close on 4 April 2008, it may be necessary to announce allocations individually.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding has been allocated to Building Schools for the Future projects in each local authority; [192838]

(2) how much funding has been allocated under the Building Schools for the Future programme, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [192874]

Jim Knight: Table 1 as follows details the funding which Partnerships for Schools plans to allocate to Building Schools for the Future projects in waves 1, 2 and 3. Funding is provided to local authorities as an 'envelope' to allow local allocation of resources to individual schools in accordance with local priorities. As projects develop, the funding allocations are updated, so it is likely that the final allocations will change. Funding levels have not yet been confirmed for live projects in wave 4 and beyond. However, table 2 shows current indicative allocations, which are subject to change, for each wave 4 authority.

Table 1: Local authority wave 1 to 3 projects

		Estimated funding allocation for whole wave (£ million)	
Local authority	*Parliamentary constituency*	*PFI credits*	*non-PFI*
Bradford	Shipley	310	19
	Bradford South		
	Keighley		
	Bradford North		
	Bradford West		
Bristol	Bristol East	157	7
	Bristol South		

Table 1 Local authority wave 1 to 3 projects

Local authority	*Parliamentary constituency*	*Estimated funding allocation for whole wave (£ million) PFI credits*	*non-PFI*
Greenwich	Greenwich and Woolwich	183	57
	Eltham		
	Erith and Thamesmead		
Lewisham	Lewisham West	230	86
	Lewisham East		
Sheffield	Sheffield Heeley	89	77
	Sheffield Hallam		
	Sheffield Brightside		
	Sheffield Central		
Knowsley	Knowsley North and Sefton East	250	3
	Knowsley South		
Lancashire	Burnley	254	48
	Pendle		
Leeds	Leeds North East	186	150
	Leeds Central		
	Pudsey		
	Leeds West		
	Leeds East		
	Morley and Rothwell		
Leicester	Leicester West	151	165
	Leicester East		
	Leicester South		
Manchester	Manchester Blackley	0	183
	Manchester Withington		
	Manchester Gorton		
	Wythenshawe and Sale East		
	Congleton		
Newcastle	Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend	152	119
	Newcastle upon Tyne North		
	Newcastle upon Tyne Central		
	Tyne Bridge		
Newham	West Ham	65	95
	East Ham		
	Poplar and Canning Town		
South Tyneside and Gateshead	South Shields	64	137
	Jarrow		
	Gateshead East and Washington West		
Solihull	Meriden	87	29

Table 1 Local authority wave 1 to 3 projects

Local authority	*Parliamentary constituency*	*Estimated funding allocation for whole wave (£ million) PFI credits*	*non-PFI*
Sunderland	Houghton and Washington East	0	119
	Gateshead East and Washington West		
	Sunderland North		
	Sunderland South		
Waltham Forest	Walthamstow	54	62
Birmingham	Birmingham Ladywood	92	98
	Birmingham Perry Barr		
	Birmingham Erdington		
	Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath		
	Birmingham Edgbaston		
	Birmingham Hodge Hill		
Hackney	Hackney South and Shoreditch	0	152
	Hackney North and Stoke Newington		
Haringey	Hornsey and Wood Green	0	176
	Tottenham		
Islington	Islington North	111	83
	Islington South and Finsbury		
Kingston upon Hull	Kingston upon Hull East	119	285
	Kingston upon Hull North		
	Haltemprice and Howden		
	Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle		
Lambeth	Dulwich and West Norwood	0	87
	Vauxhall		
Liverpool	Liverpool West Derby	0	167
	Liverpool Wavertree		
	Liverpool Garston		
	Liverpool Walton		
Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough	0	108
	Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland		
Nottingham	Nottingham South	67	126
	Nottingham North		
	Nottingham East		
Tower Hamlets	Poplar and Canning Town	0	89
	Bethnal Green and Bow		

Table 1: Local authority wave 1 to 3 projects

Local authority	Parliamentary constituency	Estimated funding allocation for whole wave (£ million) PFI credits	non-PFI
Barnsley	Barnsley Central	324	28
	Barnsley East and Mexborough		
	Barnsley West and Penistone		
Derbyshire	Bolsover	65	60
	Chesterfield		
	North East Derbyshire		
Durham	Easington	79	75
	North West Durham		
	Sedgefield		
	City of Durham		
Kent	Canterbury	99	179
	South Thanet		
	North Thanet		
	Gravesham		
Luton	Luton North	34	104
	Luton South		
North Lincolnshire	Scunthorpe	0	89
Salford	Salford	134	65
	Eccles		
	Worsley		
Sandwell	West Bromwich West	60	137
	Warley		
Southwark	Camberwell and Peckham	83	145
	North Southwark and Bermondsey		
Tameside	Denton and Reddish	128	82
	Stalybridge and Hyde		
	Ashton under Lyne		
Westminster	Cities of London and Westminster	0	153
	Regent's Park and North Kensington		

Table 2: Local authority wave 4 projects, indicative funding allocations

	£ million
Barking and Dagenham	274
Blackburn	122
Bristol	101
Cambridgeshire	110
Coventry	137
Essex	126
Hertfordshire	153
Kent	143
Manchester	102
Oldham	195
Rochdale	171
Sheffield	222
Somerset	87
Telford and Wrekin	149

Children

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many copies of the Children's Plan Toolkit his Department has had printed; and what the cost of design, printing and distribution has been. [198231]

Beverley Hughes: 1,550 packs have been produced. The total cost was £30,534, which included the design, production and distribution of the packs.

Children: Reading

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what measures his Department has introduced to support pupils with dyslexia-type reading difficulties in the last five years; [195537]

(2) what measures his Department has introduced to enable parents of children with dyslexia-type reading difficulties to provide support for their child in the last five years. [195535]

Kevin Brennan: All local authorities, schools, and early years settings must haves regard to the special educational needs code of practice which provides advice on carrying out statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs. Children with dyslexia should have their needs identified and support put in place in the same way as children with any other type of special educational need (SEN).

To help those working in schools with identifying and supporting children with dyslexia, last October we launched the Inclusion Development Programme, which will offer professional development in key areas of SEN starting with training on communication difficulties, including dyslexia. The Inclusion Development Programme materials are being developed in close consultation with dyslexia organisations.

This builds on earlier support to schools which has included: funding the British Dyslexia Association's schools resource pack 'Achieving Dyslexia Friendly Schools'; working with the British Dyslexia Association to produce and disseminate a poster to primary schools on identifying children with dyslexia; and funding the National Strategies production of a DVD 'Learning and teaching for dyslexic children'.

To identify and disseminate best practice in improving outcomes for children with dyslexia, we are working with a number of dyslexia organisations on the "No to Failure" project. This is supporting schools in three local authority areas to be "trailblazers", where children are being screened for dyslexia and specialist tuition is provided to those identified with dyslexia. The impact on outcomes is being evaluated. The project is also raising awareness of dyslexia as a learning difficulty. We are providing up to £900,000 funding over three years.

As set out in the Children's Plan (cm 7280), we will develop a pilot which will evaluate the impact of additional intensive reading tuition for children identified as needing this through the 'Every Child a Reader' programme. If specialist provision demonstrates significant impact, we will look at how assessment and specialist dyslexia support could be rolled out nationwide as best practice.

Through the Education Act 1996, local authorities are required to arrange for the parent of any child with SEN in their area to be provided with advice and information about matters relating to those needs. We are providing £64,000 this financial year, and £86,000 next financial year to enable the British Dyslexia Association to enhance their helpline's provision of information and advice for teachers and parents on best practice in identifying and supporting children with dyslexia.

Departmental Pilot Schemes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what pilot initiatives his Department has launched since 1997; what the cost has been of each initiative; whether each initiative has been rolled out nationally; and if he will make a statement. [196568]

Jim Knight: I believe that pilot initiatives are a valuable way to test and develop policy options and their likely impact prior to implementation. They allow us to work in close partnership with local leaders and key partners to understand how policies will work in practice. This understanding from early testing and implementation is key to our decision-making on national roll-out. Due to the prohibitive cost involved in trawling a 10-year period I am unable to supply the details of all the individual schemes that my Department has sponsored for the period requested; but I am happy to attach the most recent information we have for 2007 as an illustration of the range and cost of our test activity. Although too early for full, formal evaluations of these schemes, I can give assurance that all initiatives are closely monitored and the learning fed back into policy design and operational implementation on an ongoing basis.

We have recently improved our internal processes for planning and coordinating our pilot schemes to ensure we maximise the learning and cost savings from this activity in a more systematic way while minimising burdens on front line delivery. We are also working hard to ensure that local authorities and regional government office colleagues are closely involved in the selection of pilots, and that there is strategic coherence in the breadth and range of such activities.

Pilot initiative	*Summary*	*Timescale*	*Budget*
Family Nurse Partnership	DCSF funded thereafter transferring to DoH. Focussing on first-time mothers under the age of 24. The project is testing a US model of early intervention which involves a structured programme of home visits by trained nurses.	1 April 2007 - 31 March 2008 in DCSF, thereafter with DH	£6 million in 2007/08
Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care	An intervention targeting young people who are already displaying severe levels of challenging anti-social behaviour and for whom more conventional approaches do not offer an effective solution.	December 2006 - 2008/2011	£3 million in 2007/08
Budget-holding Lead Professionals for children in care	A budget-holding lead professional commissions services for a child in care using a dedicated budget. Four local authorities are taking part.	July 2007 - July 2009	£200,000 in 2007/08
Budget Holding Lead Professional Pilots	A budget-holding lead professional co-ordinates provision when a range of services are needed for a child, and who has access to and leverage over a budget, allowing them to commission services directly from providers.	June 2006 - March 2008	£5million over the life of the pilot project
Drug and Alcohol Courts Pilot	A multi-agency early intervention via the justice system that aims to prevent children coming into care by tackling their parents' substance abuse.	September 2007 - September 2010	£50,000 - 2007/08
Sustainable Communities Market Renewal pathfinders	The pilot aim is business involvement in education in deprived communities improving outcomes for young people and helping them to contribute to the local economy.	2005 - 2010	not available at time
Parenting Early Intervention	Aims to test out 3 parenting programmes for families with 8-13 year olds at risk of anti-social behaviour.	from October 2006 - March 2008	£5 million over life of pilot
Regional Commissioning Units Pilots	The Government is committed to secure better value for money and give more placement choice to children in care by piloting regional commissioning units with interested local authorities.	from October 2007 - March 2008	2007/08 - £873,000
Parent Support Advisers	A preventative school- based role to support parents, concentrating on behaviour and attendance, parental engagement with schools and reducing barriers to learning.	from September 2006 - end summer 2008	£20 million -2007/08
Family Intervention Projects	Uses intensive tailored action with supervision and clear sanctions to improve the behaviour of persistently anti-social households.	Ends March 2008	*not available at time
Virtual Headteacher and Private Tutoring Pilots	These pilots are about testing how a senior individual working at local authority level can drive up standards of education for children in care, wherever they go to school as though they attended a single 'virtual' school.	September 2007 - July 2011	2007/09 - £792,000
Right2B Cared4	The Right2B Cared4 pilot will give young people a veto over any decisions about legally leaving care before they turn 18. The pilots will offer young people the opportunity to have a significant degree of control over the timing of transition, and in planning placement moves and identifying the services needed for their future support and care.	September 2007 - September 2011	£2 million - 2007/08
Free Entitlement for 3 and 4 Year- Olds Pathfinders	15 hours a week free early education for all 3 and 4 year olds for 38 weeks a year. Phased roll out between 2008/11.	Wave 1 commenced April 2007. Wave 2 commences September 2008	£80 million - 2007/08

Pilot initiative	*Summary*	*Timescale*	*Budget*
Free Entitlement for 2 Year Olds Pilots	Free early years provision to 12,000 disadvantaged two year olds, not already accessing provision who would most benefit from early access, and particularly those identified as less likely to access free entitlement at age 3.	April 2006 - March 2009	£20 million over 2 Years (2006-07)
Increasing Take up of formal childcare in BME Communities	The project is about shaping delivery to extend the reach of good quality childcare and early years' provision among Black and Minority Ethnic Families (BME) – with increased take up as a result.	September 2007 - March 2008	£265,000 - 2007/08
Multi-systemic Therapy Pilot	Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) is a family and community-based treatment programme for young people with complex clinical, social, and educational problems such as violent behaviour, drug abuse and school expulsion. MST therapists work in close partnership with the young person's family and community to strengthen protective factors known to reduce the risk of future offending and anti-social behaviour.	From September 2007-March 2011	£3 million - 2007/08
Every Child a Reader	Every Child a Reader is a unique collaboration between charitable trusts, the business sector and government. It aims to show that with the right resources, it is possible to overcome the literacy difficulties that blight so many children's lives.	2005/06 to end 2008/09	£5.2 million - 2007/08
Primary Specialism Pilot	A small project trialling the specialist programme in a small number of primary schools.	2007-2010	£10 million over life of the project
Trust School Pathfinders	Pathfinder schools working towards acquiring Trust School status	From September 2006 - September 2008	up to £15,000 per school
Low Attainers Pilots	Addresses the challenges that are faced by schools in which a very substantial proportion of the cohort enter at level 3 and struggle to access the secondary curriculum because their core skills in literacy, numeracy and learning are weak.	Sept 2004 - July 2008	*not available at time
Making Progress Pilots	The pilot is designed to improve the rate of progress which children make year by year, as well as between key stages.	September 2007 - July 2009	£8 million - 07-08
LA Strategic Commissioning of School Planning	Working with 17 local authorities to investigate what their new strategic commissioning of school places role would mean in practice, identify good practice and disseminate this to others.	November 2006 to March 2008	£2.3 million
Early Learning Partnerships	The Project is targeting parents of children aged 12 months to 3 years who are at risk of learning delay. Parents will be supported to become involved in their child's early learning, through effective partnerships with practitioners, using home visiting where necessary.	2006-08	£6.83 million (2006/07 and 2007/08)
Boarding School Provision Vulnerable Children Pathfinders	Testing the effectiveness of a boarding placement as an additional option for local authorities to improve social and educational outcomes for vulnerable children.	November 2006 to March 2008	£393k over the life of the project.
Transition Information Sessions	Sessions for parents of new intake of pupils into a school	*not available at time	£3 million 2007/08
Key Stage4 Engagement Programme	Alternative work-focused learning for low-achieving Key Stage 4 pupils disengaged with the mainstream curriculum. Pilots act as test-beds for developing good practice provision which will be widely disseminated.	2007/08	*not available at time
Formalised Peer Mentoring in Secondary Schools	2 year pilot being run in 180 schools engaging 3,600 pupils in matched mentoring pairs. By working together it is hoped that the result will be improved outcomes across a range of areas such as attendance, behaviour, academic performance and reducing bullying.	April 2006 - March 2008	£1.5 million total
Functional Skills Qualification Pilot	To ensure that young people achieve a firm grounding in the basic functional skills of English, Mathematics and ICT which are needed for participation in life, learning and work. From Sept 07 - 2 year pilot for GCSE candidates in English and ICT and a 3 year pilot for GCSE candidates in Mathematics.	September 2007 to September 2010	£661,000 - 2007/08
Learning Agreements	16-17 year olds in employment without level 2 to engage in education and training	Ends March 2008 (but may be extended)	£30million 2007/08
Activity Agreements & Allowances	To incentivise young people who have not been in education, employment or training (NEET) long term to take the first steps back to engagement in learning.	Ends March 2008 (but may be extended)	£45 million 2007/08
Study Plus Pilots	Aims to promote more effective use of the existing intervention toolkit by improving the management of intervention and by helping teachers to tailor their teaching more closely to the needs of particular groups and individuals at Key Stage 4.	Ends 2008	£426,000 in 2007/08

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its agencies spent on first class travel in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by staff grade. [187529]

Kevin Brennan: The spend for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its agencies on first class travel for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 for rail travel is £6,297,690 and for air £29,641.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 141W, on the education maintenance allowance, if he will investigate whether households are shrinking their incomes in order to claim education maintenance allowances. [197878]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has no evidence to suggest that

any household has chosen to reduce their income in order that their children become eligible for education maintenance allowance (EMA). Where people have made choices which have reduced income, such as moving from full time to part time work, it seems unlikely that such choices would have been made solely on the basis that their child may, in the following financial year, be able to claim EMA for up to one year. Parents are entitled to make decisions about their lifestyle and career, and it is not for the administrators of the EMA scheme to challenge those personal choices.

For EMA purposes, the majority of successful applicants have their household income assessed on the basis of a tax credit award notice (TCAN) awarded by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) or through a benefits check verified with the Department for Work and Pensions. Both Departments make detailed investigations to assess the evidence presented for establishing income for tax and benefit purposes. Our strategy for protecting the EMA scheme against potential abuse through the incomplete or false declaration of household income includes a data sharing protocol with both of those Departments. We currently investigate evidence we assess as high risk. We plan to strengthen this by building on our data sharing protocol to verify all EMA income assessments.

Schools: Construction

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what post-occupancy evaluation has been conducted on new schools built under Building Schools for the Future and the Academies Programmes; [197912]

(2) when the Partnership for Schools' review into the Building Schools for the Future procurement process will be completed and its report published. [197913]

Jim Knight: Schools in Building Schools for the Future (BSF) are required to complete a post occupancy evaluation as part of the design quality indicator for schools process. This was put in place for local authorities joining the programme as pathfinders and in the subsequent waves. Post occupancy evaluation typically takes place after the building has been through a cycle of one summer and one winter and so the first evaluations are expected to take place towards the end of 2008.

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment assessed the design quality of 12 completed academy buildings on behalf of the National Audit Office. The Commission used a tool based on the design quality indicator for schools, which in its full version will be used to measure the quality of all schools in BSF. Future academies, delivered through BSF will be subject to the requirements of that programme.

The independent PwC evaluations of BSF and the academies programme will also look at building quality.

Partnerships for Schools set out the preliminary findings from its Procurement Review in early February 2008. I expect to receive the final report and conclusions shortly.

Schools: Cycling

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools make provision for Bikeability training. [191702]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally.

I announced on 17 March that we would be making funding available to local authorities to train nearly 80,000 schoolchildren to the Bikeability standard in 2008/09. This is in addition to the 46,000 children for whom we have already funded training via local authorities and School Sports Partnerships. We do not collect or hold data on the number of schools associated with these 126,000 children.

These figures do not include Bikeability-standard training paid for directly by local authorities, schools or other organisations. Estimates are that local authorities fund some form of cycle training for around 200,000 children a year. We do not collect information on how many of these children are trained to the Bikeability standard. We do know that some of the local authorities who will receive funding in 2008/09 are paying for Bikeability standard training to 29,000 more children from their own resources, in addition to the 80,000 funded by the Government. Other local authorities provide Bikeability standard training as part of their normal programme without DFT grant. For example York city council provide training to around 2,500 children to different Bikeability levels, including 1,200 to Level 2.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent research his Department has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on the combustibility of plastic foam composite panels used in the building of schools. [196303]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The Department commissioned the Fire and Safety Unit at the Building Research Establishment to write Building Bulletin 100, Fire safety design for schools. This was published in 2007. BB100 is quoted as the compliance document for schools in Approved Document B (Fire Safety) 2006 edition, in support of the building regulations.

Appendix B of BB100: Fire behaviour of insulating core panels covers composite plastic foam insulated panels and gives design recommendations for their use in schools. This guidance is based on research that BRE carried out for the Home Office in 1996-97 on the fire hazards of this type of construction and the findings are valid for many building types, including schools.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to encourage schools to collaborate in the delivery of the 14 to 19 curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [195597]

Jim Knight: We offer a range of support to support stronger collaboration. We have a well-established and successful programme of Learning Visits sharing good practice on collaborating to deliver 14-19 reforms; 142 local authorities have attended at least one Learning

visit. Three of our strongest 14-19 areas have been awarded beacon council status, and are being used to disseminate good practice, including bespoke consultancy support to those areas that need more intensive support. We also share good practice via the departmental website and publications, including specific work on developing collaborative arrangements and planning 14-19 provision locally. In addition, we are looking to strengthen 14-19 partnerships by introducing legislation about local cooperation on 14-19 education in the Education and Skills Bill now before Parliament. The legislation provides the opportunity to signal the importance of collaboration between local partners.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools will be offering a new diploma course in September 2008; what estimate he has made of the number of pupils who will be enrolling on such courses; and if he will make a statement. [196423]

Jim Knight: In the early years of diploma delivery, we have made it our priority that all learners doing diplomas should have a good experience. To this end, we instituted a rigorous Gateway process, designed to ensure that only consortiums which were well placed to deliver from 2008 were allowed to do so. Only around 20 per cent. of applications were approved to teach diplomas in 2008 through this process, with 144 consortiums across the country involved in delivery.

Since then, we have been supporting these consortiums in a range of ways, and training teachers to teach diplomas. At the time of making Gateway applications, the consortiums approved to deliver from 2008 estimated that around 39,000 young people could be taking diplomas. In a number of cases, we have encouraged consortiums to keep student numbers lower than their initial projections in the first year, as new arrangements are introduced, in order to ensure that the quality of the experience for young people is extremely high. Therefore, we would anticipate that learner numbers in these areas should be lower than initial consortiums' projections. However, young people are making choices at present for September and, particularly post-16, will continue to do so for some months. We are therefore unable to provide an accurate national figure for learner numbers in September at this point.

Recent announcements of the results of the second Diploma Gateway show a significant increase in the quality of applications to deliver diplomas, leading to a substantial increase in the number of consortiums approved to deliver diplomas in 2009 against the same rigorous criteria. By September 2009, we anticipate that some 335 consortiums will be offering diplomas to around 100,000 young people.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* academies, *(b)* grammar schools and *(c)* independent schools he estimates will offer the full range of diplomas from (i) September 2008 and (ii) September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [196879]

Jim Knight: Applications for the first consortia were received in December 2006 when there were only 46 open academies. In March 2007, 18 academies were in consortia approved for the delivery of one or more of the five diplomas in the first phase, from September 2008.

There are currently 83 academies open. 58 academies are partners in consortia that have been approved for the delivery of one or more of the 10 diplomas to be available from September 2009 (14 of which are also partners in the consortia approved for delivery of diplomas from September 2008).

16 selective schools were partners in consortia approved for the delivery of one or more the first five diplomas from September 2008, and 81 have been approved for the delivery of diplomas from September 2009 (12 of these are also partners in consortia for delivery from September 2008).

There were no independent schools in consortia approved for diploma delivery from September 2008. Two independent schools are partners in consortia approved for the 2009 start.

These figures exclude any academies, selective schools and independent schools that might be among the additional partners that successful Gateway 1 consortia are yet to declare.

At this relatively early stage, very few consortia have gained approval to deliver the full range of diplomas (i.e. all of the available lines of learning) and it is doubtful that any single school will at this stage be actively involved in teaching across the full range.

Truancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1142W, on truancy, how many pupils have had a recorded unauthorised half-day absence while in year *(a)* nine, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 11. [189360]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is given in the table and relates to secondary schools only.

Information for the academic year 2006/07 was published on 26 February 2008.

All secondary schools[1] absence in national curriculum year groups 9, 10 and 11: 2005/06, England

National curriculum year group	Number of pupils of compulsory school age[4]	Number of enrolments[2]	Number of enrolments who missed at least one session due to[3]: Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence	Percentage of enrolments who missed at least one session due to[3]: Authorised absence	Unauthorised absence	Overall absence
9	598,760	605,640	573,250	195,290	579,150	94.7	32.2	95.6
10	601,220	606,090	572,490	232,410	579,890	94.5	38.3	95.7
11	581,300	582,600	552,780	255,680	560,880	94.9	43.9	96.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] One session relates to half a school day.
[3] The number of enrolments who had at least one session of absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments in same national curriculum year group.
[4] Pupil numbers are as at January 2006. Includes pupils aged five to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
[5] Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once if they moved schools during the year or are registered at more than one school.

Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Vocational Education

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the returns to the economy of people gaining (a) level 1 and (b) level 2 vocational qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [174260]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Historically, vocational qualifications at level 2 have been associated with improvement in earnings where those qualifications were obtained in the workplace rather than in college, and for people who have no or low qualifications rather than those who are already qualified to level 2 or better, for example through having good GCSEs. Thus the skills strategy has emphasised the acquisition of vocational qualifications in the workplace and has prioritised funding toward those with low or no previous qualifications. There is also clear evidence that higher level qualifications provide substantial benefits but that those with low or no qualification face barriers to learning; so the skills strategy has also aimed to get people up to at least level 2, from where they will both be incentivised to continue in learning because of the substantial average earnings gain to be had, and because the personal barriers to further learning are likely to be lessened.

The latest evidence on the economic benefits for level 2 vocational qualifications was published in autumn last year[1]. It changes this picture in that level 2 vocational qualifications give higher average earnings gain than previous studies have shown, and for a wider group of people. In many cases the gains seem to be better than the equivalent academic or general qualifications. Earnings improvements for young people up to the age of 25 who gained such qualifications experienced on average at least a 12 per cent. improvement in earnings, and for some qualifications much more. People with such qualifications also experienced substantial improvements in employment chances. The benefits continue to be larger for those with no or low prior qualifications than for those already qualified.[1]

That report also provided for the first time detailed evidence on level 2 vocational qualifications gained as adults (over the age of 25). The earnings differential is slightly lower than when acquired by young people, but they are still substantial, on average at least an 11 per cent. improvement in earnings. The exception in that study was the National Vocational Qualification at level 2 (NVQ2), which was associated with a lower improvement in earnings when acquired by adults. There are thought to be two reasons. First, there is a data difficulty, in that there are a relatively large proportion of adults in this country without qualifications. Many will have skills at around level 2, so a simple comparison of those with and without such qualifications does not reveal the true improvement in earnings for an individual who increases their skill level through gaining such a qualification. A further research study that will report later this year is using a different, longitudinal, approach and will identify more clearly the scale of benefit from gaining qualifications. Second, in the early years after NVQs were introduced, they were used extensively in government programmes for the unemployed, and hence they are disproportionately held by adults who have lower employability. As time goes on, and NVQs are used by the workforce more generally, the benefits are expected to become more apparent.

There is much less evidence on level 1 vocational qualifications. Recent evidence does show substantial positive improvements in employment chances for individuals who were low-achievers at school though[2].

[1] Jenkins et al (2007): The Returns to Qualifications in England. Updating the Evidence Base on Level 2 and Level 3 Vocational Qualifications. CEE Discussion Paper no. 89.

[2] The Impact of Vocational Qualifications on the Labour Market Outcomes of Low-Achieving School-Leavers, Steven McIntosh. CEP Discussion Paper No 621, March 2004.

Vocational Guidance: Training

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to provide continuing professional development for school careers advisers. [187354]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 February 2008]:* The Children's Plan sets out our vision for a professional, graduate-led children's work force. This includes looking at ways to professionalise the careers work force in schools, enhancing the range of qualifications, and quality and accessibility of continuing professional development opportunities in careers education. We are building on current support, by developing a range of resources to support the careers work force in schools, including curriculum guidance on careers education and work-related learning; and high-quality classroom materials for teachers.

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which wind farm proposals his Department lodged objections in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [191112]

Kevin Brennan: No such objections have been lodged.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government: East Anglia

11. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she next expects to meet representatives of local authorities in East Anglia to discuss unitary local government. [197692]

John Healey: Having been asked by us for advice, the Boundary Committee for England is currently considering unitary local government in Norfolk and Suffolk, and hence local authorities should now be speaking to, and meeting the Committee, which in fact they are doing. We thus have no plans to meet these authorities to discuss unitary local government.

Social Housing: Lancashire

12. **Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the level of affordable social housing required in new housing developments in Lancashire to meet local needs. [197694]

Caroline Flint: The Government are aware of the shortages of affordable houses in many parts of the north-west, including Lancashire and South Ribble.

Providing affordable housing to meet the needs of local areas is a Government priority.

Local authorities are best placed to assess the specific need in their areas, and the Government has helped authorities in Lancashire to do this by funding an independent housing market assessment.

Council Tax

13. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in cash terms has been in band D council tax in (*a*) Forest of Dean, (*b*) London and (*c*) England between 1997-98 and 2008-09. [197695]

Hazel Blears: Between 1997-98 and 2008-09 the average Band D, two adult, council tax in the Forest of Dean district council area rose by 114 per cent.. This figure includes the precepts for Gloucestershire county council, Gloucestershire police authority and parish councils.

The corresponding figure for London was 98 per cent. and for England the figure was 100 per cent.

Post Offices

14. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the contribution of local post offices to community cohesion. [197696]

Mr. Dhanda: My right Hon Friend and I hold regular discussions with counterparts from across Government about a wide range of issues relating to our ambition to build strong, prosperous and cohesive communities across England.

Home Information Packs

15. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home information packs and home condition reports have been commissioned. [197697]

Mr. Iain Wright: The commercial and private nature of a home owner's decision when to place their property on the market for sale means this information is not available in a robust form. We therefore do not hold this information centrally in the format requested.

Regeneration

16. **Joan Walley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps she has taken following the publication of the consultation paper on the review of sub-national development and regeneration. [197698]

John Healey: We published the Review of Sub-national Economic Development and Regeneration in July last year. We subsequently published an issues paper in December last year, updating stakeholders on progress on implementing the SNR. Yesterday we published a consultation document "Prosperous Places: Taking forward the Review of Sub-national Economic Development and Regeneration". The consultation asks for views on the implementation of new regional strategies and the creation of a new duty on local authorities to carry out an economic assessment of their area. It also consults on possible statutory arrangements for sub-regional collaboration among local authorities.

20. **Dr. Ladyman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what progress has been made in implementing the initiatives on regeneration set out in the Unlocking the Talent of our Communities document; and if she will make a statement. [197702]

Hazel Blears: In the document I launched on the 5 March, I announced plans for a new White Paper focused on empowering citizens. The document also outlined our plans to develop a framework for regeneration, and the future of the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

We will be engaging with stakeholders over the coming months through regional events, expert panels, government offices, discussion forums and third sector organisations. The learning from these exercises will help shape the white paper and future regeneration policy. The empowerment white paper will be published in the summer.

Social Housing

17. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what her most recent estimate is of the size of the social housing stock. [197699]

Caroline Flint: The social rent stock (local authority and registered social landlord) was estimated at 3.9 million dwellings in England at March 2006.

Planning: Developer Contributions

18. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what plans she has to review local authority performance in securing developer contributions under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. [197700]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is for local authorities to decide whether to seek planning obligations to ensure that planning permissions are compatible with planning policies. Authorities should monitor the collection and spending of developer contributions made in this way. The Department has commissioned research on the use of planning obligations and a copy is available in the Library of the House.

Eco-towns

19. **Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what methodology will be used for determining which eco-town bids go forward to consultation; and if she will make a statement. [197701]

Caroline Flint: The criteria and assessment approach for the selection of eco-town sites are set out in the Eco-towns Prospectus.

This was published last July as part of the Housing Green Paper.

The criteria are tough and challenging and only those locations that meet these will be shortlisted for consultation.

Affordable Housing: Wirral, South

21. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the amount of affordable housing in Wirral, South. [197703]

Caroline Flint: Further to the response given by the Secretary of State in October of last year I can confirm we are continuing with our commitment to affordable housing providing £8 billion up to 2011.

Furthermore, the Housing Corporation has announced allocations for the new Affordable Housing Programme for 2008-11 which will contribute towards our Housing Green Paper target of providing 70,000 new affordable homes per annum by 2010-11 of which 45,000 homes will be for social rent.

Following their invite to local providers to bid for affordable homes investment the Housing Corporation have recently announced that £11 million has been approved for 229 homes for the period 2008-11 in Wirral local authority.

Flood Damage

22. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in reopening local authority buildings damaged by the floods in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [197704]

John Healey: Information regarding the reopening of local authority buildings damaged by the floods in 2007 is not held centrally by the Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

We do however have some central information on schools. A total of 858 schools were damaged in last summer's floods. All of these have now reopened, and local authorities have advised the Department for Children, Schools and Families of only eight still using temporary classrooms because of flood damage.

Rough Sleepers

23. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology her Department uses to estimate levels of rough sleeping; and if she will make a statement. [197705]

Mr. Iain Wright: The methodology is set out in the Department's guidance on evaluating the extent of rough sleeping which has been developed in conjunction with the voluntary sector. An estimate of the number of rough sleepers in England is published each September based on the results of local authority street counts. The methodology has been consistently applied over the last 10 years.

Greater London Authority

24. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider the merits of bringing forward legislative proposals to revise the governance arrangements of the Greater London Authority; and if she will make a statement. [197706]

Hazel Blears: The governance arrangements for the Greater London Authority were reviewed as part of the Government's review of the authority's powers in 2006, and several legislative changes were subsequently made to its governance framework by the Greater London Authority Act 2007.

Council Tax: Armed Forces

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what liability members of the armed forces, in a single person household which does not have a Ministry of Defence accommodation exemption, have to pay council tax when on active duty overseas. [194293]

John Healey: The amount that a person is liable to pay in council tax for a financial year is primarily a matter for the relevant billing authority. This amount will be specified in a council tax demand notice issued by the relevant billing authority for the year. However, a single person discount of 25 per cent. is available to those people who live alone.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence announced on 28 January 2008 that all service personnel on designated operations overseas will receive a lump sum payment based on the number of days in theatre and worth £140 over a six-month tour to help with the cost of their council tax. This is equivalent to 25 per cent. of the average council tax bill in England for 2007-08.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the last equal pay review was completed, in line with the Equality Opportunities Commission guidance, for *(a)* her Department's headquarters, *(b)* each of its executive agencies and *(c)* her Department's Government offices; when those equal pay reviews were made available to the recognised trades unions of each of her Department's bargaining units; and if she will place in the Library each of those reviews. [193708]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 13 March 2008]:* The information requested is as follows:

DCLG (HQ)

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was created on 5 May 2006, inheriting functions and employees, under Machinery of Government changes, previously the responsibility of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Home Office (Communities Group) and the DTI (Women and Responsibilities Unit). The last equal pay review completed was the ODPM 2003 Equal Pay Review. This was made available to the trade unions in April 2003. The 2006-07 Equal Pay Review is due to be completed by June 2008.

Government offices

The last equal pay review for Government offices was carried out in June 2007 and sent to the unions in July 2007. This has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The Planning Inspectorate

PINS' recognised trade unions, PCS and Prospect, participated fully in the Equal Pay Review and the final report was made available to them when it was completed in September 2007 and has been deposited in the Library of the House.

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

No full equal pay review has been completed for the QEII Conference Centre.

Fire Service College

The Fire Service College undertook an equal pay review in line with Cabinet Office requirements in 2003. The review findings were communicated widely within the College, and were shared with the unions. Unfortunately, due to both significant change in college management and HR structures since 2003, and also various changes in responsibilities for key staff, the college is unable to locate the original report and associated data. However, summaries of the review and the agreed actions were compiled at the time, these have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197058]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of staff in my Department who have attended the courses listed is shown in the following table:

Course	*Number of attendees*	*Cost (£)*
Influencing with Integrity	8	5,808
Emotional Intelligence	—	—
Counselling Skills for the Workplace	—	—
Managing your confidence	1	1,149
Balancing Work/Life Realities	2	2,160
Working Assertively	5	3,630

Fire Alarms

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in how many dwelling fires where a smoke alarm fitted by the Fire and Rescue Service was present was the alarm raised by such alarms in each year since 2004. [197954]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the total number of smoke alarms installed by fire and rescue services in England, in dwellings which have raised the alarm in the presence of a fire is not collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Fire Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire service call outs were *(a)* for house fires, *(b)* for non-house fires, *(c)* the result of hoax or malicious calls and *(d)* for road traffic accidents in the last 12 months. [197420]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is shown in the table, for the most recent years for which the data are available.

Primary dwelling fires, all non-dwelling fires, malicious false fire alarms attended in England, 2006; Number of road traffic accidents attended in 2005/06

	Number
Dwelling fires, 2006	44,845
Non-dwelling fires, 2006	294,967
Malicious false fire alarms, 2006	25,427
Road traffic accidents, 2005-06	42,308

Note:
Fire and false alarm data are provisional for 2006. Non-dwelling fires include secondary fires.

Fire Services: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the response times to emergency calls were for each fire service in each year since 2000. [197956]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the average response times of fire and rescue services in England between 2000 and 2006, the most recent calendar year for which data are available. The table shows the time from the initial call to attendance and covers primary fires only—response times to other incidents are not collected centrally by DCLG. Please note that figures for 2006 are provisional.

Average response time to fires[1, 2, 3] by FRS area and year of call, England, 2000 to 2006[4]

FRS area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	*2006
England	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.1	7.2
England—non-met counties	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.9	8.0
Avon	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.9	7.4	7.8	7.8
Bedfordshire	6.6	7.1	6.9	6.7	7.2	7.0	7.3
Berkshire	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.7
Buckinghamshire	7.8	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.3	8.4	8.5
Cambridgeshire	8.7	8.6	8.8	9.1	9.0	9.2	9.7
Cheshire	6.4	6.9	6.7	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.6
Cleveland	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.6
Cornwall	9.2	9.0	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.9
Cumbria	7.8	7.9	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.7
Derbyshire	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.8
Devon	6.7	6.6	6.9	6.8	8.0	7.6	7.5
Dorset	7.2	6.9	7.2	6.7	7.1	7.9	8.1
Durham	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.7	8.0	8.2
East Sussex	6.7	6.2	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.8
Essex	7.2	7.1	7.3	6.9	7.6	7.6	7.9
Gloucestershire	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	9.2	8.9	9.1
Hampshire	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5
Hereford & Worcester	7.9	8.1	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.9	8.5
Hertfordshire	7.2	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.0	7.2	7.1
Humberside	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.3
Isle of Wight	6.9	7.6	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.6	7.2
Kent	7.9	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.7	7.5
Lancashire	5.7	5.9	6.3	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.9
Leicestershire	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.2	7.9
Lincolnshire	9.0	8.7	9.5	9.8	9.9	10.2	10.2
Norfolk	8.8	8.6	8.0	8.0	7.8	9.1	9.1
North Yorkshire	7.8	7.7	7.9	8.4	8.6	8.8	8.7
Northamptonshire	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.8	7.4	7.6	7.7
Northumberland	7.2	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.1	8.6	8.3
Nottinghamshire	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.8	6.6
Oxfordshire	7.8	8.3	8.8	9.1	8.8	9.0	9.1
Shropshire	7.8	8.8	8.5	8.9	8.1	8.4	8.5
Somerset	7.8	8.0	8.7	8.3	9.2	9.6	9.6
Staffordshire	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.7	8.3	8.7	8.8
Suffolk	8.7	8.8	9.0	9.3	9.0	9.5	9.2
Surrey	7.4	7.9	7.8	8.3	8.0	8.6	8.5
Warwickshire	7.1	7.8	7.7	7.7	8.5	7.3	8.0
West Sussex	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	8.2	9.0	8.6
Wiltshire	8.4	9.3	7.8	8.9	8.8	9.9	9.7
Isles of Scilly	7.0	8.0	7.0	9.0	9.5	9.0	7.3
England—met counties	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.4
Greater Manchester	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.8
Merseyside	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.2	6.1
South Yorkshire	6.5	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.8	6.9
Tyne & Wear	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.5
West Midlands	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.2
West Yorkshire	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.8	6.7	6.8	7.0
Greater London	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.5

[1] Excluding late call and heat and smoke damage only incidents.
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
[3] A small number of incidents with response time greater than an hour have been excluded so that results are not skewed by likely reporting errors.
[4] Provisional.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average response times to emergency calls were for each fire service in each year since 2000. [198059]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the average response times of fire and rescue services in England between 2000 and 2006, the most recent calendar year for which data are available. The table shows the time from the initial call to attendance and covers primary fires only—response times to other incidents are not collected centrally by DCLG. Please note that figures for 2006 are provisional.

Average response time to fires[1, 2, 3] by FRS area and year of call, England, 2000-06[4]

FRS area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[4]
England	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.1	7.2
England—Non-Met counties	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.9	8.0
Avon	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.9	7.4	7.8	7.8
Bedfordshire	6.6	7.1	6.9	6.7	7.2	7.0	7.3
Berkshire	6.7	7.1	7.1	7.5	7.2	7.4	7.7
Buckinghamshire	7.8	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.3	8.4	8.5
Cambridgeshire	8.7	8.6	8.8	9.1	9.0	9.2	9.7
Cheshire	6.4	6.9	6.7	6.9	7.2	7.3	7.6
Cleveland	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.5	5.6
Cornwall	9.2	9.0	9.8	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.9
Cumbria	7.8	7.9	8.3	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.7
Derbyshire	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.8
Devon	6.7	6.6	6.9	6.8	8.0	7.6	7.5
Dorset	7.2	6.9	7.2	6.7	7.1	7.9	8.1
Durham	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.7	8.0	8.2
East Sussex	6.7	6.2	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	6.8
Essex	7.2	7.1	7.3	6.9	7.6	7.6	7.9
Gloucestershire	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.5	9.2	8.9	9.1
Hampshire	6.9	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.5
Hereford and Worcester	7.9	8.1	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.9	8.5
Hertfordshire	7.2	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.0	7.2	7.1
Humberside	5.9	5.8	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.3
Isle of Wight	6.9	7.6	7.2	7.2	7.2	6.6	7.2
Kent	7.9	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.7	7.5
Lancashire	5.7	5.9	6.3	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.9
Leicestershire	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.2	7.9
Lincolnshire	9.0	8.7	9.5	9.8	9.9	10.2	10.2
Norfolk	8.8	8.6	8.0	8.0	7.8	9.1	9.1
North Yorkshire	7.8	7.7	7.9	8.4	8.6	8.8	8.7
Northamptonshire	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.8	7.4	7.6	7.7
Northumberland	7.2	7.5	7.6	8.0	8.1	8.6	8.3
Nottinghamshire	5.9	5.9	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.8	6.6
Oxfordshire	7.8	8.3	8.8	9.1	8.8	9.0	9.1
Shropshire	7.8	8.8	8.5	8.9	8.1	8.4	8.5
Somerset	7.8	8.0	8.7	8.3	9.2	9.6	9.6
Staffordshire	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.7	8.3	8.7	8.8
Suffolk	8.7	8.8	9.0	9.3	9.0	9.5	9.2
Surrey	7.4	7.9	7.8	8.3	8.0	8.6	8.5
Warwickshire	7.1	7.8	7.7	7.7	8.5	7.3	8.0
West Sussex	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	8.2	9.0	8.6
Wiltshire	8.4	9.3	7.8	8.9	8.8	9.9	9.7
Isles of Scilly	7.0	8.0	7.0	9.0	9.5	9.0	7.3
England—Met counties	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.4

Average response time to fires[1,2,3] by FRS area and year of call, England, 2000-06[4]

FRS area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[4]
Greater Manchester	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.8
Merseyside	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.7	5.8	6.2	6.1
South Yorkshire	6.5	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.8	6.9
Tyne and Wear	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.5
West Midlands	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.6	6.0	6.1	6.2
West Yorkshire	6.5	6.2	6.3	6.8	6.7	6.8	7.0
Greater London	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.4	5.5	5.5

[1] Excluding late call and heat and smoke damage only incidents
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003
[3] A small number of incidents with response time greater than an hour have been excluded so that results are not skewed by likely reporting errors
[4] Provisional

Fires: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many malicious vehicle fires there have been in each year since 1997. [198060]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of deliberate vehicle fires, in England, attended by fire and rescue services, in each year since 1997 is displayed in the following table. Figures for 2006 are provisional and may be subject to change.

Deliberate fires[1] in road vehicles, England, 1997-2006[2]

	Road vehicles
1997	35,162
1998	40,090
1999	51,888
2000	58,979
2001	67,158
2002	66,018
2003	61,088
2004	46,660
2005	40,335
2006[2]	34,893

[1] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003
[2] Provisional

Fires: Schools

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fires there were in schools in England in each month in each of the last five years. [198058]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of fires, in schools, attended by fire and rescue services, in England, in each month from 2002 to 2006 is available in the following table. Data for 2006 are provisional and subject to change.

Fires[1] in schools by month of call, England, 2002 to 2006[2]

Month of call	2002	2003	2004	2005	[2]2006
Total	1,249	1,232	1,229	1,102	1,068
January	83	86	122	102	106
February	82	103	82	98	92
March	108	140	178	95	117
April	120	96	94	86	85
May	124	120	108	98	95
June	101	96	100	105	103
July	118	82	81	107	87
August	72	94	65	63	51
September	154	125	88	79	68
October	117	110	66	92	72
November	102	93	158	120	110
December	67	87	88	57	82

[1] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
[2] Provisional.

Government Offices for the Regions: Manpower

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's staff are allocated to manage the Government office network. [195118]

Mr. Dhanda: On 30 September 2007 this Department employed the equivalent of 690 full-time staff in the Government office network, of which 22 worked in the Regional Co-ordination Unit, which is the corporate centre for the Government office network.

Land Use: Thames Gateway

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much previously developed land which could be used for new development lies within the *(a)* Thames Gateway and *(b)* Thames Gateway Interim Plan area. [197243]

Caroline Flint: There is no distinction between the area defined as the Thames Gateway and the area covered by the Thames Gateway Interim Plan. The Thames Gateway Interim Plan notes that some 3,800 hectares of brownfield sites were available in November 2006.

Local Government: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints were *(a)* received, *(b)* investigated and *(c)* upheld by the Local Government Ombudsman for England in each year since 1990, broken down by local authority in relation to which the complaint was filed. [194349]

Mr. Dhanda: Information for years 1990-96 has been placed in the Library of the House. For information 1997 to 2007 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 6 March, *Official Report*, column 2780W.

Minister for the West Midlands

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 850W, on the Minister for the West Midlands, what the date of each listed visit was. [195909]

Mr. Dhanda: The date of each of the visits made by the Regional Minister for the West Midlands since his appointment up to 11 February 2008 are given in the following table:

Organisation visited	Date of visit (2007)
South Shropshire district council	16 July
A flood-damaged Newbridge nursery/farm at Cleobury Mortimer	16 July
BMW plant at Hams Hall in Coleshill, North Warwickshire	17 September
The Regional Partnership Centre	17 September
The West Midlands Business Council	17 September
The West Midlands Regional Assembly	17 September
The Science City Partnership	17 September
Birmingham city council	29 October
Blitz Games in Leamington Spa	5 November
Telford and Wrekin council	12 November
Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage	12 November
The Ricoh factory	12 November
Keele Science and Business Park	19 November
North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership	19 November
Waterside housing development	19 November
University Quarter in Stoke-on-Trent	3 December
Stoke city council	3 December
Wolverhampton University Science Park	3 December
Wolverhampton Urban Regeneration Company	3 December
Walsall Art Gallery	3 December
Dudley Limestone Caverns	3 December
Business leaders at the West Bromwich Building Society	3 December
The Innovation Centre at Longbridge	10 December
The Guild/Pridmore Estate	10 December
Whitefriars Housing Association	10 December

The following planned visits were included in the answer of 4 February and subsequently took place on 11 February:

Organisation visited	Date of visit (2008)
Government Office West Midlands	11 February
Jobcentre Plus	11 February
Learning and Skills Centre	11 February
West Midlands strategic health authority	11 February
Advantage West Midlands	11 February

Navigation: Thames Estuary

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will commission research on the effect of the availability of pilots on shipping movements in the Thames estuary; and if she will make a statement. [197244]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

No; pilotage services on the Thames are a matter for the Port of London Authority as the relevant competent harbour authority.

Planning: Retail Trade

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 149W, on planning: retail trade, when she plans to publish a consultation document on proposals to revise Planning Policy Statement 6. [197387]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* We intend to take forward our Planning White Paper commitment, to replace the need and impact tests with a new test which has a strong focus on our town centre first policy, and which promotes competition and improves consumer choice, avoiding the unintended effects of the current need test. We will consult on revisions to Planning Policy Statement 6 shortly.

Regeneration: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to promote regeneration in the North East since 1997. [197265]

John Healey: The last 10 years have seen significant progress in ensuring that no one should be seriously disadvantaged by where they live. In 2001 we set out a radical vision of transformation in our New Commitment to Neighbourhood Renewal. In the north-east we have promoted regeneration through: Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF); New Deal for Communities (NDC); Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders; and Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders. 17 areas in the region have benefited from these programmes. From this April 14 local authority areas in the region will also benefit from the new Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

Regional Planning and Development: Empty Property

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with regional development agencies on the potential effects of changes to empty property rates on regeneration in each region. [197865]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1202W.

Roads: Accidents

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire service call outs were for road traffic accidents where alcohol was a contributory factor in the last 12 months. [197419]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

China: Tibet

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his definition is of the special position of China in relation to Tibet to which he referred on the BBC World At One programme on 20 March 2007. [197460]

Meg Munn: Successive governments have regarded Tibet as autonomous, while recognising the special position of the Chinese there. This position was set out in detail to an inquiry by the Foreign Affairs Select Committee in 2000 as follows:

"Successive British Governments have regarded Tibet as autonomous while recognising the special position

of the Chinese there. We have consistently informed the Chinese government of our view that greater autonomy should be granted to the Tibetans. We have also emphasised that the current political difficulties in Tibet can best be resolved through dialogue between the Chinese government and the Tibetan people, including the Dalai Lama. We seek to encourage the Chinese authorities to enter into a dialogue without preconditions and have noted that the Dalai Lama has stated publicly that he does not seek independence, but greater autonomy for Tibet. Central to our interest in Tibet is our deep concern at evidence of human rights abuses."

Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) who is responsible for making appointments to the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals; [196241]

(2) when there was last a vacancy on the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals; who filled the vacancy; and what process was used to assess the suitability of candidates. [196242]

The Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

Members of the Committee serve on an ex officio basis and are therefore automatically succeeded on the Committee by the successor to the official post. Members of the Committee are as follows:

Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service (Chair)

Her Majesty The Queen's Private Secretary

Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office

Defence Services Secretary

Permanent Secretary, Home Office

Permanent Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence

Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what measures are in place to ensure that a member of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals is not involved in making a decision that could result in them being awarded an honour, decoration or medal; [196246]

(2) on how many occasions a member of the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals has received an honour, decoration or medal as a result of a decision of the committee. [196247]

The Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The Committee has been in existence for some 70 years. Its main purpose is to advise The Sovereign on proposals for the introduction or acceptance of new honours, decorations and medals. It does not normally consider awards for individual people. If the eligibility of an individual member to a specific award were discussed, they would be expected to declare their interest and take no part in the discussion. It is not possible to say on how many occasions members of the Committee may have received an honour or a medal as a result of a policy recommendation by the Committee.

Commonwealth: Overseas Students

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements he will make to ensure financial support for future high quality doctoral students from Commonwealth countries wishing to join research teams in United Kingdom universities. [196633]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has committed £79,110,000 to scholarship funding (including to Commonwealth countries) over the next three years, in accordance with the FCO's global strategy and priorities. Other sources of funding for overseas doctoral students performing research in the UK are available through research councils and universities themselves.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has held with the Prime Minister on the implementation of the announcement at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in November 2007 of an increase of UK funding for Commonwealth scholarships over the coming three years. [196635]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any such discussions. The increase in UK funding for Commonwealth scholarships over the next three years is being made through the Department for International Development.

EU Countries: Terrorism

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the European Council has in assessing the terrorist threats facing the European Union. [195290]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The EU Joint Situation Centre (SitCen), now known as the Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity (SIAC), provides a secure hub for receiving member states' intelligence assessments on a range of subjects including the threat from international terrorism. Strategic analysis of this material produced in the SIAC is used to inform EU decision-making.

Ferries: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it will be necessary to enter into a further tendering of the ferry services to the Scottish island communities currently provided by Caledonian MacBrayne should the Treaty of Lisbon be ratified and the Protocol on Services of General Interest come into effect. [194776]

David Cairns: I have been asked to reply.

Article 2 of the protocol on services of general interest makes clear that the provisions of the treaty of Lisbon do not affect in any way the competence of member states to provide, commission and organise non-economic services of general interest. The Scottish Executive is responsible for determining, in light of this, whether a further tendering of Caledonian MacBrayne ferry services is necessary.

Group of Eight: AIDS

Mr. Caborn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether AIDS-related issues will feature on the agenda for the next G8 meeting; and what progress has been made towards securing the objectives of the treatment for all by the 2010 agreement. [196416]

Meg Munn: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given by the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas) my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Thomas) gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South (Nigel Griffiths) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-84W.

International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial support the UK Government have allocated to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in each year since its establishment. [191981]

David Miliband: The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is funded from the UN budget and the UK's main financial contribution is calculated as a proportion of the UK's assessed UN contributions. The UK's voluntary and UN assessed contributions to ICTY since its establishment are as follows:

	US$	
1995	1,016,190	Assessed
1996	855,703	Assessed
1997	495,178	Voluntary
1998	1,436,888	Voluntary
1998	204,500	Voluntary
1999	3,100,000	Assessed
2000	4,794,591	Assessed
2001	5,390,183	Assessed
2002	4,681,322	Assessed
2003	4,466,322	Assessed
2004	5,849,376	Assessed
2004	20,000	Voluntary
2005	5,809,039	Assessed
2005	15,000	Assessed
2006	5,319,942	Assessed
2007	5,845,538	Assessed

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions his Department had with the United States about the decision to disband the Iraqi Army and the Ba'ath Party in May 2003; [198163]

(2) what discussions he had with the United States on the decision to disband the Iraqi Army and the Ba'ath Party in May 2003. [198162]

Dr. Howells: The detail of exchanges between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the US Administration in 2003 remains confidential. By the end of the initial hostilities the Iraqi army had effectively dissolved itself—there were no formed units, no equipment and all barracks had been comprehensively looted. At the same time throughout Iraq there was overwhelming popular pressure for de-Ba'athification to begin, reflecting the suffering and resentment among ordinary Iraqis as a consequence of three decades of repression by Saddam Hussein's regime.

Iraq: Weapons

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what status annotations made by individuals to the hard copy of the John Williams' draft of the 2002 Iraq dossier had within the drafting process. [188777]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 25 February 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1-2 WS. The document produced by John Williams was not used as the basis for the dossier the Government subsequently published.

Saudi Arabia: Overseas Residence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department gives to non-Muslim UK citizens working in Saudi Arabia who wish to practise their religion in a congregation; and if he will make a statement. [196297]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: Saudi Arabia has recently acknowledged the right of non-Muslims to practise their faith in private. But it still does not allow Christian or other non-Muslim religious services. Non-Muslims who contact our embassy in Riyadh are told that practising their faith in public is not permitted under Saudi law.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 31 March to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea; and whether Mr. Mann is still being continuously shackled; [198166]

(2) what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 7 April to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea; [198167]

(3) what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 14 April to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea. [198168]

Meg Munn: Our consul from the British deputy high commission in Lagos was refused consular access to Simon Mann during his last visit to Equatorial Guinea in March. We have expressed our concern to the Equatorial Guinea authorities and are urgently seeking

another consular visit. The authorities have offered assurances that Mr. Mann will be treated well whilst in detention. His welfare remains our primary concern.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2792W, on television, if he will list each individual internal department in his Department. [195578]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* A list of internal departments within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on 26 March 2008 is given. The FCO is composed of directorates and other teams. Departments are listed by directorate. Where a directorate is not divided into departments, or where a team exists outside a directorate, these directorates and teams are listed separately. The organisational structure of the FCO changes and this list reflects the situation on the current date. Asterisks have been used to show where an FCO unit is jointly managed by the FCO and other Whitehall Departments.

Africa Directorate
Africa Department (Equatorial)
Africa Department (Southern)
Pan Africa Policy Unit
Sudan Unit
Americas Directorate
Caribbean, Mexico and Central America Team
North America Team
South America Team
Asia-Pacific Directorate
Far Eastern Group
South East Asia and Pacific Group
Communication Directorate
Internal Communication and Public Relations Group
Press Office
Public Diplomacy Group
Consular Directorate
Consular Assistance Group
Consular Crisis Group
Passport and Documentary Services Group
Consular Resources Group
Consular Strategy, Communications and Training Group
Directorate for Defence and Strategic Threats
Counter Proliferation Department
Counter Terrorism Department
Drugs and International Crime Department
Europe Directorate
Europe Delivery Group
Europe Global Group
Enlargement South East and Wider Europe Group
Western Mediterranean Group
Western Balkans Group
FCO Response Centre
FCO Services
Finance Directorate
Global and Economic Issues Directorate
Climate Change and Energy Group
Global Economy Group
Science and Innovation Group
Sustainable Development and Business Group
Human Resources Directorate
Information and Technology Directorate
International Security Directorate
Conflict Group
Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance Group
International Organisations Department
Security Policy Department
Stabilisation Unit*
Legal Advisers
Middle East and North Africa Directorate
Arab Israel and North Africa Group
Arabian Peninsula Group
Iran Coordination Group
Iraq Group
Migration Directorate
Ministerial Offices
Ministerial Support Unit
Overseas Territories Directorate
Parliamentary Relations Team
Permanent Under Secretary's Office
Policy Planning Staff
Protocol Directorate
Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia Directorate
Security and Estates Directorate
South Asia and Afghanistan Directorate
Afghanistan Group
Afghanistan Drugs Interdepartmental Unit
South Asia Group
*UKvisas**
*UK Trade and Investment**

Thailand: Burma

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the policies of the Government of Thailand in regard to Burma; what discussions he has had with the Government of Thailand on Burma; and what reports he has received to the statements made by the Prime Minister of Thailand during, and following, his recent visit to Burma. [196397]

Meg Munn: I discussed issues relating to Burma with the Thai Foreign Minister, Noppadon Pattama, on 29 February 2008 during my recent visit to Thailand and again on 11 March, before he visited Burma. Foreign Minister Noppadon assured me that the new Thai Government want to become more actively engaged on Burma as part of a wider "Neighbourhood Engagement Policy".

The Thai Government support the good offices mission of the UN Secretary-General to promote peaceful reconciliation in Burma. We noted the warm welcome Thai Prime Minister Samak received during his recent visit to Burma. We believe it is important that the Thai Government should send a clear message on the need for political transformation in Burma. We encourage Prime Minister Samak and other members of the Thai Government to reinforce this message in their contacts with their Burmese counterparts.

We continue to discuss all aspects of the Burma situation with the Thai Government on a regular basis.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the referendum process in the Western Sahara with representatives of Polisario. [196775]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the Western Sahara referendum process with representatives of the Polisario. However, when officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have met with the Polisario representatives to discuss Western Sahara, they have expressed our hope that a mutually acceptable political solution would be found, which would provide for the self determination of the people of Western Sahara. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his personal envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171441]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007.

In 2007, DIUS held a competition for further education college students to design an electronic Christmas card for the Department. The competition was won by Matthew Boulton college. This incurred no significant cost to the Department as colleges were individually invited to participate. The prize—a trip to a design centre or space centre—was donated by our partners. The DIUS Christmas card was distributed electronically through existing e-mail routes and therefore incurred no significant costs.

DIUS did not purchase any Christmas decorations in 2007, nor did the Department hold a Christmas party. Divisions do hold Christmas parties for staff to attend, for which these staff must pay. Christmas parties are not paid for out of departmental budgets.

Information on expenditure by our agencies on Christmas cards, and decorations is not held centrally by the Department. Therefore this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196448]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to provide this information without incurring disproportionate costs of collection. Since the Department was formed by Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007 it has continued to make use of the services of several types of temporary staff, including temporaries and contractors from agencies. Such temporary staff are engaged for a variety of purposes and rates paid reflect the differences between generic and specialist services. Preferential rates of pay and terms of engagement have been negotiated with certain selected agencies under an over-arching framework agreement. This procurement process has the purpose of achieving best value for money and is used across Government.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department, its predecessors and its agencies spent on managing their corporate identities in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167350]

Mr. Lammy: Since formation of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on 28 June 2007, the Department has spent an estimated £38,759.49 on managing its corporate identity. This includes development of the logo, branding guidelines, signposts, display panels and stationery.

The Department is responsible for two agencies, National Weights and Measures Laboratory and the UK Intellectual Property Office.

National Weights and Measures Laboratory have had no spend on managing their corporate identity over the past 12 months.

UK Intellectual Property Office have had no spend on managing their corporate identity over the past 12 months.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195860]

Mr. Lammy: We are currently developing our proposals for the Department's sustainable development action plan (SDAP) with a view to publication by the summer.

Education: Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on measures to avoid grade inflation. [178221]

Bill Rammell: UK degrees are internationally competitive qualifications and the value of UK degrees continues to be robust. Higher education institutions, as autonomous bodies, are responsible for the academic standards of the qualifications which they award. It is for each institution to determine its own curricula, organise teaching and learning, and assess and award final degrees.

Institutions are supported by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) which exists to safeguard the public interest in sound standards of higher education qualifications and to encourage continuous improvement in the management of the quality of higher education. The QAA carries out this function by conducting audits of the management of

quality in institutions. One aspect of these audits is to consider how closely institutions follow the QAA's Code of Practice, which includes a section dedicated to the assessment of students. The judgments of the QAA audit teams are made public in published reports. Additionally—and unique to the UK—all higher education institutions are expected to appoint external examiners to assist them to monitor the standards of their awards.

Hearing Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by his Department through call centres. [194880]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has its telephone enquiry service provided as a shared service by the Department for Children Schools and Families.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families' telephone inquiry service offers a textphone/minicom service for deaf people. They also accept inquiries by email, fax and letter.

On information campaigns—such as provision of Student Finance—our advertising directs people to our campaign website which is fully accessible for people with impairments. A textphone number service is available on the aspirational Aimhigher website; and a transcript of the information DVD is also provided.

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to implement the matched funding for funds raised by universities mentioned in the former Prime Minister's comments at Brunel University on 15 February 2007; and if he will make a statement. [196903]

Bill Rammell: The HE voluntary giving scheme is an unprecedented opportunity for institutions to increase their capacity to attract donations and I am delighted by the amount of enthusiasm it has generated among universities and potential donors. As we have already announced, the start date for donations to be eligible for the scheme will be 1 August 2008 and the matched funding will be paid retrospectively.

Following extensive consultation with the sector and fundraising experts, we will shortly be announcing the final structure and rules of the scheme so that institutions are able to prepare for the start date.

Higher Education: Prisoners

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to increase the higher education *(a)* budget for and *(b)* qualifications achieved in prisons. [196547]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills set a budget of £547,000 for its support for prisoners studying undergraduate higher education with the Open university in 2007-08. In his written statement of 25 March 2008, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills said that he will be considering the future management of financial support for offenders in higher education, based on recommendations from this Department and the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many prisoners are participating in *(a)* distance learning provisions and *(b)* distance learning provisions provided by the Open university. [196549]

Mr. Lammy: The number of prisoners participating in distance learning provided by the Open university changes from day to day as prisoners start and complete part-time courses of study. On Thursday 20 March 2008, figures from the Open university show that 935 prisoners were studying Open university courses through distance learning. In 2007 a total of 1,372 prisoners undertook one or more Open university courses.

Figures are not collected centrally on the number of prisoners where distance learning other than through the Open university is assessed as the most appropriate means of meeting their learning need.

Overseas Students

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many non-EU students attended English universities in each year since 1997. [170441]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the following table. Figures for 2007/08 will be available in January 2009.

Number of non-EU enrolments[1] at English higher education institutions 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic year	*Non-EU enrolments*
1997/98	92,740
1998/99	92,875
1999/2000	97,500
2000/01	107,040
2001/02	117,940
2002/03	142,660
2003/04	161,250
2004/05	163,750
2005/06	164,975
2006/07	171,835

[1] Figures cover postgraduate and undergraduate students on full-time and part-time courses.

Note:
Figures are calculated on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

The figures indicate that international student numbers at English higher education institutions have increased by 85 per cent. since 1997. This is very much a success story as these students contribute to the cultural mix, the research capacity and the finances of our institutions. The growth of international student numbers has not been at the expense of home students as they are not in competition with each other for places.

Skilled Workers: Construction

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the skills need forecast made by ConstructionSkills in 2005 of the number of recruits to the construction industry required in each year to 2010; and what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take in response. [197495]

Mr. Lammy: Forecast data by ConstructionSkills anticipates that to meet the demand for new workers the construction industry in England will need to recruit 74,340 people per annum between 2008 and 2012. The Construction Industry has responded very positively to the Government's Skills Pledge, with over 1,000 employers already committed. For apprenticeships, the aim is to double the number of apprenticeships in the sector to 20,000 by 2012. The National Skills Academy for Construction was launched in 2007 and has a major programme of activities working with employers across England. The number of Inspire scholarships, offering support to individuals studying for a Built Environment degree, has increased this year to 300. Together these initiatives will make a strong contribution to help meet the skill needs of the sector.

Skilled Workers: Voluntary Organisations

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of third sector organisations towards developing the skill set of specific groups, with particular reference to those with learning disabilities. [196853]

Mr. Lammy: Third sector organisations have a vital role to play in reaching specific user groups including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, providing opportunities to learn and train that might not otherwise exist, and supporting the Government's twin aims of economic success and social inclusion for all.

In 2006-07 the Government invested around £177 million in 2006-07 in post-16 further education and skills provision delivered by 543 voluntary organisations directly contracted with the Learning and Skills Council.

The Working Together Advisory Group (launched in December 2006) has brought together experts from across the third sector to advise the LSC on how it can work most effectively with third sector providers. The substantial progress that has been made was celebrated at a ministerial reception in January 2008.

The LSC is continuing to work with the Advisory Group to make sure the third sector's contribution to targets and priorities is recognised and understood, and that third sector organisations are treated equitably with all other providers of services.

Spaceflight: Finance

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the Government's policy is on *(a)* participation in and *(b)* funding of a future European space flight mission. [194520]

Ian Pearson: The new UK Civil Space Strategy 2008-12 and beyond, published on 14 February 2008, stated that the European Space Agency (ESA) is a vital delivery partner. More than 60 per cent. of the UK Government's civil space expenditure is invested in ESA activities. The Government through the British National Space Centre considers participation and funding of each proposed European space flight mission on its merits.

Students: Fees and Charges

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the percentage of students from Wirral West constituency who are exempt from payment of tuition fees. [194420]

Bill Rammell: Fees are payable for all students. Tuition fee loans have been available since September 2006, so no student needs to find money up front to meet tuition fees. Borrowers start to repay loans in the April after they leave higher education. Repayment is linked to income and repayable at 9 per cent. on earnings above £15,000 a year. No repayment is required if income is below £15,000. Interest paid is linked to the rate of inflation, so in real terms what is paid back is equivalent to what was borrowed.

Some employers and other agencies pay fees on behalf of students, including the Training and Development Agency for Schools and the NHS.

Continuing students who entered higher education before 2006/07 are charged fees but those with lower incomes can apply for means-tested grants to cover part or all of the fees, and for non-means-tested fee contribution loans to cover any shortfall in the grant. These fee grants and fee contribution loans are paid direct to the HE institution. Information on fee grants and fee contribution loans is not available at constituency level.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the new arrangements for funding students studying for qualifications that are equivalent or lower to qualifications they already hold will apply to all EU-domiciled students. [197142]

Mr. Lammy: All students, including EU-domiciled students, who wish to study an equivalent or lower level course of higher education in England will be affected by the new funding arrangements.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether the new arrangements for funding students studying for qualifications that are equivalent or lower to qualifications they already hold will apply to students funded via Train to Gain. [197143]

Mr. Lammy: The new arrangements apply to students studying for higher education qualifications which are equivalent to or lower than ones they already hold, whereas Train to Gain funding has been predominantly focused on low and intermediate skills. We are clear that any eligible provision which is co-funded by employers

will continue to attract public subsidies. Since it was launched in April 2006, Train to Gain has helped over 170,000 people gain qualifications ranging from basic skills, such as literacy and numeracy, to intermediate level skills (level 3). It has also helped employers source other non qualification skills support, such as Investors in People, as well as more general business support from Business Link.

Our plans for the expansion of Train to Gain were set out in November 2007 in Train to Gain: A Plan for Growth. Our ambition is that employers will be able to both identify and then source, against existing funding rules, their skills needs at all levels, including higher education.

Students: Identity Cards

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether English-domiciled home or EU higher education students will have to be in possession of an identity card in order to access student loans or other state or Institution-determined support related to their studies at English higher education institutions in 2009-10 or in any subsequent years. [195302]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to require students to have an ID card to apply for a student loan or any other form of student support.

Students: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students in West Lancashire constituency entered higher education in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [189739]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table. Figures for the 2007-08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Entrants to undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions from West Lancashire parliamentary constituency: academic years 2004-05 to 2006-07

Academic year	Entrants
2004-05[1]	1,200
2005-06	1,285
2006-07	1,185

[1] Figures for the Open University for 2004-05 have been included but these are known to undercount entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University.

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants who had been accepted for entry in 2007, rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000, the highest ever. Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008, show that applicants from England up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2007.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people with student loans who graduated in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006 and *(g)* 2007 have yet to make any repayments of a student loan. [188039]

Bill Rammell: Available data are shown in the following table.

English domiciled borrowers who have not yet made repayments on their student loans by loan type[1]

Cohort (repayment start)[2]	Mortgage-style loan	Income-contingent loan[3]	All loans[4]
April 2002	9,900	33,900	43,800
April 2003	3,100	56,300	59,400
April 2004	800	71,600	72,400
April 2005	200	103,800	104,000
April 2006	100	146,700	146,800
April 2007[5]	100	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100. Publicly-owned student loans.

[2] Repayment begins from the April following the year of graduation, when income reaches the threshold.

[3] Annual repayment information is passed to the SLC after the end of the tax year, to update borrowers' records. Some of the borrowers covered in the table will have made repayments via their employers recently that have not yet been reflected in their SLC accounts, and therefore appear not to have made repayments.

[4] Borrowers with both types of loan may be counted twice.

[5] Details of income-contingent loan repayments collected through the tax system are passed to the SLC after the end of the financial year to update borrowers' accounts. Therefore data are not yet available on repayments by 2006 graduates who became liable to begin repaying in the tax year 2007-08.

Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC).

Borrowers who graduated in 2007 are not required to begin repaying their student loans until April 2008. Income-contingent loans replaced mortgage-style loans from 1998; the table reflects this change. It also shows that many people who have recently left university have not yet begun to repay, but those in older cohorts are now repaying.

Borrowers with up to four mortgage-style loans repay over five years when their income exceeds the repayment threshold; those with five or more loans repay over seven years. The threshold for borrowers with mortgage-style loans is 85 per cent. of national average earnings, currently £25,287 from 1 September 2007. Borrowers are able to apply for deferment of repayments if their income is below this.

Borrowers with income contingent loans repay at a rate of 9 per cent. of earnings above £15,000 a year. Repayments are usually collected through the tax system by employers, in the same way as income tax and national insurance contributions. Self employed borrowers make repayments through the self assessment system.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many full-time undergraduates qualified for 75 per cent. net income assessed loans of *(a)* £2,685, (living at home), *(b)* £3,470, (living away from home outside London) and *(c)* £4,855, (living away from home in London), in the latest period for which figures are available; [194197]

(2) how many full-time undergraduates qualified for maximum student loans of *(a)* £3,580, (living at home), *(b)* £4,625, (living away from home outside London) and *(c)* £6,475, (living away from home in London), in the latest period for which figures are available; [194198]

(3) how many full-time undergraduates qualified for 25 per cent. income assessed loans of *(a)* £895, (living at home), *(b)* £1,155, (living away from home outside London) and *(c)* £1,620, (living away from home in London), in the latest period for which figures are available. [194202]

Bill Rammell: Student maintenance loans consist of up to three elements: a non-means tested loan of around 75 per cent. of the maximum; a means tested loan for around 25 per cent. of the maximum; and an additional income-assessed amount for extra weeks if the course is longer than normal. The level of loan available is reduced for final year students. Students can choose to borrow less than their full entitlement.

Available data are shown in the following tables.

English domiciled students receiving non-means tested maintenance loans by entitlement category, year and loan rate: academic year 2006/07[1]

Entitlement category: Living at	Full year or final year	Students receiving loan at maximum rate	Students receiving loan below maximum rate
Home	Full	90,700	6,200
	Final	34,800	1,700
London	Full	51,900	3,700
	Final	19,900	2,100
Elsewhere	Full	305,200	23,400
	Final	123,500	11,100

[1] Table excludes students who move between entitlement categories during the year (e.g. Home and Elsewhere). Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Student Loans Company.

English domiciled students receiving means tested maintenance loans by entitlement category, year and loan rate: academic year 2006/07[1]

Entitlement category: Living at	Full year or final year	Students receiving loan at maximum rate	Students receiving loan below maximum rate
Home	Full	69,500	1,400
	Final	29,900	200
London	Full	36,300	600
	Final	14,000	200
Elsewhere	Full	186,400	3,200
	Final	76,200	900

[1] Table excludes students who move between entitlement categories during the year (e.g. Home and Elsewhere). Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Student Loans Company.

English domiciled students receiving maintenance loans including extra weeks allowances by entitlement category, year and loan rate: academic year 2006/07[1]

Entitlement category: Living at	Full year or final year	Students receiving loan above maximum rate due to extra weeks	Students receiving loan at maximum rate	Students receiving loan below maximum rate
Home	Full	45,600	24,900	27,000
	Final	19,900	10,100	11,500
London	Full	25,600	10,600	19,400
	Final	10,100	3,900	8,000
Elsewhere	Full	82,200	104,500	141,900
	Final	36,300	40,000	58,300

[1] Table relates to total maintenance loans including non-means tested loans, means tested loans and extra weeks allowances. Excludes students who move between entitlement categories during the year (e.g. Home and Elsewhere). Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Student Loans Company.

Students: Low Incomes

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's policies to encourage people from low income households to study at university. [172395]

Bill Rammell: This Government have instigated and supported a range of policies to encourage a wider range of people to be able and willing to participate in higher education (HE). We have done this because of economic need and to support social justice. Forecasts show that half of the 12 million jobs that should become vacant between 2004 and 2014 will be in occupations most likely to employ graduates. And higher education offers significant benefits to individuals—over their working life, the average graduate can expect to earn comfortably over £100,000 more than a similar person with just A levels, and graduates experience better health, are less likely to commit crime and are more likely to engage in civil society. It is right that these benefits should be available to all, regardless of their background, but the issues affecting HE participation patterns are varied and need to be addressed across the education system.

In recent years we have made good progress. There has been a steady increase in the number and proportion of entrants to HE who come from lower social class backgrounds. This is reflected in recent UCAS application data for 2008 entry—in England, the proportion of applicants coming from lower social class backgrounds is up from 28.2 per cent. in 2007 to 28.9 per cent. this year. The numbers and proportions of entrants to HE from lower social class backgrounds are at their highest ever levels, as are the numbers and proportions of entrants from state schools and low participation neighbourhoods. Similarly, the proportion of young people from lower social class backgrounds is at it highest level.

There is a range of interventions which contribute to this progress—the Aimhigher Programme, improvement in student financial support both from the Government and from higher education institution bursaries, institutions' own outreach activity working directly with schools and the Government's broader efforts to raise attainment across the board and to narrow attainment gaps.

The Aimhigher Programme has been operating nationally since 2004 although similar, predecessor programmes began in 2001. The programme is designed to increase opportunities for people from under-represented groups to participate in HE. There have been various evaluations of the programme which show that it has had a positive impact on participants' attainment and their attitudes towards HE. In the programme's early years (2001 to 2002 when it was known as Aimhigher: Excellence Challenge (AH: EC)), and before it became a national programme, research showed that being part of AH: EC:

(a) led to an improvement in the proportion, by 4.6 per cent., of year nine pupils attaining levels four, five or six in maths at key stage 3;

(b) involved improvement in nearly all measures of year 11's GCSE results, with an average improvement in total points scored of 2.5, which corresponds to an increase of between two and three grades in one GCSE; and

(c) led to participants being more likely to say that they intended to take part in HE (by 3.9 percentage points).

Additional research conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) showed that over 70 per cent. of universities responding to its survey said that Aimhigher as a national programme added value to their widening participation policies and activities, that Aimhigher provided a positive and welcome boost to their own efforts to widen participation in HE and that this translated into increased applications.

Widening participation requires long-term address and we have announced the continuation of Aimhigher to 2011. We will continue to work with HEFCE to commission a national study to report before the end of 2011 on outcomes across the whole programme since 2004, when the unified, national Aimhigher was introduced. And at local level, Aimhigher Partnerships will determine the extent to which the Aimhigher programme has raised HE awareness, aspirations and attainment among participants and within participating institutions.

There is less accumulated evidence about the effectiveness of other interventions given that they were introduced relatively recently. But we do know that the Office for Fair Access, which agrees access agreements with HEIs, showing what they will do to attract students from lower-income backgrounds, reported that in the first operational year of access agreements, 2006-07:

(a) HEIs paid £96 million to low income students in bursaries in 2006-07 (21.4 per cent. of additional income went back to students in support), benefiting well over 70,000 low income students;

(b) for those on the lowest incomes (entitled to full state grant) the mean bursary was £870. A typical bursary (median and mode) by institution for the lowest income is £1,000 per year;

(c) £21 million additional income spent on additional outreach in 2006-07; and

(d) by 2008-09 institutions estimate that they will be disbursing over £300 million a year in bursaries and scholarships to students on low incomes (OFFA definition of low income is family incomes up to £47,425 (2006-07 values).

We continue to support the work of universities and colleges through the Department's own communications activity and make efforts to raise awareness of bursaries alongside all other elements of the higher education student finance package.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department, since its creation; and how many such screens have been purchased by its agencies in the last 24 months. [191079]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created by the Prime Minister on 28 June 2007.

DIUS has purchased eight plasma screens for use at its London and Sheffield offices.

The UK Intellectual Property Office (UK-IPO) has purchased three plasma screen TVs in the last 24 months. Other than purchases for the purpose of testing under the RoHS regulations, the National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) has not purchased any plasma TV screens in the last 24 months.

Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adult and employer responsive training places will be available in the academic year 2010-11. [173171]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Statement of Priorities published on 16 November set out the funding strategy for post-16 further education (FE) and skills for the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period (2008-09 to 2010-11). Total investment on post-16 FE and skills will increase from £11.2 billion in 2007-08 to £12.4 billion in 2010-11.

Annex C to the joint Grant Letter to the LSC from my Department and Department for Children, Schools and Families provides a breakdown of the number of funded places by programme. This is reproduced here and is also available at:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications.html.

It shows that in 2010-11 a total of 2.5 million adult learner places will be funded through the adult learner and employer responsive models. In line with the national roll-out of level 3 provision delivered through Train to Gain set out in 'Train to Gain: A Plan for Growth (November 2007)', the number of funded adult learners on full level 3 provision significantly increases between 2009-10 and 2010-11 (from 144,000 to 356,000). This increase reflects the higher level skills challenge set out by Lord Leitch. It more than offsets the planned reductions in funded non-accredited and non-priority learning places in 2010-11 resulting in an overall increase in funded adult learner places compared with 2009-10.

Taking into account all adult learners funded by the LSC, not just those on provision funded through the adult learner and employer learner responsive models, on average over three million adult learners will be funded each year over the CSR period.

Planned outputs/volumes (academic year)

Budget line	*Academic years* 2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	Learner numbers		
Youth Participation			
of which for planning purposes			
School Sixth Forms	376,000	370,000	364,000
16-19 FE	773,000	773,000	773,000
16-18 Apprenticeships	240,000	260,000	281,000
Entry to Employment	70,000	70,000	70,000
Total Youth Participation	1,460,000	1,473,000	1,488,000
Academies	16,000	22,000	28,000
Adult Learner Responsive			
FE19+	1,372,000	1,127,000	1,154,000
Ufi/learndirect	204,000	179,000	152,000

Planned outputs/volumes (academic year)

Budget line	*Academic years* 2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
	Learner numbers		
Employability Learning	24,000	29,000	37,000
Adult Learner Responsive sub total	1,600,000	1,335,000	1,343,000
of which for planning purposes:			
Foundation Learning Tier	368,000	372,000	374,000
Skills for Life	923,000	914,000	904,000
Full Level 2	133,000	143,000	161,000
Full Level 3	137,000	157,000	165,000
Developmental Learning	497,000	216,000	116,000
Employer Responsive			
Employer based NVQs	185,000	196,000	216,000
Apprenticeships/ Workbased Learning	114,000	124,000	126,000
Train to Gain	600,000	638,000	872,000
Employer Responsive sub total	899,000	958,000	1,214,000
of which for planning purposes:			
Foundation Learning Tier	10,000	10,000	10,000
Skills for Life	304,000	313,000	323,000
Full Level 2 (Excluding Apprenticeships)	603,000	637,000	664,000
Full Level 3 (Excluding Apprenticeships)	136,000	144,000	356,000
Apprenticeships	113,000	123,000	125,000
Developmental Learning	11,000	3,000	0
Safeguarded Learning	630,000	605,000	585,000
Total Adult and Employer Responsive	2,499,000	2,293,000	2,557,000

Key PSA related outputs

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Skills for Life—achievements counting towards the literacy level 1 target and the numeracy entry level 3 target	349,000	368,000	387,000
First full level 2 Adult Achievements (All)	346,000	388,000	412,000
First full level 3	115,000	168,000	213,000
16-18 Apprenticeships Average in Learning	160,000	172,000	183,000
Total Apprenticeship Completions	123,000	134,000	142,000

Notes:
1. Skills for Life volumes when added together will remain constant. There will be issued shortly a consultation document on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). These projections will then be remodelled.
2. Youth Participation figures exclude those delivered through specialist colleges with learners with learning disabilities and or difficulties.
3. Funding of academies is not routed through the LSC, so academy volumes are not included in the Youth Participation total. However Academies volumes do contribute to overall participation.
4. Component learner numbers and achievements presented are not cumulative. For example; a learner may undertake an apprenticeship programme of study that incorporates the successful achievements of both a Skills for Life literacy and numeracy qualification.
5. Developmental learning is defined as below level 2 learning outside the national qualifications framework, and learning above level 3. Figures are indicative and subject to further modelling. Activity associated with developmental learning will form part of the consultation the Secretary of State will launch shortly to help inform our approach to adult learning.

Training: Apprentices

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average length of apprenticeships was at the latest date for which figures are available. [196665]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures available for average length of apprenticeships are for 2006/07. These figures show that at that time, the average length of stay was 57 weeks and for Advanced Apprenticeships 91.1 weeks.

This is a marked increase in length of stay since 2002/03 figures—(45.4 weeks for Apprenticeships and 84.2 weeks for Advanced Apprenticeships) and reflects the improving completion rate which is currently 63 per cent. We aim to improve this further by enhancing the quality of apprenticeship provision and the apprenticeship experience for young people and adults.

Training: British Nationality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 878W, on training: British nationality, how many and what proportion of those undertaking *(a)* Skills for Life courses, *(b)* apprenticeships, *(c)* first time level 2 adult training and *(d)* train to gain programmes are not (i) British citizens, (ii) EU citizens and (iii) UK residents. [195906]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills 'Statement of Priorities' published on 16 November 2007 reaffirms the Government's commitment to up-skilling British people to provide them with the skills required in a more competitive labour market, to get them off benefits and into jobs and to help them to advance from low skilled to higher skilled jobs. We will continue to help those who need to improve their skills—the overwhelming majority of whom, but not all, are British.

In 2006/07 there were a total of 2.060 million adult learners (aged 19+) on further education (FE) provision including Skills for Life and level 2 training funded by the Learning and Skills Council. Approximately 36,500 of these learners are recorded as having a country of domicile outside the United Kingdom and its Islands. Due to the way data are collected, further differentiation of these learners to identify all those domiciled outside the European Union or by qualification level is not possible.

The total number of LSC-funded adult learners on work-based learning (including apprenticeships) and Train to Gain courses in 2006/07 was 204,300 and 169,400 respectively. It is not possible to break down these figures by country of domicile so EU and non-EU residents cannot be identified.

Vocational Education: Mature Students

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* grants and *(b)* training schemes are available through his Department for people (i) over 55-years-old and (ii) in retirement to learn new job skills. [194595]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 3 March, *Official Report*, column 2217W.

Vocational Training: Prisoners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 861W, on vocational training: prisoners, what plans he has to conduct a new skills audit of prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [197106]

Mr. Lammy: Proposals for developing the delivery of offender learning were published in September 2007 in 'Developing the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service: The Prospectus'. The prospectus set out the intention to commission a series of reviews based on criminal justice areas, now to be called Offender Skills Curriculum Area Reviews.

The outcome of the reviews will be to improve the alignment between the supply of learning and skills and the needs of offenders. The reviews will determine the range, type and level of provision to be in place in each prison establishment or area so we can commission a more effective service.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast cancer screenings took place in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [195229]

Ann Keen: The following table shows breast screening coverage in the areas requested. We are unable to identify Jarrow separately. Jarrow constituency is within South Tyneside primary care trust (PCT), for whom information has been provided.

Coverage is the percentage of eligible women with a breast screening test result in the previous three years.

Breast screening programme: coverage of women in the target age group[1] for specified organisations, 31 March 1997 to 2007

		Women aged 50-64[1]				
		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
England						
	Eligible population [2]	4,025,525	4,158,306	4,226,600	4,319,800	4,373,642
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	2,641,364	2,761,993	2,861,408	2,993,621	3,070,752
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	65.6	66.4	67.7	69.3	70.2
of which						
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA)					
	Eligible population [2]	215,212	220,813	223,051	226,260	228,493
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	151,833	154,187	158,985	167,650	170,887
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	70.6	69.8	71.3	74.1	74.8
of which						
QDG	Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority (HA)					
	Eligible population [2]	29,889	30,300	30,328	30,668	30,885
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	21,753	21,267	22,028	22,660	22,754
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	72.8	70.2	72.6	73.9	73.7
5KF	Gateshead PCT					
	Eligible population [2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5KG	South Tyneside PCT					
	Eligible population [2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Breast screening programme: coverage of women in the target age group[1] for specified organisations, 31 March 1997 to 2007

		Women aged 50-64[1]				
		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

		Women aged 53-64[1]					
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
England							
	Eligible population [2]	3,472,984	3,519,934	3,538,224	3,574,534	3,633,181	3,690,074
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	2,636,080	2,649,809	2,651,122	2,697,665	2,756,716	2,805,717
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	75.9	75.3	74.9	75.5	75.9	76.0
of which:							
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA)						
	Eligible population [2]	180,539	182,716	183,483	185,454	188,399	191,892
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	144,531	140,772	135,110	141,025	147,306	152,310
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	80.1	77.0	73.6	76.0	78.2	76.4
of which							
QDG	Gateshead and South Tyneside Health Authority (HA)						
	Eligible population [2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5KF	Gateshead PCT						
	Eligible population [2]	14,573	14,525	14,384	14,412	14,523	14,566
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	11,660	11,741	11,553	11,650	11,700	11,764
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	80.0	80.8	80.3	80.8	80.6	80.8
5KG	South Tyneside PCT						
	Eligible population [2]	10,305	10,446	10,468	10,535	10,713	10,977
	Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	8,104	7,962	8,422	8,520	8,586	8,664
	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	78.6	76.2	80.5	80.9	80.1	78.9

n/a = not available

[1] The breast screening programme covers women aged 50-64 but is best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays. Prior to 2002 data for women aged 50-53 cannot be identified so coverage is presented for women aged 50-64.

[2] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.

Notes:

1. Data prior to 2006 have been estimated to match current SHA boundaries.
2. Data from 2002 to 2006 have been estimated to match current Primary Care Organisation (PCO) boundaries.
3. Jarrow constituency is within South Tyneside PCT, we are unable to identify Jarrow separately.
4. The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years.
5. The breast screening programme was extended to invite women aged 65-70 in April 2001.
6. The last unit began inviting women aged 65-70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.

Source:

KC63, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of services at Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre has been taken up by patients *(a)* across the whole contract, *(b)* from within the North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust area, *(c)* from within the Stoke-on-Trent Primary Care Trust area and *(d)* from within the South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust area (i) in 2006-07 and (ii) at present. [194603]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* Utilisation data for the Burton independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) contract as a whole were collected for the financial year 2006-07 in line with the Department's contractual requirements. In addition to this, for the year 2007-08, the local national health

service with support of the Central Contract Monitoring Unit of the Department's Commercial Directorate decided also to collect primary care trust (PCT) based data to support intensive efforts to improve overall utilisation and PCT specific initiatives. This was part of a range of initiatives that have improved utilisation in all PCTs and therefore the contract as a whole.

Overall contract utilisation for 2006-007 and 2007-08 and PCT based data for the contract year 2007-08 are shown in the following table:

	2006-07	2007-08 (up to 31 January 2008)
Overall contract utilisation	71	79
North Staffordshire PCT		22
Stoke on Trent PCT		5
South Staffordshire PCT		120

Note:
PCTs are contracted to refer an agreed value of activity to the ISTC and utilisation shows the percentage of their agreed value that has actually been used.

Care Homes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1734W on care homes, if he will break down the statistics provided by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority. [194734]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information provided by the Commission for Social Care Inspection has been placed in the Library. The information shows the numbers of care homes for older people with scores of 1—standard not met—and 2—standard not met with minor shortfall—against each of the National Minimum Standards for the year ending 31 March 2007.

Care Homes: MRSA

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health *(1)* what proportion of (a) MRSA and (b) clostridium difficile cases there were in care homes in each of the last five years; [183766]

(2) how many *(a)* recorded incidents of and *(b)* deaths attributed to (i) MRSA and (ii) clostridium difficile in (A) care homes and (B) other community settings there were in each of the last five years. [183768]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available however the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) mandatory surveillance scheme provides some limited information for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections.

Information on the patient location for *Clostridium difficile* surveillance has been collected since April 2007 and we aim to publish this later this year.

Death certificates record the place where a person dies, but not where any infections may have been acquired. It is not possible from the information on a death certificate to know whether an infection was acquired in the care home or other place where a patient died. Patients are often transferred between hospitals, nursing/care homes and other establishments and may acquire infections in a different place from where they died.

Care Homes: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes for the elderly were closed *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently on grounds of failure (i) to meet national minimum standards and (ii) to comply with conditions placed on them as a result of not meeting national minimum standards in each of the last three years. [194841]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that, during the current inspection year, from 1 April 2007-29 February 2008, there have been eight urgent and 16 non-urgent de-registrations of care homes for older people.

While CSCI keeps individual records containing the history and reasons for closures of older people's care homes, it does not hold overall statistics that would enable the numbers of de-registrations to be broken down into the categories requested.

Children: Protection

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance is given by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* NHS trusts to clinicians on substantiating clinical opinion and medical diagnosis prior to the instigation of child protection measures; [179549]

(2) how many child protection investigations were initiated by the Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and in what percentage of these cases a child was shown to be (i) in need of and (ii) not in need of protection; [179556]

(3) whether NHS trusts publish data on the number of child protection investigations undertaken; [179688]

(4) what account NHS trusts take of information on child protection investigations in carrying out their functions. [181025]

Ann Keen: We understand that the Children's Safeguarding team at the Rainbow Centre at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, which is a part of the Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust, sees on average 40 children per month, taken from a large catchment area that includes the boroughs of Liverpool, Knowsley and South Sefton. We do not have any further information on the percentage of cases at the Rainbow Centre where children did or did not need protection.

The Government's guidance for organisations working with children including both primary care trusts and NHS trusts are contained in "Working Together to Safeguard Children", published by the Stationery Office in April 2006, copies of which are available in the Library. This sets out a whole chapter (chapter 5) on managing individual cases and a chapter (chapter 2) on roles and responsibilities has a section on health services. National health service trusts are not required to publish data on the number of child protection investigations undertaken.

A diagnosis of child abuse is not a matter for a clinician alone, but would be for multi-disciplinary decision. Primary care trusts and NHS trusts are

required to work with local authorities in the establishment of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and as statutory partners. The LSCBs ensures that the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is carried out appropriately.

Chiropody: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of provision of free podiatry services by primary care trusts in London. [194657]

Ann Keen: No recent assessment has been made of podiatry services in London. It is for local primary care trusts to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health services, including podiatry, and to commission services accordingly.

Chronically Sick: Cheshire

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in implementing the targets for the national service framework for long-term conditions in Eddisbury. [195320]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including Western Cheshire PCT and the Central and Eastern PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from Western Cheshire PCT and the Central and Eastern PCT.

Dental Services: Ashford

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists accepting NHS patients in Ashford he estimates will have used all their units of dental activity before the end of the financial year. [195146]

Ann Keen: The Department does not assess the performance of individual dental providers. Primary care trusts, as the commissioning bodies, are responsible for monitoring the delivery of services by their local dental providers.

Dental Services: South East

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of the population of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in (i) the South East of England and (ii) Kent who were seen by an NHS dentist in each of the last five years. [195137]

Ann Keen: The number of patients seen in a 24-month period replaced registration as a measure of access to national health service dentistry on 1 April 2006. Under the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006, access was measured through the number of patients registered with an NHS dentist. This measure is not directly comparable to the "patients seen" measure used under the new contractual arrangements.

The number and percentage of the population registered with an NHS dentist in England at 31 March each year from 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex A and Annex B of the report 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006'. The information is provided for children and adults by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA).

This report was published on 23 August 2006 and is available in the Library. It is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The number and percentage of the population seen by an NHS dentist in the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007 and 30 September 2007 are available in tables C1 and C2 of Annex 3 of the report 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 2, 30 September 2007'. The information is provided for children and adults by PCT and SHA.

This report was published on 28 February 2008 and is available in the Library. It is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstatsq20708

Both reports were published by The Information Centre for health and social care.

Dental Services: Wirral

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on NHS dentistry in Wirral West constituency in each year since 1997. [194301]

Ann Keen: The Government's fundamental reform programme for primary dental care services was introduced from 1 April 2006. Primary care trusts (PCTs) were given responsibility for planning and commissioning primary dental services and provided with local, devolved, dental budgets.

Wirral PCT reported the following expenditure on primary dental care services in 2006-07, the first year of the new service arrangements. This has been set out in the following table. However, data on expenditure by individual parliamentary constituency are not collected centrally.

National health service expenditure on primary dental care services, Wirral PCT, 2006-07

	£000
Gross expenditure	20,110
Income from dental charges paid by patients	4,879
Net expenditure	15,231

Note:
Resource expenditure, as noted in end year accounts

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental care services were provided under former general dental service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much NHS work they chose to undertake. PCTs were not given fixed funding allocations, except in those areas where personal dental services (PDS) pilots were established to test alternative, local commissioning arrangements and new forms of contract remuneration.

Local level data on primary dental care expenditure prior to April 2006 is held by the Information Centre for health and social care. Copies of the report 'NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 1997-98 to 2005-06' have been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-expenditure-for-general-dental-services-and-personal-dental-services:-england-1997-98-2005-06

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192059]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures in the table are the agreed contract costs associated with the provision of all horticultural services to the Department across its estate. It is not possible to break down these figures further. The figures include the salary costs of the contract personnel. Figures in each of the last five years are as follows:

	£
2003-04	14,500
2004-05	14,500
2005-06	14,500
2006-07	14,500
2007-08	14,500

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital underspend incurred by his Department in 2007-08 he expects to be carried forward. [197045]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will as usual publish details of any 2007-08 underspend and carry forward in the 2007-08 Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper (due to be published in summer 2008).

Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust: Staff Assaults

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many attacks on NHS staff have been reported by *(a)* Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust, *(b)* East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust and *(c)* their predecessor Trusts in each of the last five years. [195140]

Ann Keen: The Department collected figures on the number of violent incidents in the year 2002-03.

In April 2003 the National Health Service Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff. Since 2004-05 the NHS SMS has collected statistics for the number of reported physical assaults against NHS staff.

The numbers of violent incidents and reported physical assaults for 2002-03 and for 2004-05 to 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

	Violent incidents	*Physical assaults*		
NHS trusts	*2002-03*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East Kent Hospitals NHS trust	118	84	157	120
East and Coastal Kent primary care trust	—	—	—	157
Ashford primary care trust[1]	2	79	93	—
Canterbury and Coastal primary care trust[1]	28	15	10	—
East Kent Coastal primary care trust[1]	10	6	4	—
Shepway primary care trust[1]	6	1	2	—
Swale primary care trust[1]	56	46	18	—

[1] On 1 October 2006, the mentioned primary care trusts merged to form Eastern and Coastal Kent primary care trust.

Eyesight: Testing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many eye tests funded by the public purse in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of those who had eye tests subsequently received (i) spectacles for the first time and (ii) replacement or repairs of spectacles funded by the public purse. [194594]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of sights paid for by the national health service in England, is provided in table 1 of the 'General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales—Year ending 31 March 2007' report. Information is provided for the years ending 31 March, 1997 to 2007.

Sight test information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT) level for the year ending 31 March 2007 is available in table A3 of Annex D of the report.

The number of those who receive spectacles for the first time is not collected centrally.

Table 3 of this report shows the number of vouchers for spectacles or contact lenses paid for by the NHS in England for the years ending 31 March, 1997 to 2007.

Figure 6a of the Report shows the number of items for repair or replacement, in England, for the years ending 31 March, 1997 to 2007.

Information on the numbers of vouchers and the numbers of items for repair or replacement by SHA and by PCT for the year ending 31 March 2007 are available in tables B3, C3 and D3 of Annex D of the Report.

This Report, published on 31 July 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity310307

The Information Centre for health and social care will aim to publish information at a regional level for earlier years in the 'General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales—Year ending 31 March 2008' report. Once published a copy of the Report will be placed in the Library.

All the reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Family Practitioner Services

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* GPs, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* optometrists and *(d)* pharmacies there were in (i) England and (ii) each English region in each of the last three years; and how many this equated to per 100,000 resident population in each category. [194593]

Ann Keen: The number of general practitioners (GPs) in England, each strategic health authority in each of the last three years and how many this equated to per 100,000 resident population in each category, has been placed in the Library.

The number of national health service dentists and persons per dentist in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in annex E and F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" report. The information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006.

This report, published on 23 August 2006 is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

The number of dentists, and number of dentists by population, on open NHS contracts, in England, as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006, and 31 March 2007 are available in table E1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is provided by PCT and by SHA.

This report, published on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Information on the number of ophthalmic practitioners (OPs) in England is provided in table 1 of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Workforce Statistics for England and Wales, 31 December 2006" report. The information is provided as at 31 December, 1996 to 2006. The information is provided by type of practitioner. This report was published on 31 July 2007 and is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/eye-care/general-ophthalmic-services:-workforce-statistics-for-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-december-2006

Information on the number of OPs in England as at 31 December 2006 is also provided in annex 3, table 1, of the aforementioned report. This information is provided by type of practitioner and by PCT.

Information on the number of OPs in England as at 31 December 2005 is provided in table 10, annex A of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Statistical Bulletin – Ophthalmic Statistics for England, 1996-97 to 2005-06" report. This information is provided by PCT.

This report, published on 24 October 2006, has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/opticians/general-ophthalmic-services:-statistical-bulletin-ophthalmic-statistics-for-england-1996-97-2005-06

Information on the number of OPs in England as at 31 December 2004 is provided in table 9 of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Consultation tables for England, Wales and Scotland, 2004-05" report. This information is provided by PCT. This table also includes information on the number of OPs per 10,000 of the population.

This report, published on 30 November 2005, has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/opticians/general-ophthalmic-services:-consultation-tables-nhs-sight-tests-vouchers-workforce-premises-2004-2005

The following shows data for the number of pharmacies there were in England, each SHA in each of the last three years and how many this equated to per 100,000 resident population in each category.

Community pharmacies in contract with PCTs at 31 March and population by SHA, England, 2004-05

SHA by region	*Number of community pharmacies*[1]	*Population June 2003*[2] *(Thousand)*	*Pharmacies per million population*
England	9,742	49,856	195
North East	512	2,539	200
County Durham and Tees Valley	212	1,147	181
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	300	1,392	215
North West	1,475	6,837	215
Cheshire and Merseyside	530	2,355	225
Cumbria and Lancashire	403	1,919	209
Greater Manchester	542	2,564	211
Yorkshire and the Humber	969	5,007	193
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	302	1,638	184
South Yorkshire	250	1,273	196
West Yorkshire	417	2,096	199
East Midlands	749	4,173	180
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	290	1,531	190
Trent	459	2,642	173
West Midlands	1,063	5,320	200
Birmingham and the Black Country	523	2,273	231
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	273	1,550	176

Community pharmacies in contract with PCTs at 31 March and population by SHA, England, 2004-05

SHA by region	Number of community pharmacies[1]	Population June 2003[2] (Thousand)	Pharmacies per million population
Shropshire and Staffordshire	267	1,496	178
East	941	5,476	172
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	315	1,615	195
Essex	282	1,630	173
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	344	2,232	154
London	1,743	7,388	237
North Central London	300	1,220	246
North East London	352	1,531	230
North West London	488	1,815	269
South East London	319	1,512	212
South West London	284	1,310	219
South East	1,395	8,111	172
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	298	1,797	166
Kent and Medway	267	1,600	167
Surrey and Sussex	487	2,559	190
Thames Valley	343	2,155	159
South West	895	5,005	179
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	377	2,197	172
Dorset and Somerset	217	1,207	178
South West Peninsula	301	1,601	188

[1] Number of pharmacies at 31 March 2005.
[2] Population figures for 2003 based on estimates from 2001 data.
[3] The total number of pharmacies in England at 31 March 2005 was revised to 9,736 in the 2006 publication, revised SHA figures were not published.
Source:
General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1995-96 to 2004-05.

Community pharmacies in contract with PCTs at 31 March and population by SHA, England, 2005-06

SHA by region	Number of community pharmacies	Population June 2003 (Thousand)	Pharmacies per 100,000 population
England	9,872	50,093	20
North East	514	2,545	20
County Durham and Tees Valley	210	1,149	18
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	304	1,396	22
North West	1,498	6,860	22
Cheshire and Merseyside	537	2,358	23
Cumbria and Lancashire	405	1,930	21
Greater Manchester	556	2,572	22

Community pharmacies in contract with PCTs at 31 March and population by SHA, England, 2005-06

SHA by region	Number of community pharmacies	Population June 2003 (Thousand)	Pharmacies per 100,000 population
Yorkshire and the Humber	996	5,037	20
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	302	1,650	18
South Yorkshire	261	1,278	20
West Yorkshire	433	2,108	21
East Midlands	759	4,199	18
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	294	1,541	19
Trent	465	2,658	17
West Midlands	1,080	5,334	20
Birmingham and the Black Country	531	2,275	23
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	278	1,559	18
Shropshire and Staffordshire	271	1,500	18
East	953	5,505	17
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	319	1,618	20
Essex	285	1,636	17
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	349	2,251	16
London	1,738	7,429	23
North Central London	298	1,228	24
North East London	353	1,531	23
North West London	479	1,834	26
South East London	322	1,514	21
South West London	286	1,321	22
South East	1,418	8,141	17
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	304	1,801	17
Kent and Medway	274	1,610	17
Surrey and Sussex	493	2,566	19
Thames Valley	347	2,164	16
South West	916	5,044	18
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	389	2,212	18
Dorset and Somerset	222	1,213	18
South West Peninsula	305	1,619	19

Source:
General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 2005-06.

Community pharmacies on contract with PCT/local health bodies at 31 March and population by SHA in England, 2006-07

Strategic health authority from 1 October 2006	Number of community pharmacies	Population mid-2006 (Thousand)	Pharmacies per 100,000 population 2006-07
England	10,133	50,763	20
North East	527	2,556	21
North West	1,551	6,887	23
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,036	5,140	20
East Midlands	785	4,333	18
West Midlands	1,110	5,367	21
East of England	986	5,607	18
London	1,762	7,512	23
South Central	660	3,995	17
South East Coast	787	4,237	19
South West	929	5,130	18

Source:
General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 2006-07

General Practitioners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there are per 100,000 population in (*a*) England, (*b*) the South East of England, (*c*) Kent and (*d*) Ashford. [195138]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

General practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per head of population by selected area in England, as at 30 September 2007

			All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	All GPs (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] headcount per 100,000 population
England			33,364	65.7
Q37	South East Coast		2,700	63.7
	5LQ	Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust (PCT)	167	66.4
	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	220	66.6
	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	438	60.8
	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	113	64.2
	5L3	Medway PCT	130	51.7
	5P5	Surrey PCT	718	66.9
	5P9	West Kent PCT	384	58.0
	5P6	West Sussex PCT	530	68.8

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP providers and GP others.

Note:
Ashford is contained within Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics 2001 Office for National Statistics Population Census.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what authorisation is required from a primary care trust in setting up a closed-list GP practice by an employer; whether there are any elements of public funding for such practices; and if he will make a statement. [198170]

Mr. Bradshaw: Any employer is free to employ a general practitioner (GP) to provide medical services to their staff. Such an arrangement would be a private one between the employer and the GP. No authorisation is required by a primary care trust and no public funding would be available for such an arrangement. Employees would remain free to register with a national health service GP practice in the usual way.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding each GP practice in Cambridgeshire received in the latest period for which figures are available; how many full-time equivalent doctors were employed by each practice; and how many patients were registered at each practice. [196858]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about payments by primary care trusts (PCTs) to individual general practitioner (GP) practices is not collected centrally.

Information on number of GP doctors and patients is not collected by constituency. Information is collected by national health service organisations. Therefore information has been provided for the number of GP doctors, and number of registered patients within Cambridgeshire PCT, which serves the Cambridgeshire area and is shown in the following table.

All GP partnerships in Cambridgeshire PCT by number of GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) and registered patients, as at 30 September 2007

	Practitioner (excluding registrars and retainers) full time equivalent	Number of registered patients
Cambridgeshire PCT	390	598,253
Acorn Surgery	3	6,496
Akeonbury Surgery	6	9,172
Almond Road Surgery	4	7,598
Arbury Road Surgery	6	10,862
Bar Hill Health Centre	2	3,436
Bottisham Medical Practice	5	5,401
Bourn Surgery	4	5,810
Bridge Street Medical Centre	6	8,428
Buckden Surgery	5	7,450
Burwell Surgery	5	7,547
Cambridge Access Surgery	1	501
Cedar House Surgery	9	12,757
Charles Hicks Centre	10	13,215
Cherry Hinton Medical Centre	6	10,013
Church Street Health Centre	2	2,582
Clarkson Surgery	6	11,728
Comberton Surgery	5	8,857
Cornerstone Practice	6	9,098
Cornford House Surgery	8	10,296
Cottenham Surgery	3	3,611
Cromwell Place Surgery	5	9,172
Doddington Medical Centre	2	3,262
Dr RB Hirson's Practice	1	2,110
East Barnwell Health Centre	5	6,753
Eaton Socon Health Centre	8	12,077
Firs House Surgery	6	10,483
George Clare Surgery	8	11,724
Great Staughton Surgery	3	3,114

All GP partnerships in Cambridgeshire PCT by number of GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) and registered patients, as at 30 September 2007

	Practitioner (excluding registrars and retainers) full time equivalent	Number of registered patients
Haddenham Surgery	6	6,897
Harston Surgery	4	6,468
Huntingdon Road Surgery	8	11,781
Jenner Health Centre	5	8,802
Kimbolton Medical Centre	5	6,131
Lensfield Medical Practice	7	9,603
Linton Health Centre	9	10,990
Mercheford House	3	6,479
Mill Road Surgery	5	5,299
Milton Surgery	3	4,741
Moat House Surgery	5	6,369
Monkfield Medical Practice	4	5,592
Newnham Walk Surgery	5	10,832
North Brink Practice	9	17,569
Northcote House Surgery	1	4,318
Nuffield Road Medical Centre	12	10,810
Old Telephone Exchange	1	2,702
Orchard Surgery, Melbourn	4	6,840
Orchard Surgery, St Ives	3	3,987
Over Surgery	3	4,387
Papworth Surgery	4	5,381
Parkhall Surgery	2	4,163
Parson Drove Surgery	4	5,763
Petersfield Medical Practice	5	5,883
Priors Field Surgery	3	5,572
Priory Fields Surgery	7	10,609
Queen Edith Medical Practice	4	5,950
Queen Street	10	14,017
Rainbow Surgery	3	3,515
Ramsey Health Centre	6	7,820
Red House Surgery	5	13,297
Riverside Practice	2	6,667
Rosalind Franklin House	3	4,123
Sawston Medical Practice	8	13,225
Shelford Health Centre	5	7,578
Spinney Surgery	7	10,078
St Mary's Surgery	11	15,574
St George's medical centre	5	8,702
Staploe Medical Centre	9	15,956
Swavesey Surgery	1	2,857
The Lantern Centre	4	7,157
Trinity Surgery	7	7,791
Trumpington Street Medical Practice	7	10,812
Wellside Surgery	5	6,749
Willingham Medical Practice	4	6,175
Woodlands Surgery	4	6,077
Yaxley Group Practice	8	13,648
York Street Medical Practice	8	8,964

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Health Services: Prisons

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were dispensed to persons held in each prison for *(a)* subutex, *(b)* methadone and *(c)* other opiate replacements in each of the last five years. [197935]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested.

Since April 2007, HM Prison Service has collected information on regular opioid prescriptions to prisoners. From April to December 2007, 9,242 maintenance prescriptions, for methadone and buprenorphine, were initiated.

Health Services: York

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards achieving the targets for the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions in the Vale of York. [193798]

Ann Keen: It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs), including North Yorkshire and York PCT, within the national health service to develop locally the levels of service described in the 'National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions' (the NSF). The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs. A copy of the NSF is available in the Library.

Information on the progress that has been achieved locally with regard to the implementation of the targets set out in the NSF can be obtained direct from North Yorkshire and York PCT.

Health Services: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the annual number of people who use the Humber Bridge to access medical services provided in *(a)* Kingston upon Hull and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [197437]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Hereditary Diseases

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the incidence of birth defects in consanguineous marriages; how many representations he has received about the number of birth defects in consanguineous marriages in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [194437]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of birth defects in consanguineous marriages is not collected centrally. The Department's correspondence unit has no record of any representations on birth defects from consanguineous marriages this year.

HIV Infection: Prisons

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for anti-retroviral drugs were dispensed to persons detained in each prison in each of the last five years. [197940]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Staff Assaults

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many assaults upon staff at *(a)* Sunderland Royal Hospital, *(b)* Durham University Hospital and *(c)* Hartlepool General Hospital were recorded in each year since 2002; and how many successful prosecutions followed such assaults. [194126]

Ann Keen: The Department collected figures on the number of violent incidents in the year 2002-03.

In April 2003 the national health service security management service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for tackling violence against NHS staff. Since 2004-05 the NHS SMS has collected statistics for the number of reported physical assaults and criminal sanctions against individuals who have assaulted NHS staff.

The numbers of violent incidents, reported physical assaults and criminal sanctions are not available by hospital but by trust. The figures for 2002-03 and for 2004-05 to 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

	2002-03	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
NHS trust	Violent incidents	Assaults	Sanctions	Assaults	Sanctions	Assaults	Sanctions
City hospitals and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	103	124	1	153	2	123	4
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	339	97	1	47	4	41	7
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	163	61	22	57	1	8	0

Notes
Criminal sanctions include:
Cautions and Conditional Cautions,
Community Rehabilitation or Punishment Orders,
Imprisonment (including suspended sentences),
Conditional Discharges, and
Fines.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital staff in England were hospitalised as a result of assault while on duty in each of the last three years. [194654]

Ann Keen: The information is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Hypertension: Health Services

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to improve patient services for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of care and treatment available to end stage patients; [194210]

(2) what assessment he has made of the efficacy of treatment pathways for pulmonary arterial hypertension; [194211]

(3) what specialist centres for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension there are; what plans he has to increase the number of such centres; and whether the role of such specialist centres will be continued; [194212]

(4) what assessment he has made of the treatment provided for pulmonary arterial hypertension patients in England against UK and international benchmarks; [194213]

(5) what assessment he has made of the impact of *(a)* the changing structure of NHS processes and *(b)* recent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommendations on the commissioning of pulmonary arterial hypertension services. [194214]

Ann Keen: There are six centres for the treatment of adults with pulmonary hypertension in England. These are at Newcastle, Sheffield, Papworth, Hammersmith, Royal Free and the Brompton hospitals. Several of these centres run outreach clinics at other hospitals.

From April 2008, pulmonary hypertension services for adults will be commissioned by specialised commissioning groups on behalf of their constituent primary care trusts. The National Specialised Commissioning Group retains a national overview of these commissioning arrangements and considers the appropriate standards, which local centres should achieve, taking National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance into account.

For the care and treatment of children with pulmonary hypertension, a United Kingdom national network is organised on a 'hub and spoke' principle. The hub is Great Ormond Street hospital for Children and the spokes for follow up care are six centres of paediatric cardiology at Leeds General Infirmary, Bristol Children's hospital, Freeman hospital in Newcastle, Birmingham Children's hospital, Yorkhill hospital in Glasgow and the Royal Hospital for Children in Belfast.

Pulmonary hypertension services for children are nationally commissioned and performance managed by the National Commissioning Group on behalf on the national health service.

There are no current plans to change the arrangements for these specialist centres.

In addition, the national pulmonary hypertension centres of the UK and Ireland have published "A Consensus Statement on the Management of Pulmonary Hypertension in Clinical Practice in the UK and Ireland in March 2008". This is available at:

www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/ClinicalInformation/PulmonaryHypertension/NationalPulmonaryHypertensionServices/tabid/205/Default.aspx

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments his Department has made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194315]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total paid to Ipsos MORI (Market and Opinion Research International) for surveys by various policy teams of the Department from March 2006 to mid March 2008 is £19,138,755.15.

It would not be possible to discern the specific details of each survey without incurring disproportionate cost.

Maternity Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deliveries at each NHS maternity unit there were in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by maternity unit within each NHS trust. [194898]

Ann Keen: Information is not available on the number of deliveries by maternity unit. The following table has provisional information for 2006-07 on the number of deliveries in national health service hospitals by NHS provider.

Number of deliveries taking place in NHS hospitals by NHS provider—NHS hospitals, England 2006-07

	Deliveries
South Staffordshire PCT	351
Berkshire East PCT	192
Gloucestershire PCT	145
Wiltshire PCT	4,729
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	401
Devon PCT	486
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1,192
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	3,178
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	547
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,325
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	5,013
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	2,221
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,746
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3,580
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	3,227
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	3,868
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	3,843
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	4,943
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	2,841
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	1,957
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	4,617
Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	3,425
St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	3,002
The Cardiothoracic Centre—Liverpool NHS Trust	*
The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2,753
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	1,507
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	2,984
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	2,680
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4,278
York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3,242
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	3,342
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	1,713
Airedale NHS Trust	2,394
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	2,186
Poole Hospital NHS Trust	3,993
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	5,181
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	3,232
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4,304
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	3,489
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3,946
The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	474
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	1,488
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	3,492
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	7,994
Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust	*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	9,145
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2,571
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	2,685
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2,858
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	2,015
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	4,047
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	3,678
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	4,853
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3,740
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,079
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	3,383
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	2,298
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,476
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	2,774
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	2,939
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	5,038
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6,530
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	5,188
Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5,336
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	1,382
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	3,424
St Mary's NHS Trust	4,390
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	4,713
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	4,851
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	2,516
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	2,377
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	5,522
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	3,160
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4,398
East Cheshire NHS Trust	1,988
Countess Of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3,297
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4,910
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,668
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	4,313
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS	5,160

Number of deliveries taking place in NHS hospitals by NHS provider - NHS hospitals, England 2006-07

	Deliveries
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	3,489
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	3,879
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	3,430
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	1,795
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	2,536
Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust	6,761
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	5,433
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	2,065
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	2,844
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	1,377
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	4,097
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	2,625
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	2,999
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	3,724
Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	2,659
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	2,985
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	4,193
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	5,825
Barts and The London NHS Trust	4,150
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	2,990
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	3,829
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	4,130
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	2,249
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,022
Medway NHS Trust	4,304
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	2,506
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	2,509
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital NHS Trust	*
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	3,476
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	6,084
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	4,783
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	2,334
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	3,228
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5,679
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	10,486
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	1,764
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	8,786
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	2,793
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,567
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,494
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,681
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	3,730
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,304
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	8,908
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	3,905
Surrey And Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	4,062
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	5,025
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	3,340
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	4,791
North Bristol NHS Trust	5,279
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	6,887
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	4,843
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	6,055
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	3,727
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	3,022
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust	4,996
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	10,366
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5,384
United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5,294
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	9,550
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	4,979
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5,423
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	6,084
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	3,514
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	5,611
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3,051
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	5,441
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	10,105
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	3,836
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	6,189
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	5,151
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	5,925
Blackpool, Fylde And Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	6,226
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4,595
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	5,729
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5,474
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	6,222
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	4,796
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust	*
Total	629,207

Note:
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with *. Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional smallest number have been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of pregnant women did not seek maternity care until they were five months or more pregnant in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust. [195751]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

However in our publication, 'Maternity Matters: Choice, Access and Continuity of Care in a Safe Service', we estimated that around 16 per cent. of all pregnant women, including many under 18 years of age, delay seeking maternity care until they are five months or more pregnant. A copy of the document is available in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to his Answer of Monday 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 110W, on Members:

correspondence, when he expects to substantively respond to the letter from the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham, dated 17 July 2007, to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Care Services requesting a meeting to discuss the charging regime for multiple sclerosis treatment centres. [184271]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was issued to the hon. Member on 4 February 2008.

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 724W, on Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: finance, following the publication of the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09, if he will place a copy of the report on the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust in the Library. [194735]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1472W.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there were at *(a)* Gloucestershire Royal Hospital and *(b)* Cheltenham General Hospital in each year since 1992. [196420]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not held in the format requested. Information is collected about finished consultant episodes (FCEs) at national health service trust level, rather than individual hospital level. Gloucestershire Royal hospital and Cheltenham general hospital are part of Gloucestershire hospitals NHS foundation trust.

The following table shows numbers of FCEs at Gloucestershire hospitals NHS foundation trust for 2002-03 to 2006-07. Prior to 2002-03, there were a number of complex trust mergers, meaning that the data are too inconsistent to use.

FCEs at Gloucestershire hospitals NHS foundation trust for 2002-03 to 2006-07, NHS hospitals in England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

Year (of end of period of care in patient's hospital stay)	*FCEs*
2006-07	160,627
2005-06	158,911
2004-05	146,768
2003-04	140,017
2002-03	137,570

Notes:
1. A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. Assessing growth through time. HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
3. Data Quality. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. Ungrossed Data. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS: Staff Assaults

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* representations he has received on streamlining the IR1 form to ensure all NHS employees are able to document all incidents in hospitals. [189495]

Ann Keen: The Department has had no discussions, and is unaware of receiving any representations, about streamlining the IR1 form, the name many national health service organisations give to their locally produced incident report form. NHS staff and service providers are also encouraged to share these reports of patient safety incidents with the National Patient Safety Agency using the National Reporting and Learning System.

NHS: Drugs

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the drugs available on the national health service. [197394]

Dawn Primarolo: General practitioners are able to prescribe any licensed medicine on the national health service unless it is listed in schedules 1 or 2 of the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) (Prescription of Drugs etc.) Regulations 2004.

Hospital clinicians are not affected by these statutory restrictions. They can prescribe any medicine, provided their local primary care trust agrees to its supply at NHS expense.

NHS: Registration

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 10 constituencies have the lowest density of NHS registration by UK nationals. [197328]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

The national health service is intended first and foremost for the benefit of people living in the United Kingdom. Free NHS treatment is based on residence in the UK, not on nationality, the payment of UK taxes or national insurance contributions.

Occupational Health: Cardiovascular System

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received on heart-health testing for employees in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [195377]

Ann Keen: The Prime Minister announced on 7 January that the Department would bring forward proposals for a risk assessment programme within the national health service to assess the population for the risk of vascular diseases. Heart health testing is not currently available in the work place, although private occupational health providers can buy this in for their employees. We are not aware of any representations on this subject in the last 12 months.

Organs: Donors

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organ donors were registered in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [195231]

Ann Keen: The information requested is in the following tables.

Number joining the National Health Service Organ Donor Register from Jarrow, South Tyneside, North East England and all England, 1997-2007, by year

	1997	1998-2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Jarrow [1]	733	864	1,009	859	789	999	1,184	1,203	1,038	10,406
South Tyneside [2]	1,452	1,856	2,156	1,785	1,608	2,095	2,633	2,597	2,188	22,082
North East England [3]	32,789	38,806	47,845	50,490	42,790	41,210	47,139	49,593	43,301	471,575
All England	690,275	807,111	1,021,806	947,807	756,195	866,973	924,039	1,004,416	858,467	9,491,311

[1] Parliamentary constituency.
[2] Council area.
[3] Postcodes DH, DL, NE, SR, TS, TD15.
For administrative reasons, the data for 1998-2000 is not available for each year separately so the yearly average is given.

Deceased organ donors from hospitals in South Tyneside, North East England and all England, 1997-2007 by year

Donating hospital	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
South Tyneside Dist. Gen. Hosp.	1	1	—	2	—	2	1	2	—	—	1	10
North East England Hospitals [1]	39	45	51	58	49	34	38	39	30	39	41	463
Hospitals in all England	689	621	617	653	640	652	598	682	633	647	667	7,099

[1] donating hospitals in: Darlington, Durham, Bishop Auckland, Hexham, Ashington, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields and Sunderland.
Note:
There are no donating hospitals (i.e. with ICU/HDU) in the Jarrow constituency.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescription penalty notices were issued in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available; and how much was collected each year in penalty charges. [194902]

Ann Keen: From August 2001 to March 2003, the Prescription Pricing Authority undertook prescription penalty charge functions as per the provisions of the Health Act 1999.

From April 2003 to March 2005, the national health service Counter Fraud and Security Management Service (CFSMS) undertook these functions.

From April 2005, these functions were devolved to primary care trusts with the CFSMS providing a central support process to facilitate verification checks. Detailed information on recoveries since April 2005 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of penalties and the amounts recovered are shown in the following table.

	Penalties issued	Original prescription charge (£)	Penalties and surcharges (£)
August 2001 to March 2005	160,000	550,000	2,400,000
2005-06	21,837	—	—
2006-07	25,029	—	—

Data for the period August 2001 to March 2005 is not available by year. The figures given are recovery figures for the original prescription charge and the associated penalties and surcharges.

Prostate Cancer: Screening

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prostate screenings took place in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [195226]

Ann Keen: The national health service does not operate a prostate cancer screening programme. There is currently insufficient evidence from any country in the world to show that screening would reduce deaths from prostate cancer. The Government are committed to introducing a national screening programme for prostate cancer if and when screening and treatment techniques are sufficiently well developed. The United Kingdom National Screening Committee keeps screening for prostate cancer under review.

The prostate cancer risk management programme was established in 2002 to ensure that men considering a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test are given information concerning the benefits, limitations and risks associated with having a test. Figures on the number of PSA tests taken as a result of the programme are not collected centrally.

Psychiatry: Regulation

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to introduce a regime to regulate psychotherapists and counsellors. [198257]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the White Paper, Trust, Assurance, Safety—The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century, the Government identified psychotherapists and counsellors as a priority for statutory regulation. Before this can happen, these groups need to have agreed standards of training and practice and have put in place an interim voluntary system of regulation, which can form the basis of a statutory system.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Prisons

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of sexually transmitted infections were recorded in each prison in each of the last five years, broken down by infection. [197937]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not routinely collected.

The Department issued new key performance indicators (KPIs) for prison health services in October 2007. These include a KPI for sexual health in prisons.

Under this, prisons must ensure that prisoners are aware of the means of accessing condoms in prisons; have access to social and life skills modules on sex and relationship education; have access to a genito-urinary clinic in prison; and have access to a Chlamydia screening programme.

Skin: Diseases

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research is being *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* funded by his Department on the likely causes of Hidradenitis Suppurativa. [196317]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is not currently funding any research specifically on Hidradenitis Suppurativa, but does fund a broad range of research looking at understanding inflammation and inflammatory diseases which may benefit the condition in the future. While the MRC does not earmark funds for particular topics, research proposals in all areas are welcome.

Waiting Lists: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* in patient treatment and *(b)* day surgery was for each clinical speciality at York NHS Hospital in each year since 1997. [197131]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested has been set out in the following tables:

Median waiting times in weeks York hospitals NHS Trust by specialty

	Period ending March											
	1997		*1998*		*1999*		*2000*		*2001*		*2002*	
Specialty	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*
General surgery	12.2	14.2	20.4	20.6	11.7	11.6	16.2	12.6	15.6	14.4	17.9	16.5
Urology	9.2	8.3	12.4	7.9	10.9	8.8	11.1	10.3	9.5	10.0	9.0	11.2
Trauma and Orthopaedics	17.5	15.4	16.7	18.0	20.2	12.1	20.1	17.4	20.9	17.7	21.0	17.6
Ear Nose and Throat (ENT)	11.9	10.0	15.6	9.7	16.7	10.4	16.9	9.1	19.0	6.6	21.8	7.8
Ophthalmology	27.8	13.9	24.0	25.5	14.4	19.3	13.7	19.0	18.8	23.9	11.8	21.7
Oral surgery	13.3	17.0	13.0	24.5	9.1	15.0	10.5	12.4	8.2	8.6	9.5	7.2
Anaesthetics	—	7.7	—	7.0	—	6.9	—	6.7	—	7.5	—	7.1
General medicine	6.7	7.8	—	8.4	—	8.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gynaecology	10.4	11.1	11.9	11.2	12.6	16.1	17.3	12.2	10.4	12.3	14.7	13.5
All specialties	12.9	11.6	16.5	15.6	15.4	12.4	17.0	14.0	16.6	15.0	18.9	14.8

	Period ending March											
	2003		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*September 2007*	
Specialty	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*	*In-patient*	*Day case*
General surgery	11.9	13.8	13.5	13.4	10.8	10.3	8.3	11.3	4.1	7.4	4.1	5.2
Urology	10.3	11.1	8.1	10.2	6.5	10.7	5.3	10.6	5.6	5.7	4.9	6.5
Trauma and Orthopaedics	19.8	17.1	12.3	13.6	12.8	11.4	10.5	9.9	8.2	10.2	4.8	4.7
ENT	18.9	7.5	10.8	7.0	7.2	9.5	9.1	7.0	4.2	9.4	—	7.9
Ophthalmology	14.6	17.8	11.3	9.8	5.2	7.9	10.5	5.8	12.0	4.5	—	7.0
Oral surgery	9.6	9.5	8.3	12.1	—	12.3	6.1	9.0	6.5	7.8	6.0	5.7
Anaesthetics	—	6.9	—	7.0	—	4.1	—	5.1	—	6.5	—	6.3
General medicine	—	—	9.4	13.9	—	10.7	—	4.7	—	6.4	—	4.8
Gynaecology	15.6	15.4	14.5	13.5	15.5	13.1	10.5	8.5	8.3	6.2	6.5	7.1
All specialties	15.8	13.7	11.8	11.7	10.9	9.7	9.0	8.3	6.5	6.7	4.8	6.3

Notes:
1. The figures show the median waiting times for patients waiting for admission at the end of each period.
2. These are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
3. Specialties where the total number waiting is less than 20 have been excluded as medians calculated from these figures would be prone to fluctuation due to small numbers. This is why there are some gaps of information.
4. Figures by specialty not collected after September 2007.
Source:
Department of Health KH07

Westminster Primary Care Trust: General Practitioners

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are any closed-list GP practices within Westminster Primary Care Trust. [198169]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data about general practitioner (GP) practices that have lists closed for the registration of new patients are collected quarterly through the Primary Care Access Survey, and the latest available data are for November 2007 to January 2008. For Westminster Primary Care Trust (PCT), these data showed two practices with closed lists, which is 4 per cent. of the PCTs GP practices. In England, 2 per cent. of GP practices reported that they were operating closed lists.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* fines were imposed for (i) vandalism, (ii) graffiti, (iii) litter and (iv) anti-social behaviour in each district and unitary council area in Essex in each of the last eight quarters for which records are available. [194199]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons given cautions, and those found guilty who were given fines for vandalism, graffiti, litter and antisocial behaviour in Essex for the years 2005 and 2006 can be viewed in tables 1 and 2.

Apart from criminal damage (which includes minor acts of vandalism and graffiti among other things) and littering, penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) can be issued for a range of offences that might be characterised as antisocial behaviour including behaviour likely to cause fear, alarm and distress (section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986). The total number of PNDs issued in Essex in 2005 and 2006 is 4,454 (for 2005) and 4,461 (in 2006) a breakdown of those issued by offence is provided in table 3.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice cannot identify the district or unitary council area these offences were committed in.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008. Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued by local authorities for graffiti and littering offences. These data are collected annually by the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs. There were no fixed penalty notices issued for graffiti offences in Essex between April 2005 and March 2007. Information on fixed penalty notices issued for littering offences in each local authority in Essex are contained in table 4.

Full data, including for other offences related to antisocial activity such as fly-posting and certain noise and waste-related offences, are published on-line at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/fpn/index.htm

Number of offenders cautioned for antisocial behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Essex police force area, by Qtr, for the years 2005 and 2006[1,2]

		2005				2006			
Statute	*Offence description*	*Qtr 1*	*Qtr 2*	*Qtr 3*	*Qtr 4*	*Qtr 1*	*Qtr 2*	*Qtr 3*	*Qtr 4*
Theft Act 1968 Sec 1	Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting[4])	243	283	373	378	447	488	485	649
Various	Other criminal damage[5]	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Explosives Act 1875, Sec 80	Throwing, casting or throwing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, etc public place.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5.	Harassment, alarm or distress.	33	56	50	52	70	78	8	11
Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.-4 Para. 5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S 12).	Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor. Penalty offence under S.1 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 -alcohol consumption in designated public places.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec. 91.	Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.	5	1	3	1	— 2	4	—	—

Number of offenders cautioned for antisocial behaviour offences for which a PND may be issued in Essex police force area, by Qtr, for the years 2005 and 2006[1,2,3]

		2005				2006			
Statute	*Offence description*	*Qtr 1*	*Qtr 2*	*Qtr 3*	*Qtr 4*	*Qtr 1*	*Qtr 2*	*Qtr 3*	*Qtr 4*
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1).	Holder or occasional permission of the agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fire Services Act 1947 Sec 31.	False alarms of fire.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec. 87.	Depositing litter.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British Transport Commission Act 1949 S.55,56. Railway Offences: Offences against Private Acts relating to Railways (other than 169,1-6).	Trespass, throwing stones.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal Law Act 1967 Sec 5(2).	Causing wasteful employment of the police etc.	1	1	1	2	2	1	—	—
Communications Act 2003 S.127	Improper use of public electronic communications network	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
		285	341	427	435	522	571	493	660

[1] Cautions data are provided on the principal offence basis, PND data are a count of PNDs issued.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Table covers all PND offences as outlined in table 3, although where no cautions were issued for an offence figures have been omitted from the table. 4 A PND may be issued to an offenders an alternative to a caution or prosecution only where the value of the item stolen is less than £200.
[4] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to those offences.
Source:
Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for which a fine may be issued for antisocial behaviour offences in Essex police force area, by Qtr, for the years 2005 and 2006[1,2]

		2005				2006			
Statute	*Offence description*	*Qtr 1*	*Qtr 2*	*Qtr 3*	*Qtr 4*	*Qtr 1*	*Qtr 2*	*Qtr 3*	*Qtr 4*
Theft Act 1968 Sec 1	Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting)	88	91	100	91	77	90	89	84
Various	Other criminal damage[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Explosives Act 1875, Sec 80	Throwing, casting or throwing any fireworks in or into any highway, street, etc public place.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5.	Harassment, alarm or distress.	77	73	85	61	70	77	84	88
Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.-4 Para. 5 (Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 S 12)	Contravene a community support officers' requirement not to consume liquor. Penalty offence under S.1 Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 -alcohol consumption in designated public places.	—	—	2	1	3	1	2	—
Criminal Justice Act 1967 Sec. 91.	Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour.	33	28	28	42	44	49	60	39
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1).	Holder or occasional permission of the agent knowingly selling to, knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.	2	1	1	3	6	2	—	—
Fire Services Act 1947 Sec 31.	False alarms of fire.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec. 87.	Depositing litter.	7	3	4	2	1	4	2	4

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for which a fine may be issued for antisocial behaviour offences in Essex police force area, by Qtr, for the years 2005 and 2006[1,2]

Statute	Offence description	2005 Qtr 1	2005 Qtr 2	2005 Qtr 3	2005 Qtr 4	2006 Qtr 1	2006 Qtr 2	2006 Qtr 3	2006 Qtr 4
British Transport Commission Act 1949 S.55,56. Railway Offences. Offences against Private Acts relating to Railways (other than 169,1-6).	Trespass, throwing stones.	3	—	—	1	1	5	3	3
Criminal Law Act 1967 Sec 5(2).	Causing wasteful employment of the police etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Communications Act 2003 S.127	Improper use of public electronic communications network	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1
		210	196	221	202	204	228	242	219

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces, and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti but is not exclusive to those offences. *Source:* Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in Essex police force area, by offence and quarter, 2005 and 2006[1,2]

Offence description	2005 Qtr 1	2005 Qtr 2	2005 Qtr 3	2005 Qtr 4	2006 Qtr 1	2006 Qtr 2	2006 Qtr 3	2006 Qtr 4
Wasting police time	11	10	18	20	17	18	17	16
Misuse of public telecommunications system	4	1	3	7	4	7	8	7
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	603	623	581	548	440	527	516	548
Throwing fireworks	3	1	2	9	2	4	—	12
Drunk and disorderly	129	116	144	245	240	246	192	193
Selling alcohol to under 18 (now DA18)	11	7	67	35	8	17	11	58
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 (now DA19)	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	2
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for cons on premises.	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	2	11	1	2	2	—	1	—
Criminal Damage (under 500(3)	101	115	105	84	88	73	92	105
Theft (retail under 200)	166	194	154	186	259	207	195	235
Breach of fireworks curfew	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Possession of category 4 firework	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trespass on a railway	21	—	7	7	—	1	3	4
Throwing stones at a train/railway	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Drunk in a highway	6	13	14	5	12	8	9	5
Consumption of alcohol in public place	5	—	3	10	—	—	4	1
Depositing and leaving litter	9	15	5	4	6	12	8	6
Consumption of alcohol my under 18 on licensed premises	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol for person under 18	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Total	1,076	1,107	1,105	1,166	1,078	1,120	1,065	1,198

"—" = nil
[1] PND data are a count of PNDs issued.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes offences of vandalism and graffiti cut is not exclusive to those offences.
Source:
Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Fixed penalty notices for littering

Local authority	*Fixed penalties issued*	*Cases being prosecuted*
Reporting period April 2005 to March 2006		
Basildon DC	26	5
Braintree DC	77	4
Brentwood BC	0	0
Castle Point DC	0	0
Chelmsford BC	46	0
Colchester BC	21	3
Epping Forest DC	0	0
Harlow DC	80	3
Maldon DC	18	0
Rochford DC	0	0
Southend-on-Sea BC	169	46
Tendring DC	67	1
Thurrock BC	32	12
Uttlesford DC	0	0
Reporting period April 2006 to March 2007		
Basildon DC	19	1
Braintree DC	35	0
Brentwood BC	—	—
Castle Point DC	7	0
Chelmsford BC	25	2
Colchester BC	105	9
Epping Forest DC	—	—
Harlow DC	98	0
Maldon DC	2	0
Rochford DC	0	0
Southend-on-Sea BC	82	0
Tendring DC	72	0
Thurrock BC	150	2
Uttlesford DC	0	0

Source:
DEFRA

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196946]

Maria Eagle: My Department does not hold any records of how many events wine or Fairtrade wine has been served in the last three years and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Where catering services are through commercial arrangements, we will continue to encourage suppliers to support and make use of Fairtrade products.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 599W, on the departmental intranet, whether his Department's IT system is able to provide a record of Wikipedia entries *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from within his Department. [195838]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice's IT systems do not provide a record of this information, as IP addresses for Wikipedia users within the Department and its agencies cannot be linked to individuals. It should be noted that any input to such websites would be done in accordance with the civil service code, which states that civil servants should: "use resources only for the authorised public purposes for which they are provided" and "make sure public money and other resources are used properly and efficiently".

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197067]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is in the following table.

	Ministry of Justice	*HM Courts Service*	*HM Prison Service*
AAW			
Number	—	—	1
Charged (£)	—	—	726.00
AWLB			
Number	—	—	—
Charged (£)	—	—	—
CONF			
Number	—	—	—
Charged (£)	—	—	—
COUN			
Number	—	—	—
Charged (£)	—	—	—
IIS			
Number	—	1	—
Charged (£)	—	726.00	—
PEPS			
Number	—	—	—
Charged (£)	—	—	—

Key:
AAW = Working Assertively
AWLB = Balancing Work/Life Realities
CONF = Managing your Confidence
COUN = Counselling Skills for the Workplace
IIS = Influencing with Integrity
PEPS = Emotional Intelligence

Drugs: Misuse

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average sentence was for persons sentenced to immediate custody for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 section 4(3) and 5(3), in each of the last five years. [196833]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Person sentenced[1] to immediate custody for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 section 4(3) and 5(3), and the average sentence length[2], for each of the last five years

		Sentenced	Sentence to immediate custody	Custody rate (%)	Average sentence length (months)[2]
2002	Section 4(3)	2,655	2,077	78	43.7
	Section 5(3)	3,017	2,233	74	34.3
2003	Section 4(3)	2,905	2,248	77	43.2
	Section 5(3)	3,378	2,444	72	36.1
2004	Section 4(3)	3,101	2,348	76	40.6
	Section 5(3)	3,880	2,645	68	37.4
2005	Section 4(3)	3,274	2,085	64	36.6
	Section 5(3)	4,810	2,944	61	33.5
2006	Section 4(3)	2,425	2,039	84	38.2
	Section 5(3)	4,925	2,930	59	31.8

[1] Principal offence basis
[2] Excludes life sentences
PQ(RN)133-08 RDS NOMS
28 March 2008
Misuse of drugs Act (1971) S.4(3)
Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (or being concerned in) Class 'A' Drug, Class 'B' Drug, Class 'C' Drug, class unspecified
Misuse of drugs Act (1971) S.5(3)
Having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply, Class 'A' Drug, Class 'B' Drug, Class 'C' Drug, class unspecified

Financial Reporting Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 156W, on financial reporting orders, for what reason the Serious Organised Crime Agency Annual Report for 2006-07 states that 12 such orders are in place. [195714]

Mr. Straw: The SOCA annual report 2006-07 gave the number of orders, which the Agency had successfully obtained in that period. The information in my reply of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 756W, was prepared looking only at principal sentencing disposals, in line with standard practice. As the financial order is not a "primary disposal" of the courts, this led to the discrepancy in my earlier reply, and the impression—which I regret—that none had been issued when 12 had. I continue to be concerned about the reliability of court data and have asked for serious work to be undertaken to make it more informative.

HM Courts Service: Security

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) at how many courts the provision of security, guarding and surveillance services have been outsourced to private contractors; [196106]

(2) how many staff the Courts Service employs directly or via contractors for security and guarding duties. [196108]

Maria Eagle: Contracted security guarding services are provided to 609 courts.

The majority of security guarding services in Her Majesty's Courts Service are contracted out. Contractors currently provide 1,361 guards in courts. A further 50 staff are employed directly by HMCS.

House of Lords: Reform

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the minutes of the cross-party working group on Lords reform. [197649]

Mr. Straw: I refer my right hon. Friend to my written answer given on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 187W to the hon. Member for South Staffordshire (Sir Patrick Cormack).

Judges: Education

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judges were educated at *(a)* private and *(b)* comprehensive schools. [197322]

Mr. Straw: This information is not kept by either the Ministry of Justice or the Judicial Offices for England and Wales.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter of 11 February 2008 from Mr. C. M. Goodchild of Lymington on a divorce case. [198121]

Bridget Prentice: We do not appear to have received Mr. Goodchild's letter. A copy has been obtained and a reply will be sent to him as soon as possible.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the contribution of the National Offender Management Service to public safety since its inception. [196144]

Maria Eagle: Since its inception, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has developed and disseminated a range of operational guidance, practice and advice to assist frontline staff in managing offenders under statutory supervision in the community, including offenders managed under the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The guidance to the MAPPA responsible authorities—the police, prison and probation services—assists them in the effective supervision of offenders convicted of the most serious sexual and violent offenders.

In addition, the roll-out of the offender management model has brought the benefits of end to end offender management to bear on the supervision of the most high risk offenders. And the introduction of ViSOR into prisons and probation has provided offender managers with significant new sources of information on which to assess and manage sexual and violent offenders.

Offenders: Housing

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the addresses are of the residential institutions run by ClearSprings on behalf of the National Offender Management Service for offenders and ex-offenders. [197048]

Mr. Hanson: ClearSprings do not provide hostels or institutions. They provide homes in normal residential accommodation for people who have been bailed by the Courts or released from prison on home detention curfew. It is not our practice to disclose the private addresses of defendants or offenders.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent on providing behavioural programmes for offenders *(a)* in custody and *(b)* serving community sentences in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [196127]

(2) what funding has been allocated for the provision of behavioural programmes for offenders *(a)* in custody and *(b)* serving community sentences for 2008-09, broken down by funding source; and if he will make a statement. [196128]

Maria Eagle: The funding for the delivery of accredited offending behaviour programmes in custody is part of establishment baselines, therefore it is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of this work. The Prison Service is currently working on developing a costing process to provide more accurate costs for regime activities and interventions.

Additional funding was provided by the Government to expand the delivery of accredited offending behaviour programmes in custody as shown in the following table:

£ million

	Additional funding source		
	Comprehensive spending review	Crime reduction programme	Spending review 2000
1999-2000	7.3	0.7	—
2000-01	8.4	1.1	—
2001-02	8.9	1.5	—
2002-03	8.9	—	3.6
2003-04	8.9	—	11.6

Based on an estimated average cost per programme completion and the number of completions in 2006-07, we estimate that the cost of delivering accredited offending behaviour programmes in 2006-07 to be approximately £25 million. A similar amount will be spent in 2007-08.

In addition, governors and area managers may allocate funds from their budgets to support local initiatives or partnerships with outside organisations or the voluntary sector to address particular needs. This information is not recorded centrally.

Probation Boards fund the cost of providing behavioural programmes for offenders in the community through their grant as they see fit to meet their statutory duties. Data is only available on the budgeted cost of delivering programmes to offenders under probation supervision, which includes offenders on community sentences and on licence in the community following a custodial sentence. Probation Boards' budgeted spend on behavioural programmes is as follows:

£ million

2005-06	77
2006-07	85
2007-08	86.5

The requested information relating to expenditure for years leading up to 2005 is not recorded centrally.

Prisoners

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the prison population was in each of the last 12 months in *(a)* all prisons and *(b)* open prisons. [197406]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the numbers of prisoners held in all open prisons in England and Wales at the end of each month since February 2007.

	2007											2008
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Open prisons												
Askham Grange	100	109	99	98	109	108	101	107	109	110	112	96
East Sutton Park	97	95	100	99	100	98	97	90	90	97	89	91
Ford	413	438	457	476	464	454	472	460	468	471	494	494
Hewell Grange	172	182	181	173	167	170	165	143	156	186	177	176
Hollesley Bay	292	292	305	311	298	292	317	324	322	325	314	325
Kirkham	508	513	508	546	514	530	540	522	522	506	485	448
Leyhill	420	399	432	400	411	393	393	399	394	402	348	381
Moorland Open	222	219	222	229	242	236	239	241	242	246	224	248
North Sea Camp	253	274	303	273	272	258	261	247	263	276	295	281
Spring Hill	307	333	335	323	322	309	321	328	324	322	326	322
Standford Hill	407	395	419	416	405	419	424	398	397	437	422	427

	2007											2008
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Sudbury	481	497	500	523	533	538	515	533	549	545	536	533
Thorn Cross	224	224	223	241	240	245	254	233	229	214	200	211
Usk/Prescoed	410	408	394	406	417	396	392	401	383	380	381	397
Total open prisons	4,306	4,378	4,478	4,514	4,494	4,446	4,491	4,426	4,448	4,517	4,403	4,430
All prison establishments	79,582	79,745	80,261	80,264	79,734	80,164	80,534	80,855	30,997	81,404	79,605	81,142

Note:
In addition to the establishments listed above Drake Hall, Moton Hall, Norwich, Reading and Wealstun prisons have small open units, but population data is not available at this level.

The figures for establishment totals are published monthly at the website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/|publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Mentally Ill

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of the prison population are currently held in (*a*) NHS and (*b*) independent sector secure mental health care places; and if he will make a statement. [196071]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the format requested.

Offenders held in secure mental health care settings can be held under various articles of legislation and do not necessarily constitute part of the 'prison population'.

Probation: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the delivery of unpaid work requirements in probation areas in Wales against delivery timetables in 2005-06; [197797]

(2) what assessment he has made of the delivery of unpaid work requirements in probation areas in Wales against timetables in (*a*) 2006-07 and (*b*) 2007-08. [197902]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service monitors the commencement of unpaid work requirements in two ways:

(i) Probation areas are required to provide a quarterly report which monitors the average number of days which elapse between initial health and safety instruction and the first work session for offenders sentenced to unpaid work.

(ii) Probation areas also undertake monthly sample inspections of case files in order to monitor compliance with National Standards. For offenders sentenced to unpaid work, these inspections monitor the percentage of offenders for whom unpaid work was arranged within the National Standards requirement of 10 working days following sentence.

In the period October 2005 to March 2006, the average number of days which elapsed between initial health and safety instruction and commencement of work at the work placement for offenders in Wales was 5.5 days. In 2006-07, the figure was 6.2 days and from April 2007 to December 2007, it was 5.5 days. Data for the early part of 2005 and the full year 2007-08 is not available.

Sample case file inspections during 2005-06 found that, in 90 per cent. of files inspected, unpaid work was arranged within 10 working days following sentence by probation areas in Wales. In 2006-07 and from April 2007 to December 2007, the figure was 94 per cent. Data for the full year 2007-08 is not yet available.

Figures are obtained from large-scale administrative and monitoring systems which may be subject to data input errors.

Public Service: Misconduct

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the last conviction for misconduct in public office took place; and how many such convictions took place in each of the last 10 years. [196651]

Maria Eagle: The available information held by my Department on defendants found guilty of misconduct in public office, from 1996 to 2006, is provided in the following table.

Number of defendants found guilty of misconduct in public office, England and Wales 1996-2006[1,2]

	Found guilty
1996	
1997	
1998	
1999	2
2000	2
2001	1
2002	2
2003	3
2004	10
2005	3
2006	12

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Data for 2007 will be available in November 2008.

Robbery: Greater London

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of robbery in London in (*a*) 2000 and (*b*) 2006, broken down by age group. [196834]

Mr. Straw: The information requested on robbery convictions in London in 2000 and 2006 is provided in the following table.

Number of defendants found guilty of robbery by age group, Greater London 2000 and 2006[1,2,3]

Age group	*2000*	*2006*
10-11	3	8
12-14	146	384
15-17	558	1,141
18-20	276	417
21 and over	473	629
Total	1,456	2,579

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Comprises the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many injuries sustained by juvenile and young adult offenders held in secure training centres during level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 physical control in care restraints required hospital treatment in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement; [197305]

(2) how many injuries were sustained by juvenile and young adult offenders held in each secure training centre during level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 physical control in care constraints in each year since they were established; and if he will make a statement; [197307]

(3) how many times level *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 physical control in care restraints were used in each secure training centre in each year since they were established; and if he will make a statement. [197309]

Mr. Hanson: Young adult offenders are not placed in secure training centres or secure children's homes. The restraint techniques known collectively as physical control in care fall into three categories. Phase 1 restraints involve one member of staff only; phase 2, two members of staff; and phase 3, three members of staff.

The data collected centrally by the Youth Justice Board about use of restraint do not include details of which phase was used. That information could be obtained only by examining the individual incident reports held at each secure training centre, which would involve disproportionate cost.

Secure Training Centres: Violence

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many reports of *(a)* prisoner on prisoner and *(b)* prisoner on officer assaults were received from each (i) secure training centre, (ii) young offender institution and (iii) secure children's home in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [197312]

Mr. Hanson: Young adult offenders are not placed in secure training centres or secure children's homes. The Youth Justice Board began collecting comparative data on assaults by trainees in under-18 young offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes in April 2007. The following table provides this data for the period April 2007 to January 2008. For earlier data, collected by the Prison Service following different recording principles, and relating solely to young offender institutions, I refer the hon. Lady to the reply I gave on 28 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 495W to the hon. Member for North Shropshire (Mr. Paterson).

Establishment	*Assault: trainee on trainee*	*Assault: trainee on staff*
Secure training centres		
Rainsbrook	96	172
Hassockfield	93	57
Oakhill	521	152
Medway	136	233
Secure children's homes		
Aldine House	5	4
Atkinson Unit	62	47
Aycliffe	12	2
Barton Moss	16	12
Clayfields	76	64
Eastmoor	31	12
Gladstone House	13	8
Hillside Secure Centre	12	0
Kyloe House	0	0
Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home	43	65
Orchard Lodge	44	0
Red Bank	85	7
Sutton Place	2	8
Swanick Lodge	0	5
Vinney Green	64	34
Under-18 young offender institutions		
Ashfield	186	76
PARC	32	10
Brinsford	34	15
Castington	81	21
Feltham	107	22
Hindley	434	30
Huntercombe	91	20
Lancaster Farms	86	28
Stoke Heath	110	34
Thorn Cross	6	0
Warren Hill	115	60
Werrington	62	21
Wetherby	147	49
Cookham Wood	2	0
Downview	0	0
Eastwood Park	4	0
Foston Hall	4	9
New Hall	11	8

Sentencing: Young Offenders

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of days was between arrest and sentence of persistent young offenders in England and Wales by *(a)* magistrate courts and *(b)* Crown courts in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [197316]

Mr. Hanson: Overall statistics on Persistent Young Offenders (PYOs) are available from 1997 to 2007. However, figures split by court type, as requested in the question, are only available from 1999 onward.

These figures are derived from Police National Computer data, and used to monitor the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days.

The following table shows the number of PYO cases heard, and the average time interval (in days) from arrest to sentence for dealing with these juvenile offenders in England and Wales. It also provides a breakdown based on whether the cases were heard in the magistrates courts or in the Crown court.

Average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders

	All courts		*Magistrates courts*		*The Crown court*	
	Cases	*Days*	*Cases*	*Days*	*Cases*	*Days*
1997	16,010	141				
1998	18,605	125				
1999	21,151	108	18,851	96	2,271	212
2000	23,130	93	21,145	82	1,976	218
2001	25,393	76	23,752	68	1,632	196
2002	26,116	68	24,280	61	1,829	174
2003	26,083	66	24,480	58	1,588	187
2004	26,363	69	24,698	61	1,653	186
2005	27,037	68	25,498	60	1,526	191
2006	28,252	72	26,529	63	1,704	214
2007	30,683	65	28,904	57	1,769	206

Note:
The Police National Computer data can contain records where the type of court in which the case was heard was unknown. This missing information only impacts a very small minority of cases, and was more a feature of the data in the past than in the present. Thus, the sum of cases heard in magistrates courts and the Crown court in each year is less than all cases heard in England and Wales.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) publishes the data in the above table as National Statistics. Further information on persistent young offenders can be found on the dedicated page of the MOJ website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 2 April 2008

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office: Aviation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how many tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent were offset by the National Audit Office in 2006-07 for air flights. [198201]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office has a green travel plan which encourages staff to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by considering their travel options and choosing environmentally friendly modes of transport when travelling to clients and to and from work. The Office also uses teleconferencing facilities which further reduce the need for travel.

The office does not currently purchase carbon offsets for its air or other travel and therefore offset no carbon dioxide in 2006-07.

The Office has recently awarded new contracts for the provision of travel services. These arrangements will provide improved data on the level of carbon emissions incurred by the Office and enable exploration of options to reduce emissions.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Expenditure

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public expenditure on the arts in Wantage constituency in each year since 1997 was. [197898]

Margaret Hodge: The Arts Council has provided £239,633 in lottery funding, as follows:

	£
1997-98	25,600
1998-99	..
1999-2000	29,250
2000-01	41,371
2001-02	106,005
2002-03	..
2003-04	9,995
2004-05	..
2005-06	..
2006-07	23,000
2007-08	4,412

Creative Britain Apprenticeships

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to ensure the availability of Creative Britain apprenticeships throughout the country. [196758]

Margaret Hodge: My Department is already working with employers, sector skills councils, Trade Associations, the Learning and Skills Council and other Government Departments to ensure the provision of high quality places. For example, Creative and Cultural Skills are currently developing proposals for apprentices in live events and promotion, music business (recording industry), technical theatre (rigging, lighting and sound), costume and wardrobe, cultural and heritage venue operation and community arts.

The provision of apprenticeship places is a devolved matter. However the Sector Skills Councils, who engage with employers, operate within a UK wide context. Creative and Cultural Skills and sector skills councils for example, are in discussions with the Scottish Government to ensure that creative apprenticeships are developed in Scotland, based on employer demand.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196453]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency The Royal Parks, for the past 12 months, is contained in the table.

DCMS	*Administrative/secretarial*	*Junior/middle managers*	*Senior interim managers*
Monthly average number of staff	15	1	7
Average hourly rate (£)	13.28	30	115
Royal Parks			
Monthly average number of staff	11	1	0
Average hourly rate (£)	14.06	36.25	0

A more detailed breakdown could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

National Lottery: Finance

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what proportion of the cost of each national lottery ticket bought online goes towards *(a)* prize money, *(b)* good causes, *(c)* lottery duty, *(d)* operating costs and *(e)* profit for the national lottery operator; [198067]

(2) how the money received from national lottery tickets sold online is apportioned into *(a)* prize money, *(b)* good causes, *(c)* lottery duty, *(d)* operating costs and *(e)* profit for the national lottery operator. [198147]

Mr. Sutcliffe: National lottery ticket sales revenue is liable to lottery duty which is set by HM Treasury, currently at 12 per cent. The terms of the second licence to operate the lottery govern the way in which the remainder of the revenue is apportioned among prize money, good causes, retailer commissions and operator retentions (from which costs and profits are met). The second licence does not provide for this apportionment to be calculated on a game by game or sales channel by sales channel basis (the licence can be viewed on the National Lottery Commission website: www.natlotcomm.gov.uk <http://www.natlotcomm.gov.uk>). In particular, all relevant games are aggregated when calculating the appropriate contributions to the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) and Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF).

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Offices

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on office facilities, how much was paid in office rent by hon. Members to each registered political party in 2006-07. [198053]

Helen Goodman: According to the Department for Resources, the figures for 2006-07 are as follows:

Party	*Amount paid (£)*
Conservative Party	737,995
Democratic Unionist Party	3,375
Labour Party	376,975
Liberal Democrats	186,682
Plaid Cymru	8,440
Scottish National Party	19,941
Total	1,333,408

NORTHERN IRELAND

Drugs: Children

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children under the age of 16 years were arrested for possession of Class *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C drugs in each district command unit in each of the last five years. [194752]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of children under the age of 16 years arrested for possession of Class A, B and C drugs, in each district command unit in each of the last five years.

As one person can be arrested for multiple offences, adding together the total number of persons arrested under each category does not equal the total number of persons arrested.

Cannabis was reclassified from Class B to Class C on 29 January 2004, hence the decrease of Class B and the increase of Class C arrests for the period 2004-07.

	2002-03			*2003-04*			*2004-05*			*2005-06*			*2006-07*		
	A	*B*	*C*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*A*	*B*	*C*	*A*	*B*	*C*
Antrim	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Ards	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
East Belfast	0	2	0	0	7	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
North Belfast	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	2
South Belfast	0	11	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0	3
West Belfast	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1
Carrickfergus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larne	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	2
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Down	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2
Urban	4	24	0	0	17	1	0	0	15	0	0	19	3	0	11
Armagh	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banbridge	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballymena	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	2	0	3

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Ballymoney	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	0	1	0	1	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cookstown	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1
Craigavon	0	3	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	1
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Down	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fermanagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0
Foyle	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
Limavady	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	5
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Moyle	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newry and Mourne	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Omagh	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Strabane	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural	1	14	1	4	21	5	3	0	19	1	0	23	7	0	13

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons were arrested for dealing in Class *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* C drugs in each district command unit in each of the last five years. [194753]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out the number of persons arrested for dealing in Class A, B and C drugs in each district command unit in each of the last five years.

As one person can be arrested for multiple offences, adding together the total number of persons arrested under each category does not equal the total number of persons arrested.

Cannabis was reclassified from Class B to Class C on 29 January 2004, hence the decrease of Class B and the increase of Class C arrests for the period 2004-07.

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Antrim	6	2	0	7	8	2	4	0	2	4	3	8	10	6	9
Ards	3	5	2	3	14	0	0	2	1	2	1	5	5	0	7
East Belfast	5	5	2	3	15	2	3	0	8	8	0	5	5	1	24
North Belfast	7	12	0	11	9	3	2	1	13	11	0	14	25	1	31
South Belfast	1	12	0	10	17	1	10	1	19	17	0	14	26	1	20
West Belfast	3	4	0	1	1	1	2	0	7	2	2	9	14	1	16
Carrickfergus	0	1	0	5	10	1	2	2	5	1	1	2	1	0	1
Castlereagh	2	5	7	3	20	2	1	1	6	2	0	6	5	1	6
Larne	2	1	0	2	7	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	2
Lisburn	4	11	2	6	15	4	12	0	36	10	0	17	12	1	14
Newtownabbey	1	3	0	6	9	0	0	0	3	1	1	11	4	0	6
North Down	2	6	0	5	9	2	6	1	18	6	0	10	5	0	3
Urban	36	67	13	62	134	18	42	8	119	67	8	102	113	12	139
Armagh	1	3	0	9	2	1	1	0	4	5	3	15	1	0	1
Banbridge	2	4	0	4	7	5	0	0	3	1	0	2	2	0	2
Ballymena	4	9	0	4	4	1	13	9	10	8	3	7	11	0	8
Ballymoney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
Coleraine	15	13	0	9	23	3	17	1	6	18	0	7	28	2	19
Cookstown	1	2	0	9	5	4	1	0	0	2	2	1	7	1	9
Craigavon	3	4	2	12	9	1	8	0	9	5	0	9	5	2	5

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
Dungannon and S Tyrone	0	2	0	4	3	1	1	0	4	6	0	2	12	0	6
Down	0	6	0	2	4	0	4	1	4	1	0	10	2	2	3
Fermanagh	2	1	0	1	5	4	3	2	9	4	0	4	3	0	1
Foyle	2	2	0	8	14	0	12	5	15	11	2	12	14	2	9
Limavady	3	7	1	2	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	12	0	5	17
Magherafelt	1	5	1	2	4	3	3	1	12	1	1	3	1	2	2
Moyle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
Newry and Mourne	0	3	1	1	5	5	0	1	3	3	0	2	8	0	5
Omagh	2	2	0	1	6	1	12	0	12	2	2	6	6	2	9
Strabane	0	1	0	3	4	6	3	0	1	3	0	6	2	0	5
Rural	36	64	5	71	98	37	79	20	97	71	16	100	102	20	111

Repossession Orders

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many homes were repossessed in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [197278]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Repossessions following a court order are dealt with by the Enforcement of Judgments Office (EJO) of the Northern Ireland Court Service.

The following table sets out the number of repossession applications lodged with EJO and the number which have been resolved by way of eviction over the last five years.

	Repossession applications lodged with EJO	Repossession applications finalised by way of eviction
2003	914	152
2004	945	200
2005	972	188
2006	1,002	184
2007	923	128
Total	4,756	852

In addition to those cases in which the EJO repossess the property and give vacant possession to the applicant, a larger number of cases are resolved by agreement reached between the parties or where the occupant vacates the property voluntarily.

WALES

National Assembly

8. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on bringing forward legislative proposals to increase the number of Members of the National Assembly for Wales. [197232]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Economic Inactivity

9. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on economic inactivity in Wales. [197233]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the First Minister on all issues affecting Wales, including the economy and employment.

Child Poverty

10. **Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on measures in Budget 2008 designed to address child poverty in Wales. [197234]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The excellent measures announced by the Chancellor in his Budget will underpin our commitment to halve child poverty by 2010 and totally eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Flood Defences

11. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the condition of flood defences in Wales. [197235]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Regular discussions take place with the First Minister on such matters. The Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities and the Environment Agency are actively involved in flood defence planning within Wales.

Research Funding

12. **Ian Lucas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on UK Government funding for research in Wales. [197236]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to discuss a variety of issues affecting Wales.

Welsh universities have a vital role to play in meeting the challenges of the future, not only in increasing the knowledge economy of the region but also in encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation.

Cross-border Health Services

13. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on consultation on cross-border health service issues. [197237]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on these matters. These discussions include the protocol currently in place to underpin cross-border health delivery arrangements.

Offender Management

14. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on offender management in Wales. [197238]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government remain committed to ensuring efficient offender management. We have committed a further £40 million towards more effective community sentences; are providing increased prison capacity with an extra £1.2 billion to deliver a further and extended building programme that will create 15,000 places in England and Wales by 2014, 330 of which will be at Parc Prison in Bridgend by 2011.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Co-operatives

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response he plans to make to the French proposal to strengthen agricultural sectors by promoting co-operative organisations. [198108]

Jonathan Shaw: The French proposals were discussed under any other business at the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting on 17 March. I expressed interest in exploring ideas about how farmers could be competitive in global markets through greater collaboration, but did not share the French conclusions about the need for new EU measures.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what codes of practice outlined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 his Department is working; and when they are expected to be published. [197846]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not yet available as the departmental business planning process for the forthcoming financial year has still to be finalised.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the size was of the Departmental team dealing with codes of practice relevant to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; and what the size of the team is now. [197847]

Jonathan Shaw: Precise figures for the number of staff working on codes of practice are difficult to estimate as this work does not require full-time input from staff. However, work on an individual code of practice under the Animal Welfare Act typically involves the input of one veterinary adviser and one higher executive officer plus administrative support.

Animals: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements there are to deal with circumstances where a devolved Administration disagrees with his Department's policy or actions in the event of an animal disease outbreak. [197428]

Jonathan Shaw: Disease control functions are a devolved matter, but DEFRA and the devolved Administrations all work to EU rules. This aligns our policies and minimises any serious differences. During an animal disease outbreak, consultations and discussions take place at all levels to ensure that coherent and effective measures operate across the UK.

Bees

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the number of queen bees which have been imported in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [197462]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* Importers of queen bees from third countries are required to notify DEFRA about the intended import and then must send the cages and accompanying worker bees to the National Bee Unit for analysis. In the last three calendar years DEFRA was notified of the following imports of queens:

	Number
2005	2,385
2006	2,435
2007	3,097

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the UK bee population *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [197595]

Jonathan Shaw: On the basis of the number of colonies estimated by ADAS in their 2001 survey, there are around 273,000 managed honey bee colonies in the UK. In population terms, there are approximately 5 billion honey bees in winter (20,000 per colony), rising to some 16 billion in the summer (60,000 per colony). Numbers of colonies may have declined in recent years. The numbers in each of the next 10 years will depend

on the number of beekeepers and their stockmanship and colony husbandry skills, including effective pest and disease management. No estimate has been made of the numbers of bumble bees or solitary bees etc.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has received a research plan from Rothamstead and Warwick Horticulture Research International on bee health; and if he will make a statement. [197672]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has not received any such research plan. Short descriptions of two research projects proposed by the two organisations were included in a "Beekeeping Research" paper produced by the British Beekeepers' Association.

Bees: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects the small hive beetle to become a threat to UK beehives; what measures he is taking to prevent the small hive beetle entering the UK; and if he will make a statement. [197591]

Jonathan Shaw: The possibility of the small hive beetle arriving in the UK is a recognised threat to the health of honey bees. To help mitigate this threat, DEFRA has developed a contingency plan in consultation with stakeholders. Additionally, DEFRA is funding research into a "lure and kill" monitoring system for rapid deployment should the beetle be detected. To promote early detection, publicity material has been distributed to help raise individual beekeepers' awareness of the risk. Plant health import inspectors and horticultural marketing inspectors have also been alerted, as one possible entry pathway is imported fruit. DEFRA is also pressing the European Commission to introduce tighter contingency arrangements to reduce the risk of spread should the beetle be introduced into another member state.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of threats to the UK bee population; and if he will make a statement. [197596]

Jonathan Shaw: The importance of the contribution of honey bees to sustainable agriculture is well recognised. For this reason, DEFRA continues to fund a programme of controls and education for beekeepers through the National Bee Unit and the Bee Inspectorate. To further this, work DEFRA will shortly be consulting on a draft Bee Health strategy. The main aim of the strategy will be to focus future action by both DEFRA and other key stakeholders, especially individual beekeepers, on the main threats facing our honey bees.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many beehives were damaged by the varroa mite in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [197598]

Jonathan Shaw: By 1995 virtually all apiaries in England had some degree of varroa infestation. While there may be colonies in isolated areas, which have yet to be infested by varroa, the pest is virtually ubiquitous. Every colony is damaged by varroa to varying degrees once it becomes infested. Uncontrolled it will kill colonies and that is why it is important for beekeepers to understand the biology of the mite, know the levels of varroa populations and how to treat their colonies to keep the mite below damage thresholds.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to prevent the spread of the varroa mite; and if he will make a statement. [197599]

Jonathan Shaw: Despite the implementation of an extensive control programme, varroa is now endemic and is no longer notifiable under EC law. However, while it cannot be completely eradicated, beekeepers can keep productive bees despite its presence, providing they operate effective controls The best way of tackling varroa is by means of a careful programme of integrated pest management and DEFRA has published detailed advice for beekeepers on this. Experience has shown that it is effective.

A comprehensive advisory leaflet is available from the National Bee Unit.

The Bee Health Strategy, which will shortly be published for consultation, will address the issue of varroa and whether control should have greater priority compared, for example, to threats for exotic pests.

Bees: Diseases

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on bee colony collapse; [197593]

(2) what recent research he has commissioned into colony collapse disease affecting bees; and if he will make a statement. [197594]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is aware of the press reports last year about the serious situation in the USA in respect of cases of abnormally high levels of colony loss, described as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). While some common factors have been identified, such as high levels of Israeli Paralysis Virus, the cause of colony collapse has yet to be identified.

Scientists and inspectors at DEFRA's National Bee Unit (NBU) are continuing to monitor the situation in the USA. To date, we do not have evidence to suggest that there is something similar happening in the UK.

The limited cases of high losses which occur here, for which there is no ready explanation such as poor management or failure to control the varroa mite, are investigated in depth as part of the NBU's horizon-scanning work.

National Bee Unit: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding he proposes to provide to the National Bee Unit in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [197597]

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what allocations were made to future funding for bee health in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [197461]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* Detailed allocations have still to be finalised. The expectation is that funding for DEFRA's ongoing programme of support for bee health will be around the same level as previously. In the event of a need to respond to new serious threats, there are contingency arrangements in place for additional funding to be made available.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the likelihood of cases of bluetongue arising in 2008 and subsequent years; [197992]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likelihood of bluetongue overwintering in the UK. [197995]

Jonathan Shaw: Bluetongue disease is spread from animal to animal by midges. During the winter, midge activity is at its lowest, and low temperatures mean that the virus is unlikely to replicate in the midges. As temperatures increase and midges become more active, it is likely that disease will re-emerge this year.

Experiences in northern Europe in 2007 showed that the virus reappeared in spring, with clinical cases being observed in June/July. Given our similar climate, we are preparing on the basis of a similar scenario in the UK this year.

The implementation of a vaccination programme could significantly reduce bluetongue virus circulation and limit its geographical distribution, contributing to its control and potential eradication at some point in the future. However, the future is uncertain and it is acknowledged that the UK may have to live with the threat of bluetongue for some time to come.

Further information about our control and vaccination strategy is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects a bluetongue vaccination programme to begin. [197996]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA placed an order with pharmaceutical company Intervet to supply 22.5 million doses of BTV-8 vaccine for use in England and Wales. Intervet has indicated that the first batches of vaccine are expected for delivery in May 2008.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Finance

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *(b)* other Treasury Ministers and *(c)* Treasury civil servants on funding for tackling bovine tuberculosis. [197904]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no recent discussions with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, other Treasury Ministers or officials on funding for tackling bovine TB.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make a cost-benefit assessment of the cattle-based control options recommended by the Independent Scientific Group on bovine tuberculosis; [197905]

(2) when he will make a substantive response to the recent Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee Report on the final report of the Independent Scientific Group on bovine tuberculosis. [197906]

Jonathan Shaw: We are grateful to both the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG) and the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee for their respective reports on bovine TB.

We are committed to making decisions on bovine TB control policies for the future which are based on the evidence available. There is a great deal to consider in the ISG and Select Committee's reports concerning both cattle-based TB control measures and the potential role of badger culling in controlling TB in cattle.

Once we have made a decision on the way forward we will respond to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.

Cattle

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1123W, on cattle, if he will make it his policy to collect information on the number and proportion of cows in the national herd which are being kept in zero-grazed conditions. [197110]

Jonathan Shaw: There are currently no plans to collect such information.

Climbing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution to the rural economy of *(a)* mountaineering and *(b)* hill walking. [197466]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has not specifically assessed the contribution to the rural economy of hill walking or mountaineering. However, Natural England has published the results of a survey of leisure day visits in England in 2005 and these do provide an estimate of the value of walking, hill walking and rambling in rural areas. The estimated value, in 2005, of walking, hill walking and rambling in the countryside and along the coast was £1.325 billion.

Not all of this expenditure was made in the rural economy as, for example, many of the visits started from urban areas and involved spend on petrol and ticket fares. Also, this figure does not include overnight spend on accommodation, or spend by overseas visitors. Although mountaineering activity was captured in this survey, the numbers of participants interviewed as part of the telephone survey of 46,000 households was too low to make a statistically reliable estimate of spending specifically associated with this activity.

Youth Hostels: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department gave to capital infrastructure projects for youth hostels in each of the last 30 years. [197664]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA was created in June 2001 and it does not have responsibility or provide direct funding for youth hostels.

Ivory: Trade

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to oppose the application from China to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to become a trading partner for the agreed ivory stockpiles; and if he will make a statement. [198349]

Joan Ruddock: Trading nation status can only be granted once all the conditions contained in Conference Resolution 10.10 (Rev14) have been complied with. The UK, along with our EU colleagues, will be looking at all information relevant to those conditions before coming to any conclusions. We will take into account all the information available to us, including that from Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Secretariat visits, third country visits and reports from non-governmental organisations, before taking any decision to approve or oppose China as a trading partner.

Laboratories: Capital Investment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what capital funding was provided for *(a)* Pirbright and *(b)* Weybridge laboratories in the last five years; and what future capital funding is planned. [197429]

Jonathan Shaw: Under a ministerial agreement made with the then Department of Trade and Industry, now the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, DEFRA agreed to provide a total of £67 million capital grant in aid funding during the period 2004-13 for the redevelopment of the Institute of Animal Health laboratory and Pirbright. To date the value of the funding DEFRA has provided is:

	£
2004-05	1,195,000
2005-06	3,700,000
2006-07	6,300,000
2007-08	6,537,000

DEFRA capital funding for the Veterinary Laboratories Agency located at Weybridge for the last five years and estimated funding for the current and future years is:

	£
2003-04	32,164,000
2004-05	16,993,000
2005-06	20,419,000
2006-07	18,034,000
2007-08	[1]19,000,000
2008-09	[1]10,000,000
2009-10	[1]2,000,000
2010-11	[1]2,000,000

[1] Estimated

Landfill

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was sent to landfill outside the region of origin in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by region of reception. [197397]

Joan Ruddock: The following tables provide data on inter-regional movements of waste for disposal to landfill in 2006, which is the most current data set available. The data relate to all types of waste deposited in landfill, including inert, hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

Environment Agency data come from site input returns provided by landfill operators. Providing information on the origin of waste is not mandatory. This is reflected in the 'not codeable' column, which shows the quantity of waste that does not have an identified origin.

The data only report on inputs from Scotland, Northern Ireland and 'Outside UK' since the Environment Agency does not have comparable information on deposits in those areas.

Inter-regional movements of waste for landfill disposal in 2006

	Origin of waste (from site input returns)							
Deposit region	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*
North East	*3,796,851	38,455	365,653	16,632	7,346	59,985	3,472	11,237
North West	129	*5,925,901	466	12,228	85,647	—	—	68
Yorkshire and Humber	28,834	508,257	*4,471,149	625,346	172	36	5	87
East Midlands	268	34,273	205,857	*4,516,410	28,726	196,988	118,775	25,671
West Midlands	—	3,550	—	179,493	*3,044,608	—	1,801	2,037
East of England	179	536	2,868	188,699	13,150	*7,020,162	2,858,121	655,428
London	29	25	14	5	543	275,983	*1,419,923	259,294
South East	—	50	54	22,828	201	153,720	2,257,928	*7,236,433
South West	—	8	10	1	66,811	23	1,412	137,592
Wales	—	111,192	13	—	16,038	—	7	3
Total	3,826,290	6,622,246	5,046,085	5,561,643	3,263,244	7,706,897	6,661,444	8,327,851

Inter-regional movements of waste for landfill disposal in 2006

	Origin of waste (from site input returns)							
Deposit region	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*
Total exports	29,439	696,344	574,937	1,045,233	218,635	686,734	5,241,521	1,091,418
Percentage home deposits	99	89	89	81	93	91	21	87

	Origin of waste (from site input returns)							
Deposit region	*South West*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*Outside UK*	*Not codeable*	*Total*	*Percentage un-coded*
North East	8,709	5,064	16,461	5,086	149,210	361,406	4,845,567	7
North West	—	25,432	14	29	—	3,458,760	9,508,675	36
Yorkshire and Humber	48	56	10	—	227	1,157,114	6,791,339	17
East Midlands	853	899	70	49	159	1,846,937	6,975,935	26
West Midlands	3,098	6,753	—	—	—	2,533,322	5,774,663	44
East of England	1,524	278	227	—	75	456,212	11,197,459	4
London	17	—	—	—	—	21,384	1,977,218	1
South East	363,141	—	—	—	—	1,944,754	11,979,108	16
South West	*5,447,675	109,469	—	—	—	123,987	5,886,990	2
Wales	5,826	*3,886,036	—	—	—	—	4,019,116	0
Total	5,830,892	4,033,986	16,781	5,164	149,671	11,903,876	68,936,070	17
Total exports	383,217	147,950	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage home deposits	93	96	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes
Movements from one region to another can be read from the grid. Inputs to sites in North East from other regions are located along the top row, and exports from North East to other regions are shown in the left hand column.
Waste that is produced and deposited in the same region ('home deposits') are indicated by '*'.
Source
Environment Agency Operator Site Returns

Packaging

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the whole-life carbon footprint of *(a)* paper and *(b)* plastic bags. [194606]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency is carrying out a study to consider the environmental impacts of a range of carrier bags (including disposable plastic carrier bags and bio-degradable alternatives) over their entire life cycle, from raw material extraction through to product manufacture, use and final disposal. The study is due to report later this year.

Recycling: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding was provided to local authorities to support recycling activities in each year since 1997. [197408]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The main sources of funding for local authorities' waste management services are revenue support grant (RSG) and national non-domestic rates (NNDR), distributed by central Government, and council tax. It is for local authorities to decide what proportion of this funding to invest in waste management services, including recycling. Other funding made available to authorities in England for waste management since 1997 is shown in the following table.

Funding provided

Scheme	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*£ million 2007-08*
Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund	50	90	90	45	—	—
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	—	—	—	40	105	110
Grant to Relieve Spending Pressures on Waste	—	—	20	—	—	—
Reward Only Incentive Pilots	—	—	—	5	—	—
Private Finance Initiative	70	100	125	130	255	280
Local Communications Fund (WRAP)	—	—	16.2	—	—	—
Behavioural Change Local Fund (WRAP)	—	—	—	—	13	—

Seals: Hunting

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the European Food Safety Authority's December 2007 report on the animal welfare aspects of seal hunting. [198668]

Jonathan Shaw: Seal management is a devolved matter. My Department has noted the findings and

recommendations of the European Food Safety Authority's December 2007 report Animal Welfare Aspects of the killing and skinning of seals.

There is no commercial or recreational hunting of seals in England. Government policy is to permit only limited local management of seals where specific interactions between individual seals and particular fisheries or fish farms may result in serious damage to fisheries or property.

The Government fully implement the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, including prohibiting the use of certain methods of killing seals. The limited seal management undertaken is broadly in line with the relevant general recommendations of the EFSA report.

Sugar: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has accepted the application by British Sugar for restructuring aid to the sugar industry in respect of the proportion of aid to be distributed to the contractor industry. [197403]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The application for restructuring aid submitted by British Sugar has been determined to be eligible and the European Commission informed. The proportion of the processor's aid to be reserved for beet growers and machinery contractors affected by the restructuring is set by the appropriate Council regulation at 10 per cent. How this part of the aid is allocated between the two groups is for individual member states to decide on the basis of objective criteria determined after consultation with the interested parties.

DEFRA is urgently taking this forward. Eligible beet growers will also share in an additional payment in respect of the tonnage of beet quota renounced.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mobile phone companies share masts; what arrangements are in place to encourage mobile phone companies to share masts; and if she will make a statement. [195299]

Mr. Iain Wright: The five UK mobile network operators all participate in mast sharing arrangements with each other and with other companies such as Arqiva, which owns a number of sites.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications makes clear that applicants for new masts should provide evidence that they have explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure and that such evidence should accompany any prior approval or planning application made to the local planning authority. If the evidence regarding the consideration of sharing existing masts and sites is not considered satisfactory, the planning authority, or the Secretary of State on appeal, may be justified in refusing prior approval or planning permission for the development. Site sharing may not always be possible or the most appropriate environmental solution in every case. The ability to site share may be limited by a range of possible factors including the extent of the coverage required, topographical features and reception interference issues.

The mobile operators have established a computer program which monitors site-share usage and is used for making site-share requests between each other.

Arson

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deliberate *(a)* property and *(b)* vehicle fires were attended by each fire and rescue service in each year since 1997. [198061]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of deliberate property (i.e. dwellings and other buildings) and vehicle fires, in England, as attended by Fire and Rescue Services, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest calendar year for which information is available), is displayed in Table 1. Data for 2006 are provisional and subject to change.

Table 1: Deliberate fires[1] by year and location, England, 1997 to 2006[2]

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
FRS area	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*
England	26,221	35,162	24,357	40,090	25,472	51,888	25,487	58,979	27,653	67,158
England Non-Met counties	12,763	17,519	12,131	20,505	12,471	26,564	12,867	30,701	14,125	34,545
Avon	448	887	411	1,158	435	1,669	513	2,057	600	2,540
Bedfordshire	261	513	247	533	225	727	246	964	221	865
Berkshire	256	509	213	561	203	720	237	865	244	944
Buckinghamshire	307	562	269	653	279	808	299	890	268	1,033
Cambridgeshire	303	504	316	537	319	827	309	880	315	813
Cheshire	513	432	471	567	472	619	518	667	532	946
Cleveland	615	571	523	755	607	1,125	655	1,207	690	1,483
Cornwall	117	178	147	162	107	169	137	237	158	310
Cumbria	216	300	188	344	252	372	193	430	247	380
Derbyshire	328	507	324	567	336	805	310	802	322	942

Table 1: Deliberate fires[1] by year and location, England, 1997 to 2006[2]

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
FRS area	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*
Devon	379	443	308	462	342	499	298	556	392	614
Dorset	250	286	206	317	231	401	227	493	256	589
Durham	420	507	366	657	308	732	287	749	383	751
East Sussex	338	455	325	520	293	716	368	882	403	918
Essex	396	649	379	724	471	961	574	1,559	553	1,740
Gloucestershire	179	264	168	256	159	290	185	353	154	464
Hampshire	530	526	560	710	511	802	436	839	501	822
Hereford and Worcester	272	299	218	311	218	415	223	465	287	450
Hertfordshire	333	431	281	466	321	677	347	845	345	885
Humberside	668	722	639	902	681	1,186	595	1,092	650	1,379
Isle of Wight	58	22	45	10	42	21	54	19	70	32
Kent	607	1,086	578	1,397	595	1,864	555	2,373	665	2,143
Lancashire	881	821	933	918	1,101	1,229	1,081	1,169	1,212	1,366
Leicestershire	460	752	496	819	431	1,075	415	1,063	527	1,172
Lincolnshire	167	263	197	364	230	373	285	421	198	473
Norfolk	309	411	287	436	244	489	285	696	286	738
North Yorkshire	189	255	193	252	185	384	198	450	219	553
Northamptonshire	326	550	338	632	337	763	363	941	406	954
Northumberland	178	272	172	236	165	327	166	309	196	372
Nottinghamshire	512	818	551	1,062	624	1,562	589	1,772	680	2,672
Oxfordshire	217	372	188	478	197	544	223	686	170	566
Shropshire	155	309	185	309	163	315	179	409	222	512
Somerset	148	226	120	248	141	374	155	411	165	513
Staffordshire	421	653	412	809	398	955	453	968	497	1,137
Suffolk	168	164	139	148	143	222	176	326	219	400
Surrey	215	329	185	381	164	505	194	636	197	659
Warwickshire	163	343	171	397	151	461	196	511	150	568
West Sussex	261	239	223	291	239	389	269	435	343	540
Wiltshire	198	89	159	159	151	192	174	275	181	306
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
England – Met Counties	13,458	17,644	12,226	19,585	13,001	25,324	12,620	28,278	13,528	32,613
Greater Manchester	2,642	4,042	2,439	4,130	2,738	5,166	2,529	5,717	2,676	7,017
Merseyside	1,725	1,569	1,606	1,838	1,836	2,568	1,865	3,124	1,787	3,473
South Yorkshire	677	1,562	740	1,901	715	2,254	755	2,125	877	2,383
Tyne and Wear	1,372	1,581	1,201	1,738	1,145	2,068	1,110	1,953	1,188	2,259
West Midlands	2,430	3,044	2,078	3,110	2,102	4,154	2,089	4,423	2,127	4,834
West Yorkshire	1,601	2,874	1,459	3,491	1,420	4,169	1,383	4,817	1,673	6,171
Greater London	3,011	2,971	2,703	3,378	3,045	4,945	2,889	6,118	3,200	6,475

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
FRS area	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*
England	25,144	66,018	26,077	61,088	22,769	46,660	19,848	40,335	18,254	34,893
England – Non-Met counties	13,223	34,976	13,653	32,598	12,398	25,308	10,784	22,232	9,896	19,492
Avon	492	2,147	574	1,838	498	1,502	417	1,373	385	1,258
Bedfordshire	275	968	238	735	261	476	209	434	203	354
Berkshire	239	717	231	628	219	561	143	471	163	413
Buckinghamshire	260	843	288	883	257	675	259	615	222	475
Cambridgeshire	289	1,034	314	961	299	721	245	620	267	576
Cheshire	524	980	496	924	519	892	440	1,011	388	847
Cleveland	731	1,688	656	1,397	495	1,083	397	719	376	628
Cornwall	119	349	109	359	143	271	122	210	98	211
Cumbria	178	408	195	408	163	359	170	330	157	234
Derbyshire	338	1,020	392	894	297	574	289	535	254	456
Devon	373	614	388	623	311	586	310	447	281	429
Dorset	213	515	202	507	173	353	165	320	135	251

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006[2]	
FRS area	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*	*Properties*	*Road vehicles*
Durham	320	823	300	797	287	583	228	535	232	442
East Sussex	368	841	427	695	408	499	301	414	256	340
Essex	536	1,598	524	1,537	474	1,117	377	883	372	768
Gloucestershire	181	532	185	549	171	534	133	386	153	330
Hampshire	412	838	440	815	382	644	309	640	251	682
Hereford and Worcester	210	518	189	426	203	411	156	259	155	304
Hertfordshire	306	891	334	829	282	645	265	531	195	445
Humberside	666	1,695	693	2,079	671	1,582	520	1,387	541	1,073
Isle of Wight	40	45	44	36	38	27	59	21	49	35
Kent	607	1,896	682	1,800	595	1,454	555	1,532	468	1,250
Lancashire	1,040	1,392	1,183	1,274	994	1,043	939	911	855	810
Leicestershire	444	1,171	381	926	326	680	301	510	274	471
Lincolnshire	183	575	194	584	196	463	181	412	171	304
Norfolk	286	732	301	711	285	482	229	471	240	380
North Yorkshire	219	569	167	520	163	347	161	451	158	349
Northamptonshire	415	1,042	392	1,052	384	805	382	755	297	814
Northumberland	188	351	196	390	155	270	125	173	126	181
Nottinghamshire	762	3,064	847	2,499	790	1,707	629	1,346	503	1,120
Oxfordshire	185	565	165	556	171	457	156	426	135	385
Shropshire	207	405	200	346	170	323	190	213	166	253
Somerset	166	612	181	492	172	285	128	247	120	231
Staffordshire	454	1,087	451	1,112	422	906	397	817	367	735
Suffolk	178	375	163	358	150	326	165	309	142	282
Surrey	224	701	282	697	253	539	201	476	252	448
Warwickshire	171	666	200	616	171	553	142	476	141	405
West Sussex	265	474	295	495	296	364	242	341	211	316
Wiltshire	149	237	154	248	154	209	147	225	136	207
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
England Met Counties	11,921	31,042	12,424	28,490	10,371	21,351	9,064	18,103	8,358	15,402
Greater Manchester	2,374	5,821	2,485	5,132	1,930	4,001	1,811	3,732	1,726	3,206
Merseyside	1,652	3,416	1,728	3,443	1,413	2,806	1,090	2,127	1,038	1,729
South Yorkshire	756	3,098	903	3,098	822	2,280	707	2,040	686	1,985
Tyne and Wear	1,057	2,234	1,092	2,056	827	1,514	748	1,354	684	1,264
West Midlands	1,885	4,612	1,929	4,272	1,584	3,301	1,393	2,704	1,256	1,990
West Yorkshire	1,378	6,482	1,377	5,617	1,280	3,620	1,073	2,722	1,042	2,349
Greater London	2,819	5,379	2,910	4,872	2,515	3,829	2,242	3,424	1,928	2,879

[1] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003
[2] Provisional

Citizen's Advice Bureau: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department provided for the citizen's advice bureau in each of the local housing allowance pathfinder areas to support money advice services. [181374]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The DWP has paid out around £59 million for the overall implementation of the local housing allowance in the local authorities. This money was for a range of implementation activity. The payments were made in August 2007 and included funds for money management advice, IT costs, training, communications and advertising.

As each local authority decides whether to provide in house money advice services or to contract this out, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of how much funding was used by individual local authorities in support of the services provided by citizen's advice bureau.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on council tax: valuation, what steps were taken as a result of the consequentials identified following the data enhancement that took place in the Council Tax Revaluation 2007 programme; and what estimate the group valuation officers made of the number of properties involved in the programme. [193917]

John Healey: No detailed analysis was undertaken and any action was dealt with as part of the normal duty to maintain the current council tax lists.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on council tax: valuation, how many consequentials following data enhancement were identified by the Valuation Office Agency; and what actions her Department has taken as a result of such identifications. [193976]

John Healey: The issue was one of potential banding changes as a consequence of data enhancement. No detailed analysis was undertaken and they were dealt with as part of the normal duty to maintain the current council tax lists.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many disabled facilities grant awards were made in each of the last five years. [196987]

Mr. Iain Wright: The disabled facilities grant is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people. Local authorities in England report their annual disabled facilities grant expenditure and the number of recipients of disabled facilities grant through the housing strategy statistical appendix. The 2006-07 housing strategy statistical appendix report was recently published. The following table sets out the number of disabled facilities grant recipients in England from 2002-03 to 2006-07:

	Number of recipients
2002-03	29,314
2003-04	34,925
2004-05	38,552
2005-06	34,955
2006-07	37,266

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the statement of 25 February, *Official Report*, columns 66-67WS, on the national strategy for housing in an ageing society: disabled facilities grant (funding), what guidance will be issued to local authorities to ensure that funding provided for the disabled facilities grant (DFG) is spent on DFG related purposes once the ring fencing for this funding is removed. [196997]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* The removal of the ringfence in respect of the funding for disabled facilities grant will be piloted in a number of local authorities from 2008-09. The pilots will be evaluated and lessons learnt through this process. This will inform good practice guidance for all other local authorities before the ring fence is removed in 2010-11.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many disabled facilities grant awards have been made at the maximum level of £25,000 in the last five years. [196998]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* The disabled facilities grant is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people. Local authorities in England report their total annual disabled facilities grant expenditure and the number of recipients of disabled facilities grant through the housing strategy statistical appendix. This does not include information on the individual level of grants awarded.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many disabled facilities grant awards the Government estimate will be made at the new maximum level of £30,000 in the three years after its introduction in April 2008; and what the effect on costs will be. [196999]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* In 2004, the Government launched a cross departmental review of the disabled facilities grant programme. Bristol university were commissioned to carry out an independent study of the programme and make recommendations for change. One of the recommendations for change was to increase the maximum level for a disabled facilities grant. Bristol estimated that increasing the limit from £25,000 to £30,000 would impact on the national budget in the region of £4.3 million. It is estimated that this increase will affect in the region of 1,000 grant applications each year. The national budget for the disabled facilities grant programme increases by £25 million in 2008-09 and then by £10 million in each of the following two years. This increase meets the cost of the changes made to the programme as well as helping to address the continued growth in demand for adaptations.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 66-67WS, on the national strategy for housing in an ageing society: disabled facilities grant (funding), how many disabled facilities grant awards the Government estimate will be made in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [197107]

Mr. Iain Wright: The disabled facilities grant is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people. Local authorities in England report their annual disabled facilities grant expenditure and the number of recipients of disabled facilities grant through the housing strategy statistical appendix.

The figures provided by the 2007 housing strategy statistical appendix estimates a total of 42,014 will receive disabled facilities grants in 2008-09. The Department does not hold estimated numbers beyond 2008-09.

Energy Performance Certificates: Complaints

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what complaints procedures are available to those paying for energy performance certificates. [193042]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Details of the complaints procedure available to those paying for energy performance certificates are set out in the accreditation scheme standards for Domestic Energy Assessors (DEAs) and Commercial Energy

Assessors (CEAs) respectively. A copy of the accreditation scheme standards for DEAs is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/319273

The accreditation scheme standards for CEAs are currently being updated. They will be published on the CLG website shortly.

Fire Services: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire-fighters there were in each local authority area in the East Midlands in each year since 1997. [187034]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, for each Fire and Rescue Service area within East Midlands, is shown as follows:

Firefighters[1] in East Midlands 1997-2006

	Derbyshire	Leicestershire	Lincolnshire	Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire	Total East Midlands
1997	841	701	628	520	921	3,611
1998	859	723	588	503	891	3,564
1999	836	710	662	518	923	3,649
2000	863	718	682	517	922	3,702
2001	834	730	674	517	930	3,685
2002	846	701	682	534	930	3,693
2003	808	696	690	535	945	3,674
2004	832	694	716	531	936	3,709
2005	829	739	701	539	888	3,696
2006	805	672	724	517	911	3,629

[1] Includes all roles of fire officers including chief officers.

Numbers of firefighters can fluctuate when firefighters retire and are not immediately replaced. These figures provide a snapshot of figures at one point during the year.

Flood Control: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria her Department will use for allocating European Union solidarity flood funding. [198396]

John Healey: The recommendation to award the UK funding from the European Union Solidarity Fund to assist with recovery from the floods of 2007 was approved by the European Union Budgetary Committee on 28 February 2008. We are currently working alongside the European Commission to draft the implementation agreement which will allow the money to be paid to the UK, and we expect to receive the money in spring.

The nature of the EUSF is that it is to reimburse emergency operations undertaken by public bodies, including central Government.

Regulations governing the EUSF state that it can only be spent on works in the following four categories:

immediate restoration to working order of infrastructure and plant in the fields of energy, water and waste water, telecommunications, transport, health and education—in most circumstances costs relating to energy, water, waste water and telecommunications will not be covered as these costs are borne by the private utilities companies;

providing temporary accommodation and funding rescue services to meet the immediate needs of the population concerned;

immediate securing of preventive infrastructures and measures of immediate protection of the cultural heritage; and

immediate cleaning up of disaster-stricken areas, including natural zones.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average amount of time taken for a conveyancing search to be completed in *(a)* Milton Keynes unitary authority and *(b)* England, (i) before the introduction of the home improvement pack legislation and (ii) after the introduction of the legislation. [197340]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: My Department does not hold the information in the form requested. Based on our survey of local authority property searches services of April 2007, we estimate that on average, property searches took five days in England. As part of this survey, Milton Keynes unitary authority reported an average time of seven days.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* home condition reports have been commissioned to date. [198259]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 1 April 2008]*: The commercial and private nature of a home owner's decision when to place their property on the market for sale means this information is not available in a robust form. We therefore do not hold this information centrally in the format requested.

Housing: Disabled

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by the London borough of Enfield on improving homes for people with disabilities in each of the last three years. [196788]

Mr. Iain Wright: The disabled facilities grant is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people. Local authorities in England report their annual disabled facilities grant expenditure through the housing strategy statistical appendix. The 2006-07 housing strategy statistical appendix report was published recently. The 2004-05 to 2006-07 expenditure by the London borough of Enfield is provided in the following table. Communities and Local Government provide 60 per cent. of the value of the disabled facilities grant to local authorities. Local authorities fund the remaining 40 per cent. from their own resources. Expenditure figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

The following table sets out disabled facilities grant expenditure for the London borough of Enfield.

	2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Total expenditure	1,860,000	1,203,000	1,689,000
CLG contribution	734,000	844,000	915,000

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of each report on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund prepared by each of the Government Offices for the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. [193774]

John Healey: Government Offices do not systematically prepare such reports, although information on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund may form part of Local Strategic Partnership reporting.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196578]

Mr. Timms: Contracts awarded to the suppliers *(a)* to *(e)* are listed in the following table. Details of contracts awarded to other consultancy firms *(f)* can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Month	Supplier	Purpose	Value (£)
2007			
April	PWC	Analysis, evaluation and advice on CSA debt	139,334
May	PWC	NLP - focus groups on the quality of ESOL training to unemployed immigrants	23,070
May	PWC	Management support to 'Tell us Once' project	61,230
May	McKinsey	Assurance review of CSA computer system	135,000
May	PWC	Measurement of admin costs	42,000
June	PWC	NLP - City strategy review	36,045
June	PWC	Departmental financial advisors	900,000
July	Deloitte	Investment advice to the enabling retirement savings programme	193,133
July	Deloitte	Child maintenance redesign	308,083
July	Deloitte	Child maintenance redesign	478,386
July	Deloitte	HR operating model	417,348
August	PWC	Support on resilience of the Pensions Protection Fund	20,000
August	KPMG	Financial support on Remploy/TU negotiations	87,000
August	Deloitte	PADA design and implementation	2,000,000
August	Deloitte	Child maintenance redesign	478,386
August	Deloitte	Business design and design capability	850,000
September	PWC	Analysis of costs and benefits of 'Tell us Once'	970,000
September	Ernst and Young	Data protection advice	49,563
October	None	—	—
November	PWC	Support to CPS programme	514,560
November	Deloitte	Support to CPS programme	1,637,981
November	Deloitte	Application Delivery Centre	342,900
December	None	—	—

Month	Supplier	Purpose	Value (£)
2008			
January	Deloitte	Child maintenance redesign—debt provisions	105,705
January	Deloitte	New ways of working implementation	189,510
February	PWC	Review to improve DWP's performance and development system PDS diversity and equality performance	26,695
February	PWC	Development of a framework and toolkit for corporate, cohesive and capable boards at DWP	39,183
February	Deloitte	Risk management support to RAD	50,000
March	PWC	Support to conduct equal pay audit	21,100

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received incapacity benefits or severe disablement allowance on the grounds of dependency on (*a*) drugs and (*b*) alcohol in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [185923]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government's drugs strategy was published on 27 February 2008. It stresses the need for the benefit system to support re-integration and personalisation. We will ensure that it provides the right level of support, and also creates incentives for people with drug problems to move towards treatment.

We will put in place arrangements which require drugs misusers on benefits who are not already in treatment to attend a discussion with an appropriate specialist treatment provider or partner organisation.

Entitlement to incapacity benefit is not linked to any specific diagnosis or condition. Entitlement, which is assessed by the personal capability assessment, depends on the effect that a person's condition has on their ability to carry out a number of activities relevant to work. Most people with drug or alcohol dependency also have other conditions, such as mental illness; and it is these other conditions which result in entitlement to benefits.

We do record the diagnosis of incapacity that is written on a claimant's medical certificate. The table shows the number of people receiving incapacity benefits whose recorded diagnosis includes drug or alcohol dependency.

Working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claims which includes a recorded diagnosis of alcoholism or drug abuse from the claimant's medical certificate

Number as of May	Alcoholism	Drug abuse	Alcoholism as proportion of caseload	Drug Abuse as proportion of caseload
1997	26,800	21,900	1.03	0.84
1998	29,800	25,300	1.13	0.96
1999	32,500	27,900	1.23	1.05
2000	35,580	30,950	1.32	1.15
2001	38,660	36,230	1.40	1.32
2002	41,040	40,690	1.48	1.47
2003	43,420	43,890	1.57	1.58
2004	45,940	46,320	1.66	1.66
2005	47,740	47,980	1.74	1.75
2006	49,200	48,550	1.83	1.81
2007	51,410	49,890	1.94	1.89

Notes
1. May 1997 to May 1999 (inclusive) numbers are uprated to WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. May 2000 to May 2007 (inclusive) numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. May 1997 to May 1999 (inclusive) numbers are based on a 5 per cent. sample, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
5. These figures should be used as a guide to the current situation only.
6. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample and 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Medical Examinations: Sight Impaired

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all registered blind people are required to undertake a personal capability assessment. [195534]

Mr. Timms: Registered blind people are treated as meeting the threshold of incapacity for benefit purposes and are exempt from the personal capability assessment process.

New arrangements will apply when the work capability assessment for the Employment and Support Allowance is introduced in October this year.

Mineral Waters

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191249]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions currently has a single contract to supply DWP offices with water coolers, bottled water and associated services and equipment. Bottled water may also be provided for business meetings but is sourced from a variety of contracts and is not accounted for separately.

From April 2006 to March 2007, DWP purchased 3.4 million litres of bottled water. So far this year, from April 2007 to January 2008, DWP has purchased 2.9 million litres. Information prior to these dates is not available.

DWP is committed to phase out the use of bottled water for all business meetings and replace it with tap water. We are aiming to have this process in place by the summer of 2008.

New Deal for Disabled People

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have taken part in the new deal for disabled people *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in West Lancashire. [196857]

Mr. Timms: Nationally, 271,180 people started the new deal for disabled people between July 2001 and August 2007. In the same period, 490 people started the programme in the West Lancashire constituency.

Pensioners

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of measures introduced by his Department since 1997 on pensioners in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland. [198003]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Latest available information shows that average net incomes of pensioner households in the UK increased by 29 per cent. between 1996-97 and 2005-06, and average net incomes of pensioner households in the North East increased by 29 per cent. between 1994-95 to 1996-97 and 2003-04 to 2005-06. Information for the Tees Valley and Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland is not available.

The Government have introduced a number of measures since 1997 to help older people to enjoy a better standard of living, most notably the introduction of the minimum income guarantee and its successor pension credit. We have successively raised the pension credit standard minimum guarantee by earnings in every year since its introduction. For 2008 the standard minimum guarantee will rise to £124.05—an increase of 4.2 per cent.—more than keeping pace with earnings and prices.

In addition we have introduced winter fuel payments for those aged 60 and over, including an extra one-off payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over announced in the Budget on 12 March 2008.

We have also introduced free television licences for people aged over 75 and from April 2008 those over 60 will be entitled to free off-peak bus travel in England. We have committed to increasing the basic state pension by earnings by 2012, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, or by the end of the next Parliament.

As a result of the personal tax and benefit changes that we have introduced pensioner households nationally will be around £1,500 a year better off in 2008-09 than they would have been under the 1997 system. The poorest third of pensioner households will on average be around £2,100 a year better off.

Our new public service agreement 'Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life' demonstrates our commitment to ensure that the specific needs of the older population are given due priority.

Social Security Benefits: Recipients

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* London and *(b)* England in receipt of (i) jobseeker's allowance and (ii) incapacity benefit have been claiming benefit continuously for (A) more than three months, (B) more than six months, (C) more than a year and (D) more than two years. [189308]

Mr. Plaskitt: The most recent available information is in the following tables:

Jobseekers allowance claimants in England and London by duration of current claim, as at January 2008

	All	Up to 3 months	3 months up to 6 months	6 months up to 1 year	1 year and up to 2 years	2 years and up to 5 years	5 years and over
England	688,505	333,700	147,450	108,025	69,835	24,400	5,105
London	130,730	53,895	30,400	23,595	16,160	5,410	1,280

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest five; totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
Count of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in England and London by duration of current claim, As at May 2007

	All	Up to 3 months	3 months up to 6 months	6 months up to 1 year	1 year and up to 2 years	2 years and up to 5 years	5 years and over
England	2,166,480	105,600	91,420	135,500	189,720	440,810	1,203,400
London	311,410	14,500	13,750	21,020	29,170	69,990	162,980

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10; totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent WPLS

Social Security Benefits: Wales

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people claimed each type of benefit in *(a)* Aberavon constituency and *(b)* Wales in each year since 1979. [190221]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2002. Estimates for the proportion of the population are not available at parliamentary constituency level. The available information is in the following tables.

Working age and pensioner client groups, by statistical group and proportion (percentage) of adult population in Wales, as at May each year

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All benefits	947,340	949,200	944,530	945,710	949,070	948,240
Proportion	40.5	40.2	39.7	39.5	39.5	39.4
Job seekers	45,700	45,120	38,620	40,320	44,400	40,100
Proportion	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7
Incapacity benefits	223,970	221,220	216,800	212,140	206,880	200,540
Proportion	9.6	9.4	9.1	8.9	8.6	8.3
Lone parents	46,580	45,020	42,860	40,540	39,800	38,540
Proportion	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6
Carers	30,350	34,180	41,780	46,310	49,860	52,540
Proportion	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.2
Other income related benefit	93,770	94,270	134,090	143,110	144,850	145,380
Proportion	4.0	4.0	5.6	6.0	6.0	6.0
Disabled	138,000	142,900	128,630	126,520	129,430	133,590
Proportion	5.9	6.1	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.6
Bereaved	10,610	9,530	8,500	7,860	7,080	6,340
Proportion	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
State pension only	358,370	356,970	333,260	328,910	326,750	331,220
Proportion	15.3	15.1	14.0	13.8	13.6	13.8

Working age and pensioner client groups, by Statistical group in the Aberavon parliamentary constituency, as at May each year

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All	25,240	25,280	24,870	24,860	24,720	24,560
Job seekers	1,070	1,110	860	1,000	1,010	960
Incapacity benefits	7,550	7,520	7,340	7,230	6,920	6,700
Lone parent	1,320	1,300	1,220	1,190	1,170	1,180
Carers	1,110	1,310	1,580	1,780	1,980	2,090
Other income related benefits	2,590	2,580	3,640	3,810	3,960	3,920
Disabled	4,620	4,760	4,240	4,100	4,060	4,150
Bereaved	210	190	170	140	140	120
State pension only	6,770	6,530	5,830	5,620	5,480	5,450

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures for attendance allowance, carers allowance, and disability living allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example, because of an extended stay in hospital or an overlapping benefit).
4. Statistical Group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible.
Job Seeker: claimant on jobseekers allowance;
Incapacity benefits: claimant on incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance;
Lone Parent: claimant on income support with child under 16 and no partner;
Carer: claimant entitled to carer's allowance;
Other Income related benefit: claimant on income support or pension credit;
Disabled: claimant on attendance allowance or disability living allowance;
Bereaved: claimant on bereavement benefit or widow's benefit;
State Pension only: claimant in receipt of state pension only.
For example a claimant of disability living allowance and jobseekers allowance would appear in "job seeker", not in "disabled".
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. ONS mid-year population estimates.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Compensation

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government paid in compensation to Afghan nationals injured by British armed forces in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [198015]

Des Browne: Payments totalling $US 295,386 have been paid to Afghan nationals killed or injured by British armed forces in Afghanistan since 2001 as follows:

Financial year	*Total payments ($)*
2001-02	[illegible]
2002-03	35,000
2003-04	[illegible]
2004-05	[illegible]

Financial year	Total payments ($)
2005-06	[1]
2006-07	36,061
2007-08	224,325

[1] None recorded

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the duration of the contract with the US administration for its use of *(a)* RAF Menwith Hill and *(b)* RAF Fylingdales. [198155]

Des Browne: There is no contract for the use of RAF Menwith Hill. The base is made available to the United States Visiting Force under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement 1951, and other confidential arrangements.

The use of RAF Fylingdales to provide the US with ballistic missile early warning data is governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Concerning Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station at Fylingdales Moor, Yorkshire 1960. This agreement is scheduled to remain in force while the North Atlantic Treaty remains in force. The use of the upgraded early warning radar at RAF Fylingdales to provide data for the US ballistic missile defence system is governed by the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Ballistic Missile Defence. This agreement is scheduled to last for 25 years, and began in 2003.

Ammunition

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the UK's stockpile of cluster munitions is; and what the criteria is for their use. [198111]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. The use of cluster munitions, as with all munitions, is governed by international humanitarian law.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals in each branch of the armed forces participated in his Department's shared equity housing scheme. [197932]

Derek Twigg: The Department does not currently operate a shared equity housing scheme.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance the Defence Medical Services Department has issued to the armed forces overseas on preparing for an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [195353]

Derek Twigg: Guidance and information on infection control procedures for military establishments, both within the UK and overseas, is set down in the Defence Medical Services document "Pandemic Influenza: Infection Control Guidance for Military Settings", issued in October 2006, and based on Health Protection Agency guidance. In the event that the World Health Organisation declares a pandemic alert, Defence Medical Services personnel on operational deployment will work with military commanders to apply the guidance in-theatre.

In addition, MOD has recently produced a "Pandemic Influenza Guide", to enable defence personnel to make informed judgements on what to do should an influenza pandemic occur. Two leaflets have also been produced, summarising key aspects of the guidance; TLBs and Trading Funds will be arranging promulgation to their staff shortly.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many forces' widows whose husbands retired before 31 March 1973 were receiving an armed forces pension scheme pension at the latest date for which figures are available. [197893]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons figures on the number of service pensions paid are not included in UK defence statistics. [197895]

Derek Twigg: Figures on the number of service pensions paid are not included in the UK Defence statistics as there has been no past requirement for the Defence Analytical Services Agency to routinely process information on the armed forces pension scheme.

Armed Forces: Schools

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the National Union of Teachers on the provision of materials on *(a)* the armed forces and *(b)* Iraq to schools; and what steps have been taken following such discussions. [196606]

Derek Twigg: No discussions have taken place between MOD and the NUT.

Armed Forces: Transexuality

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Tri Service Draft on Transgender Service Personnel. [198200]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will place a copy of the policy document in the Library of the House once it has been finalised.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median and *(c)* mode length of service of (i) UK nationals and (ii) non-UK nationals in the British Army was in each of the last 10 years. [194551]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This question has been assumed as mean, median and mode return of service and is therefore based on the length of service of those that outflowed during the period.

Non-UK nationals have only been recruited into the Army in significant numbers since 1999 and so a comparatively small number have had the opportunity to serve a full career. This is reflected in the number that have outflowed and the mean, mode and median calculations.

The following tables show the mean, mode and median length of service on outflow for trained regular army direct entry and late entry officers and other ranks. Because of the very small population of outflow from non-UK nationals this information is not comparable with the outflow from UK nationals.

Direct entry officers

	UK nationals				*Non-UK nationals*			
Financial year of outflow	*Mean*	*Mode*	*Median*	*Number of outflow*	*Mean*	*Mode*	*Median*	*Number of outflow*
2006-07[1]	16 years 2 months	6 years	16 years	710	13 years 9 months	4 and 9 years	9 years	20
2005-06	17 years	6 and 34 years	14 years	660	11 years 5 months	5 and 6 years	7 years	30
2004-05	16 years 9 months	6 years	14 years	630	11 years 2 months	4 years	6 years	20
2003-04	17 years 3 months	5 and 34 years	16 years	570	13 years 6 months	4 and 34 years	8 years	10
2002-03	17 years 11 months	34 years	16 years	570	7 years 10 months	34 years	5 years	20
2001-02	17 years 4 months	34 years	16 years	650	16 years 11 months	6 years	10 years	10
2000-01	16 years	4 years	12 years	650	13 years 4 months	16 years	11 years	20
1999-2000	16 years 7 months	34 years	12 years	630	11 years 10 months	6 years	8 years	20
1998-99	14 years 11 months	4 years	9 years	750	11 years 3 months	5 and 8 years	8 years	20
1997-98	14 years 11 months	6 years	9 years	650	13 years 4 months	7 years	8 years	20

Late entry officers

	UK nationals				*Non-UK nationals*			
Financial year of outflow	*Mean*	*Mode*	*Median*	*Number of outflow*	*Mean*	*Mode*	*Median*	*Number of outflow*
2006-07[1]	9 years 6 months	3 and 4 years	9 years	260	10 years 6 months	7 and 8 years	8 years	10
2005-06	10 years 6 months	6 years	10 years	280	10 years 8 months	4 years	10 years	10
2004-05	10 years 10 months	14 years	11 years	230	11 years 4 months	6 and 10 years	10 years	10
2003-04	11 years 8 months	15 and 16 years	12 years	182	11 years 10 months	[2]—	9 years	0
2002-03	11 years 11 months	15 years	12 years	200	17 years 3 months	16 years	17 years	0
2001-02	12 years 3 months	15 years	12 years	220	19 years 3 months	19 years	19 years	0
2000-01	12 years	14 years	12 years	210	14 years 6 months	[2]—	14 years	0
1999-2000	11 years 8 months	6 years	11 years	190	14 years 3 months	[2]—	15 years	0
1998-99	11 years 11 months	5 years	12 years	230	9 years 10 months	[2]—	5 years	0
1997-98	10 years 2 months	5 years	9 years	260	12 years	11 years	11 years	0

Other ranks

	UK nationals				*Non-UK nationals*			
Financial year of outflow	*Mean*	*Mode*	*Median*	*Number of outflow*	*Mean*	*Mode*	*Median*	*Number of outflow*
2006/07[1]	10 years 2 months	22 years	6 years	9,210	5 years 5 months	4 years	4 years	420
2005-06	10 years 6 months	22 years	6 years	10,130	5 years 6 months	4 years	4 years	290
2004-05	9 years 5 months	22 years	6 years	10,420	4 years 8 months	4 years	3 years	250
2003-04	9 years 5 months	22 years	6 years	9,220	4 years 1 month	1 year	3 years	190
2002-03	9 years 11 months	22 years	6 years	9,370	6 years 8 months	3 years	4 years	160
2001-02	9 years 9 months	22 years	6 years	9,570	6 years 7 months	22 years	5 years	130

Other ranks

	UK nationals				*Non-UK nationals*			
Financial year of outflow	*Mean*	*Mode*	*Median*	*Number of outflow*	*Mean*	*Mode*	*Median*	*Number of outflow*
2000-01	9 years 11 months	22 years	7 years	9,630	8 years 3 months	3 years	4 years	110
1999-2000	10 years	22 years	7 years	9,440	11 years	22 years	8 years	110
1998-99	9 years 9 months	22 years	7 years	10,100	9 years 6 months	3 years	6 years	100
1997-98	9 years 9 months	22 years	7 years	9,560	10 years 8 months	22 years	7 years	100

[1] The financial year 2006-07 is for an 11 month period from 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007.
[2] Due to insufficient numbers of outflow we are unable to publish the mode without disclosing sensitive personal data.
Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 to prevent disclosure of sensitive personal data.
2. '0' Denotes zero or rounded to zero.
3. UK nationals equal personnel with a nationality at birth of UK or UK dependency.
4. Non-UK Nationals equal personnel with a nationality at birth of Commonwealth(excluding UK), Eire and other.

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 652W, on Committee of Permanent Representatives, whether each agenda item listed was decided as an *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* I or *(d)* false B Point. [196713]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Committee of Permanent Representatives H considers agenda items as either "I points" (agreed without discussion) or "II points" (items scheduled for debate). There are no items considered as A, B or false B points.

My answer on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 652W, set out which items were considered as "I points" and which were considered as "II points".

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's outstanding offset obligations are in respect of previous procurement exercises conducted since 1997; what the unfulfilled value was in each case; when the decision to undertake each exercise was taken; what the *(a)* originally anticipated and *(b)* currently anticipated completion date is of each; and if he will make a statement. [197738]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence holds no industrial participation (IP) obligations. Since 1997, 13 IP commitments have been made by offshore companies relating to defence procurements. 12 of these are outstanding with a combined value of £526 million. These are listed as follows, along with commencement dates and planned dates for completion.

Programme	*Start date*	*Completion date*
ASTOR	February 1999	April 2011
BSFM	August 2007	August 2011
C-17	August 2006	December 2010
Chinook Support	December 2006	December 2011
Javelin	December 2002	March 2013
Javelin (Training)	May 2003	March 2013
MTADS/PNVS	May 2005	December 2010
NLAW	January 2002	January 2017
Litening Pods	November 2006	November 2010
Shielder	September 2006	September 2009
Soothsayer	August 2003	August 2011
Watchkeeper	October 2005	October 2012

Departmental Property

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the locations are of accommodation sold by his Department in each year since 1993; and if he will make a statement. [196971]

Derek Twigg: Details of all Ministry of Defence (MOD) accommodation sold as far back as 1993 are not available, as central records were not kept until 2000. However, the following table provides details of MOD property sold in the UK since 2000.

Financial year beginning	*Site*	*Town*
2006	Agricultural Land Disposal (2) (DCSA Forest Moor)	Harrogate
	Monkmoors Disposal Area (DE Eskmeals)	Millom
	Higham Grange—OMU (DCSA Radio Inskip)	Preston
	Administration Site (RAF Boulmer Remainder of Old Admin Site)	Boulmer
	Rawcliffe PSD (UNITER Building Rawcliffe Bridge)	Goole
	Agricultural Land Disposal (3) (DCSA Radio Forest Moor)	Harrogate
	Monkmoors Disposal Area (Garage No. 2, Hycemoor) (DE Eskmeals)	Millom
	Monkmoors Disposal Area (Garage No. 5, Hycemoor) (DE Eskmeals)	Millom
	Meagill (Woodland) (DCSA Radio Forest Moor)	Blubberhouses

Financial year beginning	*Site*	*Town*
	Killymeal Hse, Dungannon	Dungannon
	Aberdeen—Ashwood Circle 23-37	Aberdeen
	Arbroath Condor Drive	Arbroath
	Benbecula—Tuzo Close MQs	Balivanich
	Inverness—Dev Site-Raigmore Ave—Plot 2	Inverness
	Cupar—Tarvitt Drive North	Cupar
	Cupar—Tarvitt Drive East	Cupar
	Cupar—Tarvitt Drive South	Cupar
	Cupar—Tarvitt Drive Centre	Cupar
	Portpatrick—Ground Monitor Station	Portpatrick
	Penicuik—Parkhead Lodge	Glencorse
	Forres—Thornhill	Forres
	Forres—Thornhill Estate Properties—With DE for Disposal	Forres
	Forres—Thornhill Estate Properties	Forres
	Garelochhead—Rowmore Cottages	Garelochhead
	Rosneath Grass Verge	Rosneath
	Paisley—Lammermuir Drive	Paisley
	Perth—Stormont Road SFA (Phase 3)	Scone
	(Peterhead) Invernettie Estate Properties—Operational	Peterhead
	Boddam—The Sheilings Estate Properties—with DE for Disposal—Phase 4 (part) (No. 5 and 7)	Boddam
	Saxa Vord—17, 20-29 and 53-76 Settlers Hill	Haroldswick
	Irvine Dundonald Cres	Irvine
	Lossiemouth—Development Site	Lossiemouth
	Forres—Thornhill	Forres
	Lossiemouth—St. Gerardines Road	Lossiemouth
	Perth—Stormont Road SFA (Phase 3)	Scone
	Edinburgh—Cramond Place Evens SFA Properties—With DE for Disposal	Edinburgh
	Edinburgh—Polton Estate	Edinburgh
	Saxa Vord—17, 20-29 and 53-76 Settlers Hill	Haroldswick
	Poor Wood ATE Caerwent	Caerwent
	UNITER Building ATE Templeton	Templeton
	Army Medals Office, Droitwich	Droitwich Spa
	West Raynham (tech site)	West Raynham
	West Raynham (Former owner sale—Townsend)	West Raynham
	Families Club	Norwich
	RAF Stoke Holy Cross	Poringland
	South Creake Seismic Station	South Creake
	RAF Neatishead	Neatishead
	RAF Coltishall and Sewage Treatment Works	Norwich
	Rushley Cottage	Great Wakering
	Land adjoining 23 Hillside Crescent (Manchester SFA)	Ashton under Lyne
	Lossiemouth—Cromarty Place	Lossiemouth
	Elgin—Shaw Place	Elgin
	Lossiemouth	Lossiemouth
	West Raynham ('Former owner sale'—Overman)	West Raynham
	Higham Grange Nissen Hut (DCSA Radio Inskip)	Preston
	16 Hillside Crescent Manchester SFA	Ashton under Lyne
	17 Hillside Crescent Manchester SFA	Ashton under Lyne
	8 Ladysmith Road Manchester SFA	Ashton under Lyne
	Land adjoining No. 16 Hillside Crescent Manchester SFA	Ashton under Lyne
	Barrack—Carpet Store	Norwich
	18 Hillside Crescent Manchester SFA	Ashton under Lyne

Financial year beginning	Site	Town
	Mahon Road, Portadown	Portadown
	Higham Grange—Nissen Hut—Additional (DCSA Radio Inskip)	Preston
	West Raynham (tech site)	West Raynham
	Halton Hospital—Disposal Site	Wendover
	Queens Gate	Aldershot
	General Aviation Area (Part)	Aldershot
	Whitewall Creek—Chatham	Frindsbury
	Maidstone ACF HQ (Maidstone TA)	Maidstone
	Guillemont Fields and Rhine Banks Estate (part)	Aldershot
	Access to Riverside Cottage	Upper Upnor, Rochester
	Halton Tennis Centre	Halton
	Sportsground at Uckfield Road	Crowborough
	Driving Test Centre (Land at North Lane)	Aldershot
	Longcott Road Plots	Shrivenham
	Northern Parade	Portsmouth
	Clayhall Cemetery	Gosport
	RM Dunkeswell South (Plots 1a and 1b)	Honiton
	DMC Plymouth (Ernsettle House)	Plymouth
	Bullpoint—School Site	Plymouth
	RM Dunkeswell North	Honiton
	St. Mawgan Airfield (BFT 7)	Newquay
	St. Mawgan Airfield (Seaview Bungalow)	Newquay
	DMC Dean Hill (Depot Open Market)	West Dean
	DMC Dean Hill (Depot Open Market) (Rolling Stock—Train, carriages etc.)	West Dean
	11 Hillside Close	Salisbury
	Elles Road	Wareham
	Playground Area (Depot/Warehouses)	Ludgershall
	Elmtree Close Recreation Ground	Devizes
	Land (Higham Road) North of Hoo Road	Wainscott, Rochester
	Tented Area	Weymouth
	1, 2, 3 and 4 Langton Park	Wroughton

In-Flight Refuelling: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to acquiring future strategic tanker aircraft by adding the UK's requirement to that of the United States. [197734]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I announced in my statement to the House on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 31WS, we have concluded a contract with AirTanker Ltd to deliver the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft service from 2011. It is a holistic contract including provision of purpose designed training and maintenance facilities at RAF Brize Norton, together with through life training and maintenance support services, until 2035. The US has selected an aircraft to meet its requirement but has not yet concluded the commercial arrangements. We believe that the FSTA contract is the most cost effective way to meet the UK requirement.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many awards for *(a)* bravery and *(b)* distinguished service were issued to personnel who had served in Iraq in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) service, (ii) rank and (iii) regiment. [195380]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It has not been possible to collate the necessary information in the format requested within the required timescale. I can however provide aggregate figures as follows:

Service	Gallantry	Meritorious service	Total
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	32	77	109
Army	328	310	638
Royal Air Force	43	70	113
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	—	5	5
Total	403	462	865

The Army figures can be further broken out into regiment follows:

Regt/Corps	Gallantry	Meritorious service	Total
Household Cavalry Regiment	7	—	7
1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards	6	6	12
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	2	2	4
The Royal Dragoon Guards	—	1	1
The Queen's Royal Hussars	4	2	6
9th/12th Royal Lancers	—	1	1
The King's Royal Hussars	3	3	6
The Light Dragoons	—	4	4
The Queen's Royal Lancers	4	5	9
Royal Tank Regiment	1	4	5
The Queens Own Yeomanry	—	2	2
Royal Artillery	14	27	41
Royal Engineers	20	40	60
Royal Corps of Signals	2	15	17
Grenadier Guards	2	—	2
Coldstream Guards	2	2	4
Scots Guards	3	3	6
Irish Guards	7	3	10
Welsh Guards	3	5	8
Royal Regiment of Scotland	34	14	48
Princess of Wales' s Royal Regiment	43	4	47
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	7	5	12
Royal Anglian Regiment	9	4	13
The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	15	12	27
The Yorkshire Regiment	4	10	14
The Mercian Regiment	6	6	12
The Royal Welsh	19	4	23
The Rifles	35	10	45
The Royal Irish Regiment	5	5	10
The Parachute Regiment	29	10	39
The London Regiment	1	—	1
The Royal Gurkha Rifles	—	1	1
Queen's Gurkha Engineers	—	1	1
Royal Army Chaplains Department	—	1	1
Army Air Corps	5	2	7
The Royal Logistic Corps	16	41	57
Royal Army Medical Corps	6	16	22
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	12	12	24
Adjutant General's Corps	2	13	15
Small Arms School Corps	—	1	1
Intelligence Corps	—	9	9
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	—	4	4
Total	328	310	638

I will write to the hon. Member with more detailed information when this has been collated.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Nick Harvey:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your parliamentary question on 19 March 2008, Official Report, columns 1174-75W with more detailed information on bravery and distinguished service since 2003.

After further investigation by officials it has become clear that the information is not held in the format you requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2003 there have been 10 operational honours lists, all of which have been published in the London Gazette, http://www.london-gazette.co.uk, copies of which were forward to the Library of the House. The operational honours list was gazetted on the following dates:

31 October 2003

23 April and 7 September 2004

18 March and 9 September 2005

24 March, 8 September and 15 December 2006

19 July 2007

7 March 2008

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces personnel were stationed in Basra in each month since December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [196918]

Des Browne: The number of established UK military posts in southern Iraq over the period requested is shown in the table (to the nearest hundred):

	Number
31 December 2007	4,500
31 January 2008	4,100
29 February 2008	4,000
31 March 2008	4,000

The actual number of UK military personnel in theatre varies significantly from day-to-day for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement offerees and other factors.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces personnel have served *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more tours of duty in Iraq since March 2003. [197890]

Des Browne: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Museums: Grants

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which military museums the Department makes grants; and how much the grant for each was in each year since 1997. [196600]

Derek Twigg: The information is as follows:

Grant in aid

£ million

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]
Royal Naval Museum	0.62	0.82	0.75	0.83	0.94	0.88	0.88	0.96	1.14	1.03	0.90	0.87
Fleet Air Arm Museum	0.40	0.42	0.56	0.5	0.51	0.53	0.53	0.55	0.56	0.58	0.59	0.61
Royal Navy Submarine Museum	0.28	0.32	0.37	0.53	0.44	0.49	0.49	0.51	0.65	0.55	0.56	0.58
Royal Marines Museum	0.51	0.59	0.66	0.58	0.62	0.66	0.65	0.69	0.70	0.78	0.74	0.77
National Army Museum	3.40	3.49	3.33	4.13	4.21	4.77	4.86	5.52	5.24	4.95	5.37	5.50
Royal Air Force Museum	3.14	4.06	4.98	3.8	4.82	5.99	6.06	6.81	7.03	7.10	6.77	7.02

[1] Estimate

In addition there are a number of regimental museums which have their costs paid direct by the Department.

Territorial Army

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army centres there were in each of the last 10 years. [196871]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 26 March 2008]*: In 1998 there were 455 Territorial Army Centres. Following the Strategic Defence Review a decision was taken to reduce this number to 341, with 27 being retained for use by cadet force units and the remainder being disposed of. As at 1 March 2008 there were 362 centres in use by the Territorial Army.

Information on the specific number of Territorial Army Centres in existence in each year since 1998 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

War Pensions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans of the Second World War are in receipt of a war pension. [196803]

Derek Twigg: Information on Veterans of the Second World War in receipt of a War Pensions could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196746]

David Cairns: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Citizenship: Teachers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to increase the number of initial teacher training and continuing professional development places for citizenship teachers. [198650]

Jim Knight: There are 270 Initial Teacher Training (ITT) places for Citizenship in 2007/08 and 265 in 2008/09 to 2010/11. Numbers of Citizenship ITT

places are being kept at much the same level as they are now for the next three years despite significant reductions in pupil numbers.

The Citizenship Continuing Professional Development certification course will be carried forward extended with similar levels of funding as 2007/08.

Education: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding each local education authority in the East of England has received from his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997. [169965]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect the information in the format requested and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children obtained fewer than five A* to C grades at GCSE, including mathematics and English, in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [196565]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following tables:

Numbers and percentages of 15-year-old pupils in London who did not achieve 5 or more A-C grades at GCSE[1], including English and Mathematics[2], 1997 to 2007*

	1997			1998			1999		
Local authority	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*
City of London	0	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	—
Camden	1,689	1,097	64.9	1,717	1,123	65.4	1,657	1,077	65.0
Hackney	1,333	1,103	82.7	1,368	1,137	83.1	1,412	1,156	81.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,018	687	67.5	981	638	65.0	961	589	61.3
Haringey	1,725	1,416	82.1	1,805	1,445	80.1	1,778	1,387	78.0
Islington	1,406	1,174	83.5	1,406	1,187	84.4	1,409	1,125	79.8
Kensington and Chelsea	553	398	72.0	549	387	70.5	586	402	68.6
Lambeth	1,236	1,006	81.4	1,252	1,005	80.3	1,252	965	77.1
Lewisham	2,012	1,621	80.6	2,056	1,600	77.8	2,093	1,599	76.4
Newham	2,691	2,066	76.8	2,733	2,079	76.1	2,865	2,171	75.8
Southwark	1,786	1,480	82.9	1,795	1,469	81.8	1,860	1,490	80.1
Tower Hamlets	2,334	1,983	85.0	2,254	1,854	82.3	2,241	1,785	79.7
Wandsworth	1,656	1,271	76.8	1,633	1,203	73.7	1,710	1,268	74.2
Westminster	1,327	1,028	77.5	1,285	966	75.2	1,273	951	74.7
Inner London	20,766	16,330	78.6	20,834	16,093	77.2	21,097	15,965	75.7
Barking and Dagenham	1,712	1,336	78.0	1,686	1,306	77.5	1,699	1,290	75.9
Barnet	3,252	1,880	57.8	3,244	1,730	53.3	3,268	1,724	52.8
Bexley	2,507	1,614	64.4	2,494	1,555	62.3	2,553	1,552	60.8
Brent	2,154	1,505	69.9	2,188	1,424	65.1	2,211	1,473	66.6
Bromley	3,014	1,734	57.5	2,978	1,624	54.5	3,078	1,615	52.5
Croydon	3,264	2,337	71.6	3,227	2,251	69.8	3,165	2,153	68.0
Ealing	2,480	1,781	71.8	2,427	1,628	67.1	2,423	1,627	67.1
Enfield	3,166	2,173	68.6	3,081	2,053	66.6	3,148	2,000	63.5
Greenwich	2,415	1,935	80.1	2,333	1,789	76.7	2,349	1,813	77.2
Harrow	2,082	1,250	60.0	2,074	1,205	58.1	1,994	1,112	55.8
Havering	2,802	1,741	62.1	2,722	1,642	60.3	2,643	1,490	56.4
Hillingdon	2,494	1,743	69.9	2,469	1,633	66.1	2,519	1,627	64.6
Hounslow	2,601	1,787	68.7	2,492	1,592	63.9	2,526	1,609	63.7
Kingston upon Thames	1,315	727	55.3	1,327	681	51.3	1,326	709	53.5
Merton	1,559	1,089	69.9	1,589	1,094	68.8	1,601	1,068	66.7
Redbridge	2,609	1,584	60.7	2,635	1,469	55.7	2,738	1,465	53.5
Richmond upon Thames	1,547	982	63.5	1,437	856	59.6	1,479	857	57.9
Sutton	2,004	1,057	52.7	1,964	958	48.8	2,042	964	47.2
Waltham Forest	2,264	1,698	75.0	2,311	1,674	72.4	2,314	1,658	71.7

Numbers and percentages of 15-year-old pupils in London who did not achieve 5 or more A-C grades at GCSE[1], including English and Mathematics[2], 1997 to 2007*

	1997			1998			1999		
Local authority	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*
Outer London	45,241	29,953	66.2	44,678	28,164	63.0	45,076	27,806	61.7
London	66,007	46,283	70.1	65,512	44,257	67.6	66,173	43,771	66.1
England (maintained sector)	537,661	362,671	67.5	527,538	348,045	66.0	533,730	341,930	64.1

	2000			2001			2002		
Local authority	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*	*Number of 15 year old pupils*	*Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths*	*Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths*
City of London	0	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	—
Camden	1,690	1,037	61.4	1,636	986	60.3	1,434	897	62.6
Hackney	1,406	1,086	77.2	1,381	1,043	75.5	1,438	1,100	76.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,037	646	62.3	1,052	622	59.1	1,085	631	58.2
Haringey	1,871	1,463	78.2	1,851	1,392	75.2	1,914	1,400	73.1
Islington	1,364	1,125	82.5	1,352	1,068	79.0	1,382	1,078	78.0
Kensington and Chelsea	593	371	62.6	586	346	59.0	573	339	59.2
Lambeth	1,256	998	79.5	1,282	962	75.0	1,262	911	72.2
Lewisham	2,056	1,545	75.1	2,200	1,619	73.6	2,139	1,494	69.8
Newham	2,973	2,285	76.9	2,991	2,135	71.4	2,962	2,057	69.4
Southwark	1,830	1,435	78.4	1,861	1,434	77.1	1,952	1,473	75.5
Tower Hamlets	2,338	1,859	79.5	2,477	1,908	77.0	2,411	1,791	74.3
Wandsworth	1,736	1,194	68.8	1,782	1,172	65.8	1,790	1,122	62.7
Westminster	1,331	965	72.5	1,272	886	69.7	1,309	867	66.2
Inner London	21,481	16,009	74.5	21,723	15,573	71.7	21,651	15,160	70.0
Barking and Dagenham	1,723	1,267	73.5	1,721	1,245	72.3	1,701	1,184	69.6
Barnet	3,304	1,728	52.3	3,299	1,817	53.5	3,428	1,685	49.2
Bexley	2,641	1,563	59.2	2,827	1,720	60.8	2,785	1,620	58.2
Brent	2,319	1,432	61.8	2,356	1,490	63.2	2,626	1,567	59.7
Bromley	2,940	1,465	49.8	3,218	1,725	53.6	3,354	1,647	49.1
Croydon	3,204	2,171	67.8	3,341	2,182	65.3	3,330	2,098	63.0
Ealing	2,422	1,617	66.8	2,383	1,507	63.2	2,451	1,537	62.7
Enfield	3,226	2,098	65.0	3,363	2,104	62.6	3,325	2,049	61.6
Greenwich	2,313	1,783	77.1	2,303	1,749	75.9	2,357	1,769	75.1
Harrow	2,090	1,132	54.2	2,040	1,083	53.1	2,074	1,065	51.4
Havering	2,664	1,450	54.4	2,859	1,534	53.7	2,858	1,523	53.3
Hillingdon	2,505	1,587	63.4	2,632	1,663	63.2	2,606	1,654	63.5
Hounslow	2,569	1,634	63.6	2,620	1,652	63.1	2,596	1,520	58.6
Kingston upon Thames	1,327	633	47.7	1,378	637	46.2	1,390	660	47.5
Merton	1,548	1,039	67.1	1,507	990	65.7	1,571	1,040	66.2
Redbridge	2,901	1,521	52.4	2,810	1,308	46.5	2,879	1,372	47.7
Richmond upon Thames	1,435	840	58.5	1,477	815	55.2	1,470	845	57.5
Sutton	2,039	894	43.8	2,213	1,026	46.4	2,255	962	42.7

Local authority	2000 Number of 15 year old pupils	2000 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2000 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	2001 Number of 15 year old pupils	2001 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2001 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	2002 Number of 15 year old pupils	2002 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2002 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths
Waltham Forest	2,329	1,631	70.0	2,365	1,576	66.6	2,351	1,529	65.0
Outer London	45,499	27,485	60.4	46,812	27,823	59.4	47,407	27,326	57.6
London	66,980	43,494	64.9	68,535	43,396	63.3	69,058	42,486	61.5
England (maintained sector)	534,343	335,196	62.7	554,508	343,261	61.9	558,002	337,539	60.5

Local authority	2003 Number of 15 year old pupils	2003 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2003 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	2004 Number of 15 year old pupils	2004 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2004 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	2005 Number of 15 year old pupils	2005 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2005 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths
City of London	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Camden	1,420	851	59.9	1,429	817	57.2	1,457	866	59.4
Hackney	1,403	1,031	73.5	1,283	871	67.9	1,292	851	65.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,129	648	57.4	1,184	685	57.9	1,147	613	53.4
Haringey	1,981	1,411	71.2	2,150	1,482	68.9	2,090	1,418	67.8
Islington	1,317	1,021	77.5	1,411	1,003	71.1	1,369	960	70.1
Kensington and Chelsea	588	323	54.9	579	315	54.4	575	273	47.5
Lambeth	1,342	938	69.9	1,370	860	62.8	1,380	866	62.8
Lewisham	2,231	1,560	69.9	2,294	1,551	67.6	2,209	1,391	63.0
Newham	3,070	2,021	65.8	3,137	1,957	62.4	3,230	1,930	59.8
Southwark	1,981	1,460	73.7	2,057	1,466	71.3	2,246	1,541	68.6
Tower Hamlets	2,557	1,904	74.5	2,469	1,776	71.9	2,440	1,704	69.8
Wandsworth	1,798	1,131	62.9	1,868	1,151	61.6	1,854	1,089	58.7
Westminster	1,331	837	62.9	1,400	894	63.9	1,377	857	62.2
Inner London	22,148	15,136	68.3	22,631	14,828	65.5	22,666	14,359	63.4
Barking and Dagenham	1,770	1,207	68.2	1,956	1,339	68.5	1,940	1,290	66.5
Barnet	3,486	1,758	50.4	3,549	1,713	48.3	3,391	1,610	47.5
Bexley	2,974	1,719	57.8	3,075	1,715	55.8	3,245	1,768	54.5
Brent	2,646	1,584	59.9	2,644	1,535	58.1	2,604	1,391	53.4
Bromley	3,380	1,746	51.7	3,618	1,860	51.4	3,495	1,705	48.8
Croydon	3,493	2,237	64.0	3,619	2,259	62.4	3,721	2,218	59.6
Ealing	2,681	1,620	60.4	2,682	1,626	60.6	2,581	1,400	54.2
Enfield	3,361	2,073	61.7	3,431	2,040	59.5	3,525	2,035	57.7
Greenwich	2,351	1,731	73.6	2,524	1,780	70.5	2,497	1,649	66.0
Harrow	2,129	1,119	52.6	2,222	1,118	50.3	2,183	1,096	50.2
Havering	2,870	1,442	50.2	3,066	1,501	49.0	3,014	1,515	50.3
Hillingdon	2,671	1,705	63.8	2,933	1,844	62.9	2,933	1,798	61.3
Hounslow	2,641	1,575	59.6	2,642	1,519	57.5	2,623	1,420	54.1
Kingston upon Thames	1,419	591	41.6	1,480	669	45.2	1,489	601	40.4
Merton	1,568	1,004	64.0	1,595	1,020	63.9	1,532	947	61.8
Redbridge	3,009	1,357	45.1	3,016	1,338	44.4	2,972	1,307	44.0
Richmond upon Thames	1,478	766	51.8	1,476	769	52.1	1,491	798	53.5
Sutton	2,326	1,016	43.7	2,628	1,086	41.3	2,474	1,005	40.6

Local authority	2003 Number of 15 year old pupils	2003 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2003 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	2004 Number of 15 year old pupils	2004 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2004 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	2005 Number of 15 year old pupils	2005 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2005 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths
Waltham Forest	2,408	1,578	65.5	2,610	1,737	66.6	2,545	1,619	63.6
Outer London	48,661	27,828	57.2	50,766	28,468	56.1	50,255	27,172	54.1
London	70,809	42,964	60.7	73,337	43,296	59.0	72,921	41,531	57.0
England (maintained sector)	572,040	346,077	60.5	590,096	351,633	59.6	583,265	335,905	57.6

Local authority	2006 Number of 15 year old pupils	2006 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2006 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	2007 Number of 15 year old pupils	2007 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2007 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths
City of London	0	0	—	0	0	—
Camden	1,482	810	54.7	1,444	793	54.9
Hackney	1,397	889	63.6	1,323	777	58.7
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,151	588	51.1	1,078	455	42.2
Haringey	2,116	1,392	65.8	2,066	1,300	62.9
Islington	1,468	995	67.8	1,479	932	63
Kensington and Chelsea	584	269	46.1	606	264	43.6
Lambeth	1,406	824	58.6	1,423	838	58.9
Lewisham	2,221	1,318	59.3	2,255	1,344	59.6
Newham	3,307	1,947	58.9	3,316	1,854	55.9
Southwark	2,333	1,536	65.8	2,282	1,408	61.7
Tower Hamlets	2,566	1,707	66.5	2,527	1,610	63.7
Wandsworth	1,847	1,078	58.4	1,793	957	53.4
Westminster	1,395	830	59.5	1,371	746	54.4
Inner London	23,273	14,183	60.9	22,963	13,273	57.8
Barking and Dagenham	2,001	1,249	62.4	2,097	1,275	60.8
Barnet	3,439	1,530	44.5	3,285	1,337	40.7
Bexley	3,217	1,603	49.8	3,290	1,655	50.3
Brent	2,581	1,321	51.2	2,654	1,340	50.5
Bromley	3,584	1,648	46.0	3,484	1,557	44.7
Croydon	3,791	2,183	57.6	3,803	2126	55.9
Ealing	2,646	1,370	51.8	2,631	1,342	51
Enfield	3,640	2,082	57.2	3,729	1,961	52.6
Greenwich	2,501	1,718	68.7	2,477	1,637	66.1
Harrow	2,150	1,005	46.7	2,209	972	44
Havering	3,059	1,392	45.5	3,072	1,425	46.4
Hillingdon	2,972	1,685	56.7	3,048	1,695	55.6
Hounslow	2,696	1,285	49.3	2,639	1,314	49.8
Kingston upon Thames	1,528	633	41.4	1,497	579	38.7
Merton	1,570	951	60.6	1,611	971	60.3
Redbridge	3,125	1,280	41.0	3,279	1,272	38.8
Richmond upon Thames	1,408	711	50.5	1,460	764	52.3
Sutton	2,522	940	37.3	2,572	908	35.3
Waltham Forest	2,588	1,586	61.3	2,595	1,505	58
Outer London	50,928	26,172	51.4	51,432	25,613	49.8
London	74,201	40,355	54.4	74,395	38,909	52.3

Local authority	2006 Number of 15 year old pupils	2006 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2006 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths	2007 Number of 15 year old pupils	2007 Number of 15 year olds not gaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths	2007 Percentage not gaining 5+ GCSEs at A*-C including English and Maths
England - maintained sector	593,061	332,453	56.1	599,403	325,476	54.3

[1] Figures for 1997 include GCSEs and GNVQs. Figures from 2004 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.
[2] English and Mathematics refer to GCSE full course only.
[3] Includes pupils at maintained schools including CTCs and Academies.

Geography: Assessments

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what response he has made to the recommendations of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority that A-level geography coursework be abolished; and if he will make a statement. [189205]

Jim Knight: Following the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's (QCA's) recommendations, the new criteria for A-level geography courses from September 2008 remove the requirement for coursework to be assessed. Fieldwork will, however, become a specific requirement in the A- level criteria from September 2008. QCA is working closely with the Geographical Association, Royal Geographical Society and awarding bodies to ensure that assessment methods continue to provide satisfactory ways of assessing fieldwork. Through the Action Plan for Geography, Government funding has set up a virtual fieldwork and local learning centre to help teachers make the most of geography in their local areas, including expert advice and planning on embedding fieldwork in the curriculum.

Physical Education: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were deemed to have unsatisfactory physical education and sports provision in each of the last 10 years. [195963]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 1 April 2008:

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 195963: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how many (a) primary and (b) secondary schools were deemed to have unsatisfactory physical education and sports provision in each of the last 10 years. Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Between September 1996 and July 2005, inspectors made an overall judgement about the quality of teaching in each subject inspected. From September 2003 to July 2005, they made an additional judgement about the overall quality of provision in each subject inspected. These judgements were made using a seven point scale: "excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. Since September 2005 there has been no specific subject reporting in routine school inspections so we are unable to provide all the information you request. Since this time too physical education has been inspected in a sample of 30 primary and 30 secondary schools each year.

The information requested is set out in the three tables attached. The first shows the overall quality of provision in physical education in 2003/04 and 2004/05 and the second and third show the overall quality of teaching in physical education between 1997/98 and 2004/05. Figures 4-6 show these same data in terms of percentage of schools inspected. Please note that these percentages are calculated from weighted data so that they provide a more accurate representation of English schools as a whole at that time.

These data cover three different inspection frameworks (1996, 2000 and 2003) and comparisons should be treated with caution as the guidance used by inspectors varied between different frameworks.

In addition, the 2000 framework incorporated a differentiated inspection system in which the most effective schools had short inspections and other schools had full inspections. There was detailed reporting on each subject only in full inspections.

The 2003 framework also involved a differentiated inspection system in which inspectors tailored the inspection to the school. In schools where the core subjects were weak, more time was allocated to the inspection of these subjects while less time was given to other subjects and teaching in physical education was not always observed in the course of a given inspection. Therefore these data do not cover all the schools inspected during this period and this is more likely to be the case in primary than in secondary schools.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Figure 1. Overall quality of provision, based on effectiveness, in the area of learning, subject or course - physical education

Number of schools

As at	Total inspected	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
Primary schools								
2004/05	772	4	86	383	290	9	0	0
2003/04	1,829	9	131	763	879	47	0	0
Secondary schools								
2004/05	480	9	135	241	74	18	3	0
2003/04	616	9	127	335	120	23	2	0

Figure 2: Quality of teaching of physical education in primary schools

Number of schools

	Total inspected	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
2006/07	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005/06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004/05	741	3	96	418	220	4	0	0
2003/04	1,622	4	121	879	593	25	0	0
2002/03	2,110	5	103	1,053	912	37	0	0
2001/02	2,263	2	104	1,077	1,037	42	1	0
2000/01	2,356	2	93	1,100	1,116	43	2	0
1999/2000[1]	1,537	1	57	698	750	28	3	0
1998/99	3,331	1	81	1,460	1,734	54	1	0
1997/98	5,915	5	171	2,478	3,069	186	6	0

Figure 3: Quality of teaching of physical education in secondary schools

Number of schools

	Total inspected	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
2006/07	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005/06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004/05	481	2	119	290	56	14	0	0
2003/04	619	2	100	416	88	13	0	0
2002/03	439	0	63	303	69	4	0	0
2001/02	446	0	40	304	89	13	0	0
2000/01	462	0	41	331	88	4	0	0
1999/2000[1]	259	1	21	182	52	3	0	0
1998/99	767	0	52	490	206	16	2	1
1997/98	623	1	36	400	181	5	0	0

Figure 4: Overall quality of provision, based on effectiveness, in the area of learning, subject or course: physical education

Percentage

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
Primary schools							
2003/04	1	8	42	47	2	0	0
2004/05	1	11	50	37	1	0	0
Secondary schools							
2003/04	2	21	54	19	4	0	0
2004/05	2	28	51	15	4	1	0

Figure 5: Quality of teaching of physical education in primary schools

Percentage

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
2006/07	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005/06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004/05	0	13	56	30	1	0	0
2003/04	0	8	55	35	2	0	0
2002/03	0	5	50	43	2	0	0
2001/02	0	5	48	46	2	0	0
2000/01	0	4	47	47	2	0	0
1999/2000[1]	0	4	45	49	2	0	0
1998/99	0	2	44	52	2	0	0
1997/98	0	3	42	52	3	0	0

Figure 6: Quality of teaching of physical education in secondary schools

Percentage

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
2006/07	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005/06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004/05	0	25	60	12	3	0	0
2003/04	0	17	67	14	2	0	0
2002/03	0	14	69	16	1	0	0
2001/02	0	9	68	20	3	0	0
2000/01	0	9	72	19	1	0	0
1999/2000[1]	0	8	70	20	1	0	0

Figure 6. Quality of teaching of physical education in secondary schools

	Percentage						
	Excellent	*Very good*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*	*Poor*	*Very poor*
1998/99	0	7	65	26	2	0	0
1997/98	0	6	66	28	1	0	0

[1] The framework change in January 2000 means that data for that year cannot be aggregated across two frameworks so the data shown are for inspections from January 2000 to July 2000.

Primary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many key stage two pupils did not reach level 4 or above in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics key stage two tests in 2007; [197612]

(2) how many primary schools there were in which less than 50 per cent. of key stage two pupils gained level 4 or above in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics key stage two tests; [197622]

(3) how many primary schools there were in which less than 50 per cent. of key stage two pupils gained level 4 or above in a combination of English, mathematics and science key stage two tests. [197623]

Jim Knight: The provisional results from the Key Stage 2 tests in 2007 published last August show that 40 per cent. of pupils did not reach level 4 or above in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics (see table 5 of the Statistical First Release on National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 in England, 2007 (Provisional), via the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000737/index.shtml

This represents a considerable improvement since 1997 when over two thirds of 11-year-olds failed to reach this standard.

The available information on level 4 achievement in combinations of subjects at school level shows that there were 3,655 schools with 50 per cent. of pupils (or less) achieving Level 4+ in reading, writing and mathematics. Further information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

These figures are based on provisional data because the reading and writing figures are not checked by schools as part of the Achievement and Attainment tables checking exercise.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to improve the handling of children excluded from school. [198124]

Kevin Brennan: Revised exclusions guidance published in September 2007, put local authorities under a duty to arrange suitable full time education from the sixth day of exclusion for children permanently excluded. For fixed period exclusions, this sixth day duty lies with the school.

Furthermore, the Children's Plan, published in December, set out our commitment to improve provision outside school for excluded pupils and other pupils who for a range of reasons are unable to attend a mainstream school. A copy of the Plan is in the Library. We plan to publish a strategy paper on how we expect to take the Children's Plan commitment forward in the summer.

Pupils: Play

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department has collected on the amount of time children spend in free play during school hours; and if he will make a statement. [189035]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Respect Squads

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 783W, on respect squads, what the qualifications are for appointment as a nationally recognised expert practitioner in a respect squad; what support they offer local partners; and who those partners are. [176122]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for the respect squad now rests with the Home Office which provides support to local delivery partners in tackling antisocial behaviour. The members of the respect squad were chosen for their experience and expertise at a national level in the field of antisocial behaviour. All members are highly qualified professionals from local authorities, the police and the independent sector. They are skilled practitioners in antisocial behaviour law and practice, and in particular, in their specialisms as principle solicitors, police professionals and heads of antisocial behaviour services. In addition, all members are experienced in training and advising other professionals in this field. The future role of the squad is currently under review.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many head teachers, school governors and members of academy trusts were disciplined for breaches of the Admissions Code in the most recent period for which figures are available. [197651]

Jim Knight: From a recent examination of the admission arrangements of schools in three local authority areas, we found evidence to suggest a significant minority appeared to contain aspects that did not comply with the relevant statutory requirements. We have written to the admission authorities concerned (either the local

authority or school governing body) to verify our findings and will present detailed information to Parliament in due course.

To ensure admission arrangements fully comply with the law for 2009, I have written to all admission authorities across the country to remind them of their statutory duties and we are taking measures to further strengthen the admissions system. As announced in the Secretary of State's written statements of 11 and 17 March, we have launched a consultation to increase the period within which objections against unfair or unlawful arrangements are referred to the Schools Adjudicator for investigation and are introducing amendments to the Education and Skills Bill to improve the process by which admission arrangements are consulted on.

Schools: Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will make a statement on his Department's policy regarding visits by armed forces personnel to schools; [196603]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the National Union of Teachers on the provision of materials on *(a)* the armed forces and *(b)* Iraq to schools; and what steps have been taken as a result of such discussions. [196604]

Jim Knight: The Department received one letter from the National Union of Teachers (NUT) in October 2007, drawing the attention of the Secretary of State to teaching materials which were being prepared by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The letter sought reassurance that action would be taken to ensure that all materials issued by the MOD were compliant with sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996. The Secretary of State responded that the Department does not endorse or promote specific teaching resources or methods, and that sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996 place the duty on teachers to secure balanced treatment of political issues.

The Department is supportive of activities that help children and young people understand the role of the armed forces and we are in discussions with the Ministry of Defence as to how we might increase access to Cadet Forces and Army Cadet Forces for pupils in state schools. However, it is for head teachers to determine whether to invite armed forces personnel to visit their schools.

Schools: Nurses

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school nurses there are in England. [197478]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The annual national health service work force census collected accurate information on the number of school nurses employed by the NHS in England for the first time in 2004. The number of school nurses from 2004-07 is shown in the following table.

The 2007 census showed there were 2,232 qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work in England, an increase of 613 or 37.86 per cent. since 2004. Of these there were 893 school nurses with a post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 286 or 47.12 per cent. since 2004.

School nurse numbers—England

	2004	*2005*	*2006*[1]	*2007*	*Increase 2004-07*	*Percentage increase since 2004*
Headcount						
School nursing service nurses	2,409	2,887	2,968	3,162	753	31.25
of which:						
Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	856	943	1,129	1,227	371	43.3
Full-time equivalent						
School nursing service nurses	1,619	1,913	2,053	2,232	613	37.86
of which:						
Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	607	665	815	893	286	47.12

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated.

The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care, Non-Medical Workforce Census, general and personal medical services statistics.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in England do not have access to a school nurse. [197479]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not collected centrally on how many schools in England do not have access to a school nurse.

It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds

to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of school nursing services.

Specialised Diplomas: Independent Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which independent schools are planning to offer diplomas; and if he will make a statement. [194868]

Jim Knight: One independent school, Polam Hall School in Darlington local authority, is part of a consortium that has approval to deliver Diplomas in September 2009. The Government encourage independent schools to deliver Diplomas. It is important for Diplomas to be available in all parts of the education sector. We are working closely with the independent schools' associations to encourage independent schools to join 14-19 consortia.

TREASURY

Births: Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many babies have been born at the Queen's hospital, Romford since it was opened. [196552]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

This requested information is not collected centrally.

The hon. Member may wish to raise this matter with the chief executive of Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals National Health Service Trust, of which Queen's hospital is a part.

Council Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether consideration has been given to reducing the VAT rate on renovation work to social housing; whether there are legal barriers that would prevent such a VAT rate reduction; and if he will make a statement. [198144]

Jane Kennedy: European VAT agreements allow for the application of a reduced VAT rate, of not less than 5 per cent. for the 'provision, construction, renovation and alteration of housing, as part of a social policy'. This is subject to the general Community law principles of equal treatment and fiscal neutrality, under which similar supplies are usually taxed at the same VAT rate.

The Government keep the impact of VAT on different types of building work under review, and since 1997 have introduced VAT rate reductions to support the regeneration and renewal of housing stock, and domestic energy efficiency. At Budget 2008 the Chancellor announced that the Government would explore the case for further targeted and cost-effective VAT measures for the refurbishment and renovation of dwellings that are of too poor quality to rent or sell.

Devolution: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reviews of the Barnett formula have been undertaken by the Government since 1997; and when he plans to publish the factual paper on the Barnett formula to support the Scottish parliamentary review of the devolution settlement. [198392]

Yvette Cooper: The Barnett formula is regularly updated in spending reviews. The Treasury will publish a factual paper on the Barnett formula in due course.

Exercise: Health Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government are taking to promote increased cardiovascular exercise by persons under 40 years of age. [196672]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Department and the national health service promote the benefits of physical activity to people of all ages and are keen to target those individuals most at risk of inactivity.

Action includes the piloting of a physical activity care pathway model in a number of general practitioner practices in London, targeting sedentary adults while the National Step-o-meter programme is already providing training and free loan pedometers to health professionals for use with inactive patients.

Other examples of current action include:

in total 86 per cent. of school children now do at least two hours of quality sport a week and we aim to offer every child and young person the chance of five hours sport a week by 2011;

over 91 per cent. of schools are now participating in the Healthy Schools Programme;

the National School Pedometer Programme is distributing 45,000 pedometers to encourage children to become more active;

a further £140 million funding for Cycling England has been announced;

new investment of £225 million outlined in the Children's Plan to allow up to 3,500 playgrounds to be rebuilt or renewed; and

a £372 million investment in this Cross-Government Obesity Strategy—"Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England"; to enable people to maintain a healthier weight for a healthier life.

A copy of this publication is available in the Library.

Government Departments: Annual Reports

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance provided by his Department to other Government Departments on what should be included in their 2008 departmental annual reports. [195684]

Angela Eagle: A copy of the guidance to Departments on their spring 2008 departmental reports has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Pensioners: Standard of Living

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government have taken to improve

living standards for pensioners in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency since 1997. [195673]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Latest available information shows that average net incomes of pensioner households in the UK increased by 29 per cent. between 1996-97 and 2005-06, and average net incomes of pensioner households in the north east increased by 29 per cent. between 1994-95 to 1996-97 and 2003-04 to 2005-06. Information for the Tees Valley and Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland is not available.

The Government have introduced a number of measures since 1997 to help older people to enjoy a better standard of living, most notably the introduction of the minimum income guarantee and its successor pension credit. We have successively raised the pension credit standard minimum guarantee by earnings in every year since its introduction. For 2008 the standard minimum guarantee will rise to £124.05—an increase of 4.2 per cent.—more than keeping pace with earnings and prices.

In addition we have introduced winter fuel payments for those aged 60 and over, including an extra one-off payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over announced in the Budget on 12 March 2008.

We have also introduced free television licences for people aged over 75 and from April 2008 those over 60 will be entitled to free off-peak bus travel in England. We have committed to increasing the basic state pension by earnings by 2012, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, or by the end of the next Parliament.

As a result of the personal tax and benefit changes that we have introduced, pensioner households nationally will be around £1,500 a year better off in 2008-09 than they would have been under the 1997 system. The poorest third of pensioner households will on average be around £2,100 a year better off.

Our new public service agreement 'Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life' demonstrates our commitment to ensure that the specific needs of the older population are given due priority.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent employees worked in HM Revenue and Customs criminal investigation arm in each year since its creation. [197980]

Jane Kennedy: The number of full-time equivalent employees that have worked in HM Revenue and Customs criminal investigation directorate since its creation in 2005-06 are as follows:

	Staff in post (FTE)
2005-06	1,601
2006-07	1,817
2007-08	1,827

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax collectors were employed by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor in each year since 1979; how much tax revenue they collected in each year; how many are expected to be employed in each of the next three years; and how much is expected to be collected by them in each year. [194240]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 17 March]:* Most of the staff in HM Revenue and Customs, and its predecessor departments, Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise, are employed directly or indirectly in the collection of tax. However, because of departmental reorganisation it is not possible to provide directly comparable figures for each of the years in question.

In 2006-07, the average number of people HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) employed in the collection of taxes (taken from Note 9 of the 2006-07 Resource Account) was 89,746. This figure does not include staff working on child benefit and child trust fund. HMRC collected £423.443 billion in tax in 2006-07, and in 2007-08 £383.701 billion up to the end of February 2008.

Staff numbers and the amount of tax collected for earlier years are published in previous annual reports and accounts for HMRC and its predecessor departments.

Detailed staffing estimates for each of the next three years are not available, but HMRC has indicated that it expects by 2011 to be operating with around 25,000 fewer posts than the baseline SR04 figure of 97,755 full-time equivalent posts on 1 April 2004.

Table C6 of Budget 2008 (HC 388) gives estimates of future receipts.

Revenue and Customs: Surveys

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the conclusions of HM Revenue and Customs' latest staff satisfaction survey. [187630]

Jane Kennedy: I have done so.

Revenue and Customs: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overseas visits were made by staff working on tax credits in each of the last five years; which destinations were visited; and at what cost in each year. [183716]

Jane Kennedy: Staff from different parts of HMRC's business can be involved in tax credits work and an overseas visit will often cover a range of departmental topics. In such circumstances it would not be possible to isolate the information requested so it can be attributed specifically to tax credits.

However HMRC and HMT staff working on tax credits visited Australia and New Zealand early in 2008 to learn from their experiences. Total costs were around £15,000.

Road Traffic: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the level of congestion on roads in the North East on the local economy. [198002]

Yvette Cooper: Treasury does not routinely assess every economic impact on every locality, and has made no specific assessment of the effect of congestion on local economies in the North East.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times staff from HM Revenue and Customs criminal investigation arm have met officers from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency since the Agency's creation. [197979]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC criminal investigation is actively engaged with SOCA and staff meet on a regular basis.

A formal record of all meetings is not held centrally.

Tax Havens: EC Action

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with European counterparts on the regulatory regime affecting tax havens in the last 12 months. [197645]

Jane Kennedy: Issues concerning tax havens and tax evasion were discussed at ECOFIN on 4 March. The UK and other member states made clear their determination to tackle cross-border tax evasion and invited the European Commission to bring forward its review of the savings directive, which enshrines the principle of exchange of information as the means of combating tax evasion. The savings directive is complemented by agreements with countries and territories outside the EU. There will be further discussions in the coming months.

The UK is also actively involved in promoting OECD standards of transparency through tax information exchange agreements between offshore jurisdictions and OECD countries.

Taxation: Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2327W, on taxation: trade unions, which trade unions subscription fees are eligible for tax relief under section 344 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003. [198173]

Jane Kennedy: A record of all organisations, including trade unions, eligible for tax relief under section 344 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/list3/list3.pdf

VAT: Personal Care Services

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the revenue to be raised by charging VAT to the users of saunas and spas within leisure centres backdated in respect of *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; [198080]

(2) what legal advice his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on charging back-dated value added tax on charities running leisure centres with spas and saunas; [198081]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of charging back-dated value added tax to charities which run leisure centres which offer spa and sauna facilities; [198082]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on leisure centres liability for back-dated value added tax where those leisure centres allow swimmers access to saunas or spas. [198083]

Jane Kennedy: There have been no recent changes to the VAT rules for supplies made by leisure centres. No estimate has been made of revenue properly due from leisure centres on charges made for use of their saunas and spas between 2005 and 2007.

HM Revenue and Customs regularly receives and evaluates legal and other advice on the administration of the VAT rules, and its statutory duties in relation to the collection of VAT that is properly due. Treasury Ministers are also in regular discussion with Ministers in other Departments on a range of issues.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 722W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Eltham (Clive Efford).

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Tax Credit Office's target is for responding to *(a)* letters, *(b)* telephone calls and *(c)* e-mails from (i) hon. Members and (ii) members of the public; and how many in each category were answered within the target time in the last 12 months. [194468]

Jane Kennedy: It is HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) aim to reply to the majority of all letters within three weeks. There is no separate target for e-mails.

The majority of telephone enquiries to Tax Credit Office are dealt with as they are received.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 368-69W.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed in the administration of tax credits in each quarter since April 2003. [194477]

Jane Kennedy: Information about the number of staff engaged in tax credits administration each year is contained in part 2, table 1 of the comptroller and auditor general's standard report in the 2006-07 HM

Revenue and Customs (HMRC) accounts, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-accounts2007.htm

Quarterly information would only be available at disproportionate cost.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people *(a)* left the Tax Credit Office and *(b)* were recruited to permanent posts in the Tax Credit Office in each year since 2003; what proportion of current staff are employed on (i) a temporary basis and (ii) contracts of less than one year; and what the average salary is of staff working in (A) the Tax Credit Office and (B) HM Revenue and Customs as a whole. [194478]

Jane Kennedy: For the information requested at *(a)* and *(b)* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 898W.

The proportion of Tax Credit Office staff on temporary contracts is around 12.5 per cent. and none of those contracts have been for less than one year.

The average salary of staff at all grades working in TCO is (A) £24,400 and in HM Revenue and Customs as a whole is (B) £23,300.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit award notices were sent out in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [194485]

Jane Kennedy: Award notices are issued at the following points in the tax credits cycle:

An initial award notice, following a successful claim.

An amended award notice when a claimant notifies HMRC of a change of circumstances or income during a year.

A finalised award notice following the completion of the renewal process.

Where payments are continuing following a finalised award for one year, an award notice is issued to advise of the provisional payments HMRC will be making for the subsequent year.

Award notices issued each year since 2003 are as follows:

	Total
2003-04	21,000,000
2004-05	34,000,000
2005-06	37,500,000
2006-07	32,000,000
2007-08[1]	29,000,000

[1] To end February

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit awards were paid into foreign bank accounts in each year since April 2003. [194504]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on welfare tax credits, if he will place in the Library the six Office of Government Commerce Gateway reports on the new tax credits programme. [197976]

Jane Kennedy: The disclosure of such reviews is currently the subject of proceedings in the High Court in an unrelated case.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Air Navigation Order 2000

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Air Navigation Order 2000 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195998]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Alcoholic Drinks: Enforcement

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to reduce under-age drinking in the last three years. [193345]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 423W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has plans to meet representatives of the Portman Group to discuss *(a)* binge and (b) under-age drinking; and if she will make a statement. [191335]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Secretary has no current plans to meet with representatives of the Portman Group, but the Government continue to work with members of the alcohol industry to address issues such as binge and under-age drinking.

We are aware that our Department of Health colleagues have regular contact with the Portman Group regarding a number of proposals and will continue this support to further reduce alcohol-related harms. A joint industry and Government officials seminar is due to be held on 24 April 2008 to consider how to further promote sensible drinking.

Additionally, representatives from the Portman Group will be invited to the Prime Minister's summit on alcohol which is likely to take place later in the spring.

Asylum: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people living in York seeking asylum in each year since 1997. [197128]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives. The location of those asylum seekers not in receipt of support is not available.

The number of asylum seekers in receipt of support is available, broken down by Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency; these regional breakdowns are available from December 2002.

The number of asylum seekers in receipt of support is published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Further breakdowns by parliamentary constituency are available from the Library of the House.

Bigamy

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of bigamy were recorded in each year since 1997; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196015]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available in the form requested.

Table 1 gives the number of offences of bigamy recorded by the police and the number detected by means of a sanction detection. Table 2 shows the numbers[1] of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for bigamy for the years 1997 to 2006, and is taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and count offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Offences[2] of bigamy recorded by the police and detected by means of a sanction detection, 1997 to 2006-07

	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections
1997	75	n/a
1997-98	106	n/a
1998-99	129	n/a
1999-2000	83	n/a
2000-01	80	n/a
2001-02	74	33
2002-03	88	38
2003-04	71	47
2004-05	104	44
2005-06	101	47
2006-07	61	37

n/a = Not available

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for bigamy offence, England and Wales 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty
1997	22	16
1998	30	18
1999	40	28
2000	17	12
2001	23	17
2002	31	16
2003	29	20
2004	22	22
2005	28	21
2006	23	11

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The found guilty column can often exceed the number proceeded against when a conviction takes place in a different month to when the proceeding was originally brought, or for a different offence.

Burglary: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (*a*) burglaries and (*b*) sanction detections for burglaries there were in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [195851]

Mr. Coaker: Offences of burglary recorded by the police and the number of sanction detections by London borough are available from 2000-01 and are given in the following tables.

Table 1: Offences of burglary recorded and detected by means of a sanction detection by London borough, 2000-01 and 2001-02

Number

	2000-01		2001-02	
Borough	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections
Barking and Dagenham	1,970	132	2,220	149
Barnet	4,107	438	3,954	546
Bexley	2,583	379	2,394	186
Brent	4,441	404	4,099	471
Bromley	3,263	272	3,580	278
Camden	5,305	707	5,857	765
City of Westminster	5,403	563	5,646	666
Croydon	3,779	692	4,131	498
Ealing	4,637	311	4,533	404

Table 1: Offences of burglary recorded and detected by means of a sanction detection by London borough, 2000-01 and 2001-02

Number

Borough	2000-01		2001-02	
	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections
Enfield	3,973	514	4,411	349
Greenwich	3,050	399	2,794	304
Hackney	4,298	667	4,287	518
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,076	263	2,789	354
Haringey	4,159	430	4,803	444
Harrow	2,791	185	2,623	200
Havering	2,356	120	2,567	166
Hillingdon	4,085	213	3,643	297
Hounslow	3,415	253	3,192	261
Islington	4,292	552	4,567	508
Kensington and Chelsea	3,555	306	2,826	255
Kingston upon Thames	1,349	139	1,180	144
Lambeth	6,150	400	6,974	453
Lewisham	3,287	688	3,490	488
Merton	1,792	114	1,967	189
Newham	3,460	202	3,886	263
Redbridge	2,798	191	2,899	186
Richmond upon Thames	2,384	161	2,174	201
Southwark	4,235	428	5,016	676
Sutton	1,471	111	1,820	223
Tower Hamlets	3,714	431	3,262	434
Waltham Forest	3,423	314	4,012	304
Wandsworth	4,023	272	4,352	372
Total	112,324	10,951	115,948	11,532

Note

Figures in this table were prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table 2: Offences of burglary recorded and detected by means of a sanction detection by London borough, 2002-03 to 2006-07

Number

Borough	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections
Barking and Dagenham	2,012	230	2,240	241	2,175	254	1,921	350	2,117	295
Barnet	4,039	527	3,978	362	4,045	323	4,363	465	3,904	744
Bexley	2,341	312	2,226	210	1,986	178	2,366	280	2,076	235
Brent	3,859	204	4,062	356	3,987	669	3,904	1,008	3,330	1,133
Bromley	3,596	306	3,472	351	3,776	448	3,926	436	3,588	375
Camden	5,884	629	4,843	521	4,171	471	4,108	648	4,322	715
City of Westminster	5,264	878	4,296	907	4,497	918	4,158	664	3,801	679
Croydon	4,115	638	3,769	379	3,230	353	3,582	361	3,464	536
Ealing	4,543	316	4,375	357	4,350	341	4,999	535	3,957	633
Enfield	4,301	705	3,865	476	3,528	431	3,844	524	3,638	464
Greenwich	2,986	350	3,080	307	2,970	376	3,209	291	3,241	319
Hackney	4,807	688	4,327	334	3,897	508	3,547	645	2,687	496
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,089	254	2,827	262	3,023	269	3,052	282	2,732	316
Haringey	4,356	695	4,115	567	4,084	451	3,841	612	3,559	824
Harrow	2,736	313	2,626	355	2,178	300	2,446	795	1,959	642
Havering	2,386	249	2,161	190	2,315	183	2,453	331	2,511	328
Hillingdon	3,569	365	3,183	324	3,143	331	3,137	406	3,182	427
Hounslow	3,374	342	3,450	323	2,969	425	2,982	469	2,594	395
Islington	4,429	856	3,957	755	3,681	609	3,683	783	3,728	965
Kensington and Chelsea	2,512	289	2,576	370	2,580	289	2,444	293	2,182	358
Kingston upon Thames	985	158	939	160	984	157	1,188	283	1,038	307
Lambeth	5,694	681	4,980	571	4,150	492	3,884	629	3,685	364
Lewisham	3,708	507	3,837	335	3,778	451	3,589	410	3,579	379
Merton	1,930	186	2,034	288	1,764	241	1,796	208	1,828	479
Newham	3,494	299	3,398	313	3,410	322	4,112	513	3,371	709
Redbridge	2,974	214	2,990	279	3,058	283	3,282	508	3,053	289
Richmond upon Thames	2,120	362	1,787	224	2,017	167	2,395	315	2,085	268

Table 2: Offences of burglary recorded and detected by means of a sanction detection by London borough, 2002/03 to 2006/07

Number

	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07	
Borough	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections	Offences	Sanction detections
Southwark	4,885	668	4,556	668	4,411	485	4,143	937	4,087	735
Sutton	1,446	191	1,397	196	1,429	122	1,480	121	1,451	199
Tower Hamlets	3,567	389	3,023	426	3,070	464	3,467	573	2,890	329
Waltham Forest	3,812	376	3,284	258	3,144	242	3,131	299	3,116	315
Wandsworth	4,547	703	3,664	430	3,616	295	3,308	431	3,943	341
Total	113,360	13,886	105,317	12,031	101,416	11,868	103,475	15,467	96,698	15,561

Note:
Figures in this table are after the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Census Act 1920

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under section 89 of the Census Act 1920 in each year since 1997, broken down by offence, and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [195993]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the 'Other indictable or triable either way offences' classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Closed Circuit Television: Licensing

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of Scottish local authorities that are (*a*) precluded and (*b*) have been previously precluded for any periods since October 2007 from operating the installed closed-circuit television security networks because of delays in processing operative applications for licences by the Security Industry Authority. [196365]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The information necessary to make such an assessment is not available.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of applications for licences submitted by applicants resident in Scotland to the Security Industry Authority during 2007 which remain outstanding, broken down by local authority area. [196366]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: None. The Security Industry Authority does not hold data in a form which would enable information on numbers of applications from applicants resident in Scotland or smaller areas to be readily obtained. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Constituencies: Correspondence

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to locate the representations made by a constituent of the hon. Member for Vauxhall (reference 01619851), when it was first discovered that the representations had been misplaced; and if she will make a statement. [193678]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 31 March 2008.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence, and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196020]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in either the appropriate 'Racially or religiously aggravated offence' classification or in the 'Other offences against the State and Public Order' offence classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Crime: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 339W, on crime: drugs, (1) what assessment she has made of the performance of drug enforcement authorities in restricting imports of class A drugs into the UK. [196288]

(2) whether a decision has been made to stop measuring class A drug seizure quantities for drugs specifically destined for the UK. [196289]

Mr. Coaker: Given the uncertainty of the final destination of many of the drugs which are seized overseas the Government do not attempt to estimate the amounts which were destined for the UK. The

Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs will record in the annual reports which they publish later this year the amounts of drugs where they have been involved in the seizures.

Crimes of Violence: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (*a*) violent crimes and (*b*) sanction detections for violent crimes there were in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [195850]

Mr. Coaker: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

For London boroughs, offences of violence against the person recorded by the police are available from 1999-2000 and the number of sanction detections are available from 2000-01. The statistics are given in the following tables.

Table 1: Offences of violence against the person recorded and detected by means of a sanction detection by London borough, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

	1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Borough	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections
Barking and Dagenham	3,210		3,668	550	3,941	906
Barnet	4,244		4,574	724	4,842	695
Bexley	3,151		3,209	481	3,339	613
Brent	5,467		5,775	988	5,688	914
Bromley	3,224		3,808	652	3,843	786
Camden	5,342		5,327	933	5,471	914
City of Westminster	7,396		8,483	1,848	8,734	1,788
Croydon	5,880		6,326	1,051	6,206	1,077
Ealing	6,652		6,429	740	6,842	848
Enfield	4,680		4,798	824	5,077	810
Greenwich	6,234		6,308	1,035	6,257	881
Hackney	6,655		6,320	1,129	6,702	1,150
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,681		4,365	879	4,283	919
Haringey	4,874		5,202	1,314	5,088	1,226
Harrow	2,342		2,465	665	2,658	552
Havering	2,661		2,787	552	3,225	623
Hillingdon	3,711		4,094	595	4,766	762
Hounslow	5,260		5,436	682	5,798	781
Islington	5,255		5,443	932	5,667	1,051
Kensington and Chelsea	3,294		3,314	571	3,063	643
Kingston upon Thames	2,422		2,495	415	2,667	474
Lambeth	8,244		7,984	1,864	8,232	1,179
Lewisham	5,051		5,331	1,302	5,501	1,174
Merton	2,987		2,932	507	3,153	464
Newham	7,261		7,384	969	7,550	1,166
Redbridge	3,621		3,753	585	3,721	680
Richmond upon Thames	2,081		1,991	308	2,115	423
Southwark	7,480		7,442	1,259	7,760	1,377
Sutton	1,949		2,056	393	2,451	408
Tower Hamlets	5,850		5,965	881	6,380	980
Waltham Forest	4,862		4,804	697	4,973	750
Wandsworth	5,012		4,862	693	5,082	744
Total	147,357		154,938	26,228	161,987	27,290

Note:
Figures in this table were prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording standard in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.
. Not available.

Table 2: Offences of violence against the person recorded and detected by means of a sanction detection by London borough, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections	Number of offences	Number of sanction detections
Barking and Dagenham	4,392	818	4,902	950	5,224	919	5,288	1,133	5,150	1,419
Barnet	5,246	848	5,817	937	7,183	1,752	6,393	1,506	5,512	1,664
Bexley	3,555	712	4,051	756	4,129	977	4,373	1,096	3,742	1,215
Brent	6,297	902	7,371	951	9,135	1,626	8,253	2,025	6,216	1,773
Bromley	4,728	918	5,003	1,094	5,762	1,276	5,499	1,221	5,697	1,917
Camden	5,817	1,137	6,419	1,383	7,656	1,756	7,370	2,110	6,586	1,757
City of Westminster	9,898	1,979	9,558	2,359	10,454	3,906	9,445	3,254	8,413	2,855
Croydon	7,642	1,241	7,944	1,542	8,604	1,744	7,763	1,641	6,741	1,906
Ealing	7,143	1,067	7,150	1,008	8,089	1,687	7,878	1,776	7,641	1,893
Enfield	5,593	984	5,142	1,030	5,190	1,218	5,256	1,174	5,342	1,685
Greenwich	6,892	1,005	6,855	1,117	7,870	1,549	7,713	1,717	7,486	2,096
Hackney	6,810	1,296	7,141	1,293	7,288	1,624	7,471	1,898	7,148	2,055
Hammersmith and Fulham	4,321	966	4,287	1,119	4,622	1,218	5,041	1,496	5,054	1,650
Harringey	5,446	1,388	5,485	1,250	6,325	1,620	6,921	1,751	5,651	1,727
Harrow	2,827	659	2,858	616	3,041	757	3,028	771	2,870	827
Havering	3,901	697	3,922	629	4,191	979	4,172	1,123	3,639	1,477
Hillingdon	4,983	852	5,222	793	5,921	1,417	6,261	1,824	5,911	1,905
Hounslow	7,110	965	6,946	1,008	6,772	1,058	6,434	1,612	5,502	1,537
Islington	6,347	1,006	6,607	1,422	7,617	2,159	7,002	2,111	6,289	2,147
Kensington and Chelsea	3,471	698	3,378	660	3,272	669	3,325	914	3,597	1,190
Kingston upon Thames	2,857	382	3,447	470	3,520	738	3,240	830	3,013	1,089
Lambeth	9,151	1,608	9,475	1,839	9,813	2,334	8,991	2,456	8,344	2,540
Lewisham	5,709	1,134	6,664	1,392	7,858	1,547	8,463	1,901	8,062	2,114
Merton	3,460	400	3,615	624	3,800	745	3,664	1,048	3,361	1,002
Newham	8,096	1,280	8,210	1,365	7,976	1,441	8,421	1,603	7,578	2,148
Redbridge	4,565	769	4,682	862	4,690	962	3,976	1,176	4,323	1,557
Richmond upon Thames	2,547	471	2,497	455	2,570	642	2,345	749	2,122	850
Southwark	8,221	1,350	8,912	1,347	9,338	2,206	9,085	2,254	8,435	2,318
Sutton	3,065	610	3,214	595	3,555	781	3,161	949	2,989	1,060
Tower Hamlets	7,538	1,152	7,724	1,141	7,895	1,531	7,455	2,238	7,727	2,286
Waltham Forest	5,427	794	6,082	853	6,241	1,222	6,831	1,563	6,052	1,697
Wandsworth	5,354	1,040	5,336	929	5,898	1,100	6,139	1,320	5,647	1,511
Total	178,411	31,158	185,836	33,780	210,419	44,560	196,637	50,240	181,830	54,869

Note

Figures in this table are after the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Written Questions

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of Parliamentary questions for answer on a named day to her Department received a *(a)* holding and *(b)* substantive answer on the named day in each year since 2001. [190286]

Mr. McNulty: Details of how many and what proportion of named day parliamentary questions the Home Office answered since 2006-07 is given in the following table:

	Session	
	2006-07	2007-08[1]
Named day questions received	1,260	404
Answered substantively on the named day[2]	443	155
Proportion answered substantively on the named day (percentage)	35	38

[1] To 12 March 2008

[2] All questions not answered substantively on the named day receive a holding answer.

Information prior to 2006-07 is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many questions for written answer to her Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193396]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the following table.

Questions that had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008

Weeks	Questions awaiting answer: Ordinary written	Named day
2-4	61	10
4-6	37	10
6-8	10	4
8 plus	47	14

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of women who are experiencing domestic abuse who are not in receipt of assistance funded by the public purse. [196723]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* There are approximately 500 women per year who identify themselves as victims of domestic violence, who have been granted leave to enter the UK in order to marry a UK national, and whose leave to remain is subject to a condition that there shall be no recourse to public funds, in order to prevent abuse of the marriage concession.

Recognising that their lack of access to public services may put them at risk of further abuse, the Government are developing a new scheme whereby victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds who successfully apply for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) will be able to have their housing and living costs met. The new scheme will be announced later in the spring.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support she plans to make available to women subject to domestic abuse who are not entitled to existing provision on grounds of citizenship; and if she will make a statement. [197385]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are aware of the problems faced by women with insecure immigration status who suffer domestic violence. We will shortly be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds will be eligible to receive support for their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs.

The Home Office is also working with the Border and Immigration Agency to re-examine the fee regulations for domestic violence ILR applications, to ensure that genuine claims are not hampered by prohibitive costs.

Drugs: Caribbean

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to tackle drug trafficking into the UK from the Caribbean; and if she will make a statement. [195625]

Mr. Coaker: Preventing the importation of cocaine from the Caribbean region is a priority for the UK's international counter-narcotics efforts. The UK works closely with the Governments of the region and other international partners to disrupt trafficking and interdict consignments of illicit drugs.

The FCO has invested in various counter-narcotics projects in the Caribbean through its Global Opportunities Fund's drugs and crime programme. Projects such as the UK Security Advisory Team based in Bridgetown have helped to build capacity among various Caribbean law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

HM Revenue and Customs Operation Airbridge was set up in 2002 to reduce the number of couriers arriving in the UK from Jamaica and since its inception the number of couriers arriving in the UK has fallen from about 1,000 to five in the last financial year.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency maintains a team of resident liaison officers in the region, which works with local partners, US agencies, and others, against major organised crime syndicates. In the Caribbean region during 2007-08 this operational work led to the seizure of 1 tonne of cocaine and 6.5 tonnes of cannabis, and to the arrest of a total of 76 suspects.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds have been made available to *(a)* Thames Valley Police force and *(b)* Oxfordshire County Council to further the Government's 2008 drug strategy: Tackling drugs, changing lives. [196534]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has a provisional allocation of £804,860 from the Drug Intervention Programme for Thames Valley police force in 2008-09. This funding is for drug testing those arrested, or charged with trigger offences or for offences where there are grounds to suspect that class A drug use may have caused or contributed to the offence, and for the wider strategic delivery of DIP.

The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) main grant is a Home Office grant aimed at getting adult drug-misusing offenders out of crime and into treatment and other support. The drug action team (DAT), a partnership of which Oxfordshire county council is a member, will receive (via the primary care trust) main grant funding of £1,213,041 for the Drug Interventions Programme in 2008-09. It is for the DAT to decide how best to use the funding to deliver the Drug Interventions Programme in their area, taking account of Home Office guidance.

The Home Office, Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health are providing funding alongside mainstream funding to support local areas in preventing and reducing substance misuse-related harm (including illegal drugs, alcohol and volatile substances) for children and young people. The funding is routed through to all areas through the area-based grant which is paid on an un-ring-fenced basis to allow maximum flexibility, to primary care trusts through the Pooled Treatment Budget and to youth offending teams through the Youth Justice Board. Oxfordshire will receive funding of £356,613 in 2008-09.

Finance Act 2003

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Finance Act 2003 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage

of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196011]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in one of the following offence classifications:

Offences against Laws relating to Customs, Excise and Inland Revenue; or

Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements.

These offences cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Firearms Act 1968

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Firearms Act 1968 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196024]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in either the 'Possession of weapons' or 'Firearms Act 1968 and other Firearms Acts' offence classifications and cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department gives to chief constables on the consideration to be given to duty of care to the community when considering the grant of authorisation for operations to remove illegal immigrants. [197025]

Mr. Byrne: There is an agreed Memorandum of Understanding between the Border and Immigration Agency and each police force in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This understanding ensures that all operations are risk assessed prior to deployment. Part of this risk assessment entails a community impact assessment being carried out by the police force governing the operation. Each police force reserves the right to veto any operation on grounds of adverse community reaction.

Immigration: Personal Records

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of records missing from the register of foreign nationals granted indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom. [194118]

Mr. Byrne: There is no central register of people who have been given indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

Applications for indefinite leave have been recorded on the Case Information Database and on the United Kingdom Visa Database since 2003. There is no estimate made as to records missing from this database.

International Criminal Court Act 2001

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken by her Department since the International Criminal Court Act 2001 came into force to publicise its applicability to United Kingdom residents. [180939]

Meg Hillier: No special measures have been taken to publicise the Act's applicability to UK residents. The International Criminal Court (ICC) can only take jurisdiction over an offence committed in the UK or by a UK national if our domestic authorities are unable or unwilling to investigate or prosecute the case.

The 2001 Act incorporates the offences of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes into domestic law so that our domestic authorities will always be in a position to investigate and prosecute any ICC crimes committed in this country, or committed overseas by a UK national, a UK resident or a person subject to UK Service jurisdiction.

Merchant Shipping Act 1995

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196022]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in one of the following offence classifications as appropriate:

Endangering life at sea;

Public Health offences;

Disclosure, Obstruction, False or Misleading Statements or

Other indictable or triable either way offences.

These offences cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

National Identity Register

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what access local authorities will have to the national identity register. [194996]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 73W.

Offensive Weapons Act 1996

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage

of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196025]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences which would have been recorded under this legislation would be included in the 'Possession of Weapons' offences classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to reduce gun crime since 1997. [197680]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* The Government have taken a range of action since 1997. This has focused on legislation, enforcement and prevention.

Legislative measures include:

the introduction of a five-year minimum sentence for unlawful possession of a prohibited firearm;

the creation of a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon;

banning the sale, manufacture and importation of realistic imitation firearms;

doubling the sentence for the possession of an imitation firearm in public; and

banning the sale, manufacture and importation of tandem cartridge air systems, such as the Brocock.

On enforcement:

We support the work of dedicated intelligence-led enforcement such as Operation Trident, which has a good track record in dealing with gun crime in London. Similar operations have been established in other priority areas.

We held a national firearms amnesty in April 2003, which resulted in 44,000 guns and over a million rounds of ammunition being handed in and removed from circulation.

In September 2007, we set up the Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP), to focus work in areas of London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool which were particularly affected by street gangs and gun crime. A Day of Action in November 2007 resulted in 124 arrests. Further robust enforcement activity has followed, including during a targeted month of action during March 2008.

TGAP has also been concentrating on the supply of firearms, with focused action on postal hubs and other potential supply routes.

The Home Office supported the establishment of the National Ballistics Intelligence Service, which is implementing an enhanced firearms forensic technology capability.

And on prevention:

The Government work with a wide range of delivery partners on initiatives which can help prevent gun violence. These include the Safer Schools Partnerships, whereby police officers are allocated to schools, providing young people with contact with police officers in a neutral setting; CrimeStoppers, which acts as a conduit for information on crime, including gun crime; From Boyhood to Manhood and other organisations which work intensively with vulnerable young people who have been excluded from school to help them reach their potential; and Street Pastors, who work in a number of inner city areas to help and support young people on the streets.

The continued delivery of this programme of work will be taken forward through the Tackling Violence Action Plan, published on 18 February 2008.

Offensive Weapons: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2301W, on offensive weapons, what information her Department holds on knife crime in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley district and *(c)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland. [197907]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it has historically not been possible to identify those offences where an assault with a knife resulted in an injury. The details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

From April 2007, police forces have been collecting data on serious violence offences involving a knife or sharp instrument, to improve our understanding of the prevalence of these types of crime. The first full year's data will be available from July.

Paedophilia: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to her written ministerial statement of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2-3WS, on tackling violence, what plans she has to allow members of the public to apply for information on arrests for child abuse. [197527]

Mr. Coaker: The review of the "Protection of Children from Sex Offenders", published in June 2007, included two actions concerned with disclosing information on child sex offenders' convictions to members of the public, which were referred to in the ministerial statement. These actions are intended to build on existing practice, and were developed in consultation with all relevant agencies and voluntary organisations. The review did not consider disclosing information on arrests, and there are no plans to allow members of the public to apply for information on arrests for child abuse.

Police: Career Structure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on the review of the police high potential development scheme; and if she will make a statement. [195687]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has responsibility for policy, selection and co-ordination for the police high potential development scheme (HPDS). The NPIA has finished a review of the existing HPDS alongside a wider process of developing the future strategy for police leadership. The revised HPDS is a priority within the NPIA Business Plan and will be re-launched in 2008.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded of absconding from lawful custody in each year since

1997; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195991]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available in the form requested.

Table 1 gives the number of offences of absconding from lawful custody and the number detected by means of a sanction detection. Table 2 shows the numbers of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for absconding from lawful custody for the years 1997 to 2006, and is taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and count offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Offences of absconding from lawful custody recorded by the police and detected by means of a sanction detection—1997 to 2006-07

	Number of offences	*Number of sanction detections*
1997	1,379	n/a
1997-98	1,372	n/a
1998-99	1,301	n/a
1999-2000	1,559	n/a
2000-01	1,389	n/a
2001-02	1,357	1,022
2002-03	1,553	1,229
2003-04	1,721	1,412
2004-05	1,362	1,165
2005-06	1,272	1,007
2006-07	980	819

n/a = Not available.

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for bigamy offence, England and Wales 1997-2006[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
1997	22	16
1998	30	18
1999	40	28
2000	17	12
2001	23	17
2002	31	16
2003	29	20
2004	22	22
2005	28	21
2006	23	11

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The found guilty column can often exceed the number proceeded against when a conviction takes place in a different month to when the proceeding was originally brought, or for a different offence.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals *(a)* convicted of a sex offence *(b)* imprisoned for more than 12 months for violence and *(c)* assessed as being high risk there are on the Violent and Sex Offenders Register; and how many times the database has been accessed in each year since 1997. [195613]

Mr. Coaker: As at 19 March 2008, ViSOR contained 58,722 persons categorised as being a "Registered Sexual Offender" (subject to notification requirements) or an "Other Sexual Offender" (not subject to notification requirements). This will include offenders who are in custody and those in the community, and those who are currently required to be supervised and those who are not. It also contained 3,906 persons categorised as being a "Violent Offender" and a total of 14,647 persons recorded as being managed as a "High Risk" or "Very High Risk" person.

It should be noted that ViSOR is a live system used by the police, and is currently subject to a national roll-out to the National Offender Management Service. As such, it does not yet contain all violent offenders or other sexual offenders.

Further statistical data on sexual and violent offenders in England and Wales are published in local multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) reports which have been issued annually for the past six years. These are available in the House Library and at:

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

ViSOR is a web-based operational management system that is in continuous use. It is not possible to provide a meaningful statistic relating to the number of times the database has been accessed.

Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [196019]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Offences recorded under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 are included within the 'Possession of Weapons' offence classification and cannot be separately identified from other offences within that classification. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Women's Aid Last Resort Fund

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been allocated to the Women's Aid Last Resort Fund since 2004 in relation to supporting women at risk of domestic abuse whose independent applications for leave to remain in the UK are being considered; and how much she plans to allocate to the Fund in each of the next three years. [197393]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: During 2004-05 and 2005-06, the Government provided a grant of £145,000 to Women's Aid to bolster their Last Resort Fund, a fund aimed at meeting the living costs of a small number of victims in refuges who are not covered by the Supporting People funding arrangements.

There are currently no plans to support the Last Resort Fund directly in the future. The Government do, however, recognise the particular needs faced by this small group of people and we will soon be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds will be eligible to receive support for their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme, victims of domestic violence whose applications for indefinite leave to remain are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to questions *(a)* 180331 and *(b)* 180332, on Eurostar, tabled by the hon. Member for Woking on 21 January 2008. [188352]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 February 2008]*: I replied to the hon. Member on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 804W and on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 439W.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms since the Department was established; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196581]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. DIUS operates a devolved procurement structure for consultancy contracts. As such there is no central register of contracts let. Information on this type of expenditure is not held separately for DIUS for prior years, therefore this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, year to date, the Department has spent £2,734,621 on consultancy.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193533]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on this type of expenditure is not collected to the detail required in the Department. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many private finance initiatives and public private partnerships his Department is responsible for; and what the value is of each such contract. [196988]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by machinery of government changes at the end of June 2007. The Department does not have any private finance initiatives or public private partnership contracts.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192117]

Mr. Lammy: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK. In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented. In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) is committed to tackling discrimination and inequality including gender inequality. As the Department has only been in existence since June 2007, DIUS is using policies of the former parent entity DTI including the equality scheme which can be found on the BERR website.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 854W, on departmental translation services, how much was spent on translation services into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages in 2007-08. [197552]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on translation expenditure to this level can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what

proportion of full-time undergraduates with each number of UCAS tariff points from their A-levels did not complete their degree in each of the last 10 years for which data are available. [196659]

Bill Rammell: The available information on the proportion of UK-domiciled starters to full-time first degree courses who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution is shown in table 1. Comparable figures for the 2005/06 academic year will become available in June this year. Information on the actual number of students who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution has not been published. These figures cannot be broken down by UCAS tariff points on entry.

Table 1: Proportion of full-time first degree starters at English and UK higher education institutions, who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another institution, academic year 1997/98 to 2004/05

Percentage

Academic year	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
England	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.0	13.8	13.9	14.4	13.8
UK	15.7	15.8	15.8	15.0	14.1	14.4	14.9	14.2

Note:
Figures from the 1996/97 academic year have been excluded due to a change in methodology between 1996/97 and 1997/98. Figures for years earlier than 1996/97 are not available.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

HESA also publishes non-continuation indicators, which show the proportion of entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in higher education after their first year, and which can be broken down by entry qualification. Table 2 contains the available information for non-continuation indicators broken down by entry qualification.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young[1] entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year, academic year 2002/03 to 2004/05

Entry qualification categories	Tariff points	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
A-levels or highers	Unknown	11.3	12.6	13.9
	Up to 200	11.7	11.9	11.2
	201 to 290	7.9	8.1	7.7
	291 to 380	4.9	5.3	4.9
	Above 380	2.6	2.8	2.6
Other qualifications		11.4	11.6	11.2
All qualifications		7.8	7.7	7.2

[1] Young refers to entrants who are under 21 years of age.
Note:
Figures for years earlier than 2002/03 are not available.
Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Student retention rates in this country compare very well internationally. The UK ranks fifth in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the higher education sector has made significant achievements in maintaining, and in some areas slightly improving, retention rates for its students.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of full-time undergraduates from each socio-economic group did not complete their degree in each of the last 10 years for which data are available. [196660]

Bill Rammell: The available information on the proportion of UK-domiciled starters to full-time first degree courses who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution is shown in Table 1. Comparable figures for the 2005-06 academic year will become available in June this year. Information on the actual number of students who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution has not been published.

Table 1: Proportion of full-time first degree starters at English and UK higher education institutions, who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another institution

Percentage

	England	UK
1997-98	15.8	15.7
1998-99	15.9	15.8
1999-2000	15.8	15.8
2000-2001	15.0	15.0
2001-02	13.8	14.1
2002-03	13.9	14.4
2003-04	14.4	14.9
2004-05	13.8	14.2

Notes:
Figures from the 1996-97 academic year have been excluded due to a change in methodology between 1996-7 and 1997-98. Figures for years earlier than 1996-97 are not available.
Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

HESA also publishes non-continuation indicators, which show the proportion of entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in higher education after their first year. It is possible to break these down by NS-SEC. Table 2 contains the available information for non-continuation indicators broken down by socio-economic group. Information on the actual numbers from each socio-economic group has not been published.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young[1] entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year

NS-SEC Classification	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Groups 1-3	6.3	6.0	5.6
Groups 4-7	8.1	8.2	7.6
Unknown	10.6	12.5	11.8
All classifications	7.8	7.7	7.2

[1] Young refers to entrants who are under 21 years of age.

Note:
Figures for years earlier than the 2002-03 academic year are not available: this is the earliest academic year for which socio-economic classification information is available for higher education students.

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Student retention rates in this country compare very well internationally. The UK rank fifth in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were attending universities in each year since 1997. [195228]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Enrolments[1] at UK higher education institutions from Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, north east Government office region[2] and England: academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic year	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North east	England
1997/98	1,765	3,055	67,795	1,272,780
1998/99	1,805	3,125	70,715	1,308,300
1999/2000	1,790	3,090	60,890	1,309,505
2000/01	1,715	2,930	62,940	1,339,120
2001/02	1,775	3,000	64,705	1,377,475
2002/03	1,875	3,250	68,120	1,435,655
2003/04	1,985	3,420	69,980	1,492,580
2004/05	2,160	3,765	70,590	1,524,120
2005/06	2,095	3,625	71,240	1,533,770
2006/07	2,040	3,595	72,465	1,494,595

[1] Covers all students on any year of a course. Includes students on both full-time or part-time courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level including the Open university.

[2] Figures for the 1997/98 and 1998/99 academic years relate to the North of England, rather than the north east due to a change in the classification of government office regions. Therefore, figures for this region from these two years cannot be directly compared to other years in the time series.

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants to full-time undergraduate courses who had been accepted for entry in 2007, rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000, the highest ever. Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008, show that applicants from England are up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2007.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment has been made of the likely effect on *(a)* female, *(b)* mature and *(c)* disabled students of the Government's proposed reduction in spending on equal and lower qualification students; and if he will make a statement. [195300]

Bill Rammell: Our policy is a progressive redistribution of £100 million in institutional funding by 2010 away from students who already have a first HE qualification and want to study another one at an equivalent or lower level towards first time entrants which will enable millions more people of working age without a first HE qualification to participate in higher education and enjoy all the benefits it brings. Within that group, about half are female, a quarter are over 50 and a quarter have a disability and these students will all have more opportunities as a result of the ELQ policy. The majority are likely to be mature learners from non-traditional backgrounds who want to study part-time.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments his Department has made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [194314]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. DIUS operates a devolved procurement structure for consultancy contracts. As such there is no central register of contracts let. Information on this type of expenditure is not held separately for DIUS for prior

years, therefore this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, year to date, the Department has spent £2,734,621 on consultancy.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to answer question 191211 on prisoners and qualifications, tabled on 27 February 2008. [195441]

Bill Rammell: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given on 31 March, *Official Report*, columns 595-598W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chad: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the humanitarian effects of the civil war in Chad since December 2005 and *(b)* the availability of humanitarian aid; when this assessment was last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [197121]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) remains very concerned about the humanitarian effects of the ongoing conflict in Chad. Since the end of 2005, the tensions between Sudan and Chad have increased levels of insecurity. The UN estimates that there are up to 180,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as a result of the conflict, and there are a further 700,000 people thought to have been adversely affected in host communities.

DFID continues to monitor developments closely, and is continuously reviewing the level of humanitarian aid available through contact with the Red Cross and with UN and NGO agencies, and through discussions with other donors.

In overall terms, the 2007 humanitarian effort in Chad was well supported. The 2007 UN appeal for Chad (for $274 million) was 99.5 per cent. funded, making it the best supported UN appeal of 2007. The 2007 ICRC appeal was more than 100 per cent. funded. The 2008 UN appeal (for $290 million) is currently 16.1 per cent. funded, which represents good coverage this early in the year.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196580]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractslet.asp

provides the requested information on all consultancy contracts awarded for the 12-month period January to December 2007. Low value contracts issued by DFID's overseas offices are not included. To produce a separate list of these would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197066]

Gillian Merron: The statistics for Department for International Development attendance at these National School of Government (NSG) courses for 2007-08 is as follows:

Course title	*Number of DFID participants*	*Cost (£)*
Influencing with Integrity	9	6,543
Emotional Intelligence	1	1,495
Counselling Skills for the Workplace	0	0
Managing your Confidence	1	1,149
Balancing Work/life Realities	0	0
Working Assertively	1	726

Responsibility for booking and financing training courses is at departmental level. NSG is one of a range of possible providers for these types of learning activities.

Developing Countries: Food

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of whether *(a)* the Food Security Programme and *(b)* the Productive Safety Net Programme set up by the Government of Ethiopia are viable models to be encouraged in countries facing similar food security issues; what assistance his Department has (i) offered and (ii) delivered (A) directly, (B) through the European Union and (C) through other international institutions to each programme; and if he will make a statement. [197031]

Gillian Merron: The Ethiopian Food Security Programme consists of three components: the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), the Other Food Security Programme and a programme of resettlement.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has supported the PSNP since 2005. Since then, DFID has facilitated assessments of both the Food Security Programme and the PSNP. DFID has also supported the dissemination of lessons learned from PSNP to Southern African countries.

Since 2005, DFID has disbursed £92 million in support of the PSNP. These funds have been provided directly to the Government of Ethiopia.

DFID does not support the other components of the Food Security Programme.

Food Aid

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes have been *(a)* planned, *(b)* initiated, *(c)* run, *(d)* directly funded and *(e)* part-funded by his Department using nutrient dense ready-to-use foods since the beginning of 2007; and if he will make a statement. [197174]

Gillian Merron: Complete costing information on what programmes have been planned and funded using ready-to-use foods (RUTF) is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Department for International Development frequently channels funds for RUTF through budget support at the country level or as contributions to the core budgets or pooled funds of UN organisations working on humanitarian issues.

DFID is providing £1.5 million (2006 to 2010) to the NGOs Concern Worldwide and Valid International to widen the use of RUTFs in community care programmes in Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

HIV Infection: Overseas Aid

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial contribution the UK is making to the 2007 G8 commitments on *(a)* prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV services and *(b)* paediatric HIV treatment; and if he will make a statement. [197053]

Gillian Merron: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, South (Nigel Griffiths) on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-84W.

Latin America

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's staff were based in Latin America at the latest date for which figures are available; where in Latin America each such member of staff was based; how many staff he plans to be based in Latin America in each of the next three years; and where each will be located. [197467]

Mr. Malik: Currently 29 members of the Department for International Development (DFID) staff are based in Latin America. 12 are based in Managua, nine in Brasilia and eight in La Paz.

The offices in La Paz and Managua will close in September 2008 and April 2009 respectively. The Brazil office will continue to operate but with eight staff in 2008-09.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's UK-based staff have been dedicated to working on matters relating to Latin America in each of the last five years; and how many will be dedicated in each of the next three years. [197476]

Mr. Malik: The numbers of Department for International Development staff based in the UK and working on Latin America over the last five years are shown in the table as follows.

Financial year	*Number of Latin America posts based in UK*
2007-08	8
2006-07	10.5
2005-06	14.5
2004-05	16.5
2003-04	16.5

The staffing structure for the UK/Latin America Team for the next three years is still under discussion.

Latin America: Overseas Aid

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish the future Regional Assistance Plan for Latin America. [197468]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development's (DFID) future support to Latin America will be provided through civil society organisations and international institutions. We will also continue to work on Brazil's global role in development. A summary of our programme will be produced and made publicly available (although this will not be in the form of a Regional Assistance Plan). This document will be available by the end of 2008.

Moldova: Food

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the food security situation in Moldova; what assistance his Department has *(a)* offered and *(b)* provided to (i) the Government and (ii) the population of Moldova to alleviate the impact of another possible drought; and if he will make a statement. [197032]

Mr. Malik: During 2007 Moldova was affected by a serious drought that reduced crop production across an estimated 84 per cent. of arable land. The Government of Moldova requested assistance from the United Kingdom and other donors. The Department for International Development (DFID) contacted the European Commission (EC) who confirmed that they were responding by providing €4 million of Food Security Programme budget support and releasing €20 million of macro-economic support funds to enable the Government of Moldova to respond to the impact of the drought. The EC also provided €3 million in direct humanitarian aid. Other donors also provided assistance.

The UK Government are continuing to support the Moldovan Government with longer-term reforms aimed at strengthening the economy of the country and its resilience to future shocks through its small bilateral programme (£4 million pa). This includes a £3

million contribution to the World Bank Poverty Reduction Support Credit, one aim of which is to strengthen the agriculture sector and consequently food security. The EC is also discussing with the Government of Moldova support to agriculture sector reform in its 2008 programme.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of the situation in Gaza on the flow of UK aid to the Palestinians; whether his Department plans to resume direct funding to the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement. [196807]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) funds public services and humanitarian support in both the West Bank and Gaza. UK contributions to the European Commission's PEGASE mechanism help to provide allowances to 77,000 key workers such as doctors and nurses as well as engineers working to keep Gaza's power supply operational. In addition DFID provided £3 million to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to help pay its private sector debts, directly benefiting firms in Gaza as well as in the West Bank. Financial support of this kind is one way of getting aid directly to the people of Gaza.

DFID's humanitarian support to Gaza is channelled through major humanitarian agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that are still able to operate in Gaza. I recently announced a further £2 million through the ICRC.

Concerning support to the Palestinian Authority for both Gaza and the West Bank I refer to the statement I made to the House today in which I announced a £20 million contribution to the Palestinian Authority through a new multi-donor mechanism managed by the World Bank.

Somalia: Internally Displaced Persons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian conditions of *(a)* internally displaced people in and *(b)* refugees from Somalia since the beginning of 2007; what estimate he has made of the number of such people; and if he will make a statement. [197124]

Gillian Merron: The latest estimates from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for the number of Somali refugees resident in countries neighbouring Somalia are as follows:

	Number
Djibouti	8,642
Yemen	50,000
Eritrea	4600
Ethiopia	19,572
Kenya	182,000

In February 2008 UNHCR estimated that the numbers of internally displaced people in Somalia were 776,600. This does not include those who have been recently displaced by drought, floods and clan conflict as these are believed to be temporary. This leads the UN to estimate total numbers of displaced at approximately 1 million.

The humanitarian situation remains critical. In Somalia the relief effort is constrained by conflict and insecurity-related obstruction of supplies. Nevertheless, UN and NGO relief agencies are providing shelter, food, emergency health services and clean water, which help to address the most urgent needs, and reduce suffering.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian impact of the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army; and if he will make a statement. [196914]

Gillian Merron: The activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have had a devastating impact on civilians in northern Uganda and parts of southern Sudan. At the height of fighting between the LRA and the Ugandan army in 2003 over 2 million people were displaced from their homes. An estimated 25,000 children and young people were abducted by the LRA between 1990 and 2006. Although many have returned, approximately 4,000 remain unaccounted for.

Since the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement in August 2006 the security and humanitarian situation in the conflict affected areas has improved dramatically. The United Nations estimates that since 2006 over 400,000 people have been able to return home and a further 526,000 have moved to sites nearer to their homes where they are able to access their land. Even for those that currently remain in camps the situation has improved markedly with most people now able to access land for farming. Health and other social services have also improved with better access for trained personnel and supplies.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the Government will contribute to the annual budget of the World Food Programme's Humanitarian Air Service in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [195670]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government do not contribute directly to the annual budget of the World Food Program's Humanitarian Air Service in Darfur.

The UK Government channel all their humanitarian funding to UN agencies in Sudan through the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF). The UK Government have committed £40 million to the CHF and £40 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in 2008. The Humanitarian Air Service is currently applying for money from the CHF and the CERF.

Zimbabwe: HIV Infection

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the availability over the last 12 months of antiretroviral treatment in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [197125]

Gillian Merron: Of the 300,000 people who require it approximately 100,000 people have access to antiretroviral therapy (ARVs) in Zimbabwe (an increase of 50 per cent. in the last 18 months).

The Government of Zimbabwe's capacity to procure needed drugs has weakened over the last 12 months. However, several bilateral donors, including the UK Government, the EC, the United States and the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria have increased their support for the procurement of antiretroviral medicines. Deliveries are now regular and predictable.

TRANSPORT

A14: Lorries

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many lorry movements there were on average per day on the A14 in 2007; and what percentage of overall vehicle movements along the road this figure represents. [195939]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 2007 road traffic estimates are not yet available. These will become available in July 2008, as part of the publication 'Road Statistics 2007: Traffic, Speeds and Congestion'.

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of recent changes to aircraft design which result in cabin air no longer being taken from engines; if she will re-examine the findings of the relevant study from the Committee on Toxicity; and if she will make a statement. [196734]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* We are aware that new aircraft designs, such as the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, are using a different cabin air system. But older aircraft will be in use globally for many years to come. Hence the Department, following the advice and recommendation of the Committee on Toxicity, is developing cabin air sampling research with a number of participating airlines to assemble real-time data on substances which may be in cabin air during fume events.

Aviation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many internal flights there were in each of the last five years; and how many there are forecast to be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [195923]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of internal flights (air transport movements, excluding double counting) in the UK in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Flights ('000)
2003	376
2004	405
2005	429
2006	427
2007	417

Source:
Civil Aviation Authority

The coverage of air transport movements (ATMs) in the DfT aviation forecasting model, along with the methodology and results, is set out in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' (2007), available at:

http://www.dft.gov/uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

This differs from the coverage of the figures reported above. The differences arise from the range of airports and domestic charter operations covered, and the categorisation of oil rig and Channel Isles traffic. The difference amounts to around an extra 45,000 ATMs per annum in 2005.

Owing to the tolerance with which the iterative forecasting model works, forecast results are rounded and presented at no less than five-yearly intervals. The central forecast is for annual domestic air transport movements to grow from 765,000 in 2005 to 840,000 in 2010. This equates to growth in annual domestic flights from 385,000 in 2005 to 420,000 in 2010.

Aviation: Health Hazards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will investigate the potential impact on health arising from the seeping of emissions from engine lubricants on to the flight decks of aircraft. [197528]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government do not want anyone's health to be at risk when travelling by air, and are leading research in this area. In 2007 we commissioned a world first research project to try to capture substances released during transient fume events. The first stage of this work was to identify and test equipment capable of sampling any potentially harmful substances in cabin air. The report into this first stage work was published by Cranfield university on 21 February after peer review. It is published on the Department's website. The next phase of work is to use the equipment identified to capture real-time fume events; this work is being developed.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to prevent the incapacitation of pilots and co-pilots arising from the seeping of emissions from engine lubricants on to the flight decks of aircraft. [197529]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) investigations into reported incidents have resulted in measures to minimise occurrences. For example, overfilling engines with oil can result in oily fumes. The CAA has worked with aircraft operators, and with

engine and aircraft manufacturers, to ensure that revised oil filling instructions are made available. Mandatory procedures have been put in place to ensure aircraft systems are examined and, where necessary, rectified and cleaned before further flight. To minimise the effects on pilots, the CAA has published advice to operators that, in the event of a suspected air contamination in the flight deck, pilots should consider the use of oxygen equipment.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what (*a*) regulations and (*b*) international agreements govern the spraying of biocides in the passenger deck of international aircraft; and what substances are permitted to be so sprayed. [197530]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The use of insecticide is required under the International Health Regulations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on flights to or from certain destinations to prevent infectious and contagious diseases.

Rules established by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) permit the use of certain insecticides, which have the approval of and are recommended by the WHO, based on their efficacy and minimal human toxicity. These rules are binding on International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) contracting states.

All pesticides used for aircraft disinsection in Great Britain (GB) must be approved by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986. The active ingredient in sprays in GB is either 2 per cent. permethrin or 2 per cent. d-phenothrin.

Biofuels

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment her Department has made of the merits of second generation biofuels. [197579]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Advanced biofuel production processes have the potential to deliver significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector. These processes also have very significant advantages in potentially using a much wider range of materials than those used for current biofuels, including materials which do not compete with food products, thus reducing the environmental pressures from using land for biofuel crop production. The Government's aim is to create the right market incentives, through policies such as the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), backed up by technology support, for such fuels to flourish.

The Government have funded a number of pieces of recent research by the National Non-Food Crops Centre (NNFCC) on the feasibility of advanced biofuel production processes. These include work on the feasibility of second generation biodiesel production in the UK, available via the NNFCC's website at:

http://www.nnfcc.com

as well as an evaluation of emerging biodiesel technologies and a mapping of the development of advanced biorefinery concepts which could become reality beyond 2020.

Bus Lanes: Motorcycles

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will undertake research into the use of powered two-wheeled vehicles in bus lanes; what research she has evaluated on the matter; and if she will make a statement. [197631]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has commissioned three research projects to investigate the effects of allowing powered two-wheeled vehicles to use bus lanes. The research, in Bristol, Swindon and the City of Westminster, considered the impact of schemes on both motorcyclists and other road users.

The case for allowing powered two-wheeled vehicles in bus lanes is very much a site-specific matter. The research has helped identify potential benefits and disbenefits that local authorities need to consider in determining whether or not to permit motorcycles to use their bus lanes. The results of this research provide the basis for the Department's current advice in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/07 "The use of bus lanes by motorcycles".

Bus Services: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many local authorities in England offered subsidised bus services after 11 pm in each year since 1997. [195929]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not held at the level of detail requested. Local authorities have discretion to offer concessionary travel beyond the statutory times defined in the Transport Act 2000. The statutory minimum concession is available to eligible residents on local buses from 9.30 am to 11 pm Monday to Friday and at all times at weekends and on bank holidays.

Bus Services: Schools

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect on road safety of the use by local authorities of buses exempt from the requirement to have passenger seatbelts fitted to transport children to school. [197245]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not made a specific assessment of the implications of carrying children in buses that are not equipped with safety belts. However, a review of the benefit of safety belts in minibuses and coaches recognised technical difficulties associated with fitting adequate seat belts retrospectively to other types of bus.

'Road Casualties Great Britain 2006' shows buses to be one of the safest forms of road transport with the rate of killed or seriously injured passengers, on a mile for mile basis, being approximately one-third that for passenger cars.

Local authorities are able to specify that transport providers supply buses with safety belts and should consider if this is appropriate as part of their risk assessment.

Car Sharing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings and discussions took place between (*a*) her Department and (*b*) the Highways Agency and (i) car share organisations, (ii) bus companies and (iii) other groups with experience of high occupancy vehicle lanes prior to the decision not to proceed with the proposed high occupancy vehicle lane on the M1 between junctions 7 and 10. [197576]

Mr. Tom Harris: Various official-level meetings and discussions with stakeholders have taken place over the course of the M1 HOV lane scheme's development, including with the Campaign for Better Transport, the Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT), National Express, Carplus and Liftshare. Officials have also met with highway authorities in other countries who have experience of high occupancy vehicle lanes. Ministers met with the CPT and National Express in autumn 2007.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of (*a*) her Department and (*b*) its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192508]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was established in 2002. Since then it has responded to 21 cases brought to the Civil Service Appeal Board.

12 cases were on grounds of gross misconduct, two for breach of ICT policy, two for bringing the agency/department into disrepute, four for other individual reasons and one for which the information is not currently available.

Six appeals were upheld (29 per cent.), five on the grounds of unfair dismissal and one for a minor procedural error by the Department. The total compensation paid was £128,837.55. Only one individual was reinstated (in 2005) following an upheld appeal, as the Board concluded that there was insufficient evidence that the appellant was deliberately bringing the agency/Department into disrepute.

Cycling

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Welsh Assembly Ministers and Ministers of other devolved administrations to ensure that appropriate funding is made available throughout the UK to encourage the promotion of the shift from cars to cycling. [189212]

Ms Rosie Winterton: DfT Ministers have had no such meetings but they are in regular contact with Ministers in the devolved Administrations about a range of issues.

Decisions on local transport issues are a devolved matter.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contracts were awarded by her Department to (*a*) KPMG, (*b*) PricewaterhouseCoopers, (*c*) Ernst and Young, (*d*) McKinsey, (*e*) Deloitte and (*f*) other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196559]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the value and the nature of work undertaken by KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young and Deloitte between 1 March 2007 and 29 February 2008 has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

McKinsey has not carried out any work for the Department and its agencies in this 12 month period.

Details of contracts carried out by other consultancy firms in the last 12 months could be provided in response to this question only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 772-3W, on departmental databases, which US-registered service providers have been engaged by her Department and its agencies to manage aspects of personal data; and what types of personal information such service providers have been engaged to manage. [197148]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following US registered service providers have been engaged by the Department for Transport to manage aspects of personal data—this list only incorporates contracts under which services are still being provided;

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)

International Business Machines Corporation is a registered US company with subsidiaries all over the world. The DVLA's contract is presently with the UK subsidiary, IBM United Kingdom.

DVLA's prime IT service provider is IBM.

As the prime IT service provider, IBM has been engaged to manage all aspects of DVLA IT, including responsibility for DVLA's core driver and vehicle databases which contain UK citizens' personal information, including names, addresses, dates of birth, disclosed medical conditions (in relation to the driver's ability to drive) and driving licence photographs. All this information is maintained within the UK.

IBM is also supporting the programme to migrate the Department to a shared service centre initially covering the Department's financial and Human Resources back-office functions. This includes personal data for the Department's civil servants and the Department's financial data.

Driving Standards Agency (DSA)

The DSA contracts Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd to provide theory test services. Some of these services involve data processing, which is carried out in

the US by NCS Pearson, Inc., a US registered company in the same corporate group as Pearson Driving Assessments Ltd. These companies manage data on candidates' personal information (name, address, date of birth, gender), payment information, driver licence number, details of the test taken and the result.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)

The MCA has a contract with GroupLink, a US registered company which provides a customer relationship management (CRM) system for part of the MCA. Grouplink managed the migration of the CRM data in 2007 to the new system and currently only provides support for this system without having access to the data which include contact details of MCA customers.

As part of the Communities and Local Government Framework Agreement, which the Department and its agencies call off, some parts of the Department use Iron Mountain, a US registered company, for file storage, retrieval and destruction of registered files. Among these files are standard departmental personnel records, which include:

reports, personal, leave and attendance, medical, conduct and discipline, pay, travel and subsistence, long term detached duty, permanent transfer and secondment files.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 442W, on departmental translation services, how much was spent by her Department and its agencies on translation services into (*a*) Welsh and (*b*) other languages in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08 to date. [197548]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, the Highways Agency, and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, do not hold the data in an appropriate format to provide the breakdown requested. The required analysis to obtain the information would incur disproportionate cost, requiring recourse to all the original invoices for the years concerned.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency translated one document into Welsh in 2005, "Stay SAFE at the seaside", at a cost of £329.

The Vehicle Certification Agency translates the Fuel Consumption booklet into Welsh at an annual cost of approximately £1,000.

As recorded in the answer of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 442W, data are not available for the Driving Standards Agency for 2003-04 and 2004-05. The expenditure shown for 2005-08 (to end January 2008) is for translating forms and the Highway Code into Welsh.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by her Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195887]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies use video conferencing (and also teleconferencing) extensively, and already encourage all staff to use the facilities as a first option in preference to travelling, and to save time and travelling expenses. However, it is considered more appropriate and feasible to judge each case on its merits, rather than set specific targets, due to the variable individual circumstances surrounding each meeting.

Driving Tests

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to her Statement of 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 624, on Department for Transport data storage and use, if she will place in the Library a copy of the terms of the contract between the Driving Standards Agency and Pearson Driving Assessments which relate to compliance with UK data protection rules. [176272]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A copy of the terms of the contract between the Driving Standards Agency and Pearson Driving Assessments Limited which relate to compliance with UK data protection rules has been placed in the Library.

Environment Directorate

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the objectives of her Department's Environment Directorate are; what the directorate's performance against those objectives has been in the last six months; and what projects the directorate has undertaken over that period. [197538]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's (DFT) Environment and International (ENI) Directorate was set up in April 2007.

The Directorate's objectives, as set out in the DFT's business plan for 2007-08, include:

working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and internationally to deliver the joint PSA target for climate change and take forward the Department's strategy for tackling the environmental impact of transport in line with the Stern Review. Sub-objectives include:

improving strategy, planning and the evidence base for climate change policy in DFT;

tackling the climate change impacts of transport through putting a price on carbon (tax, trading or regulation);

removing barriers to behaviour change and promoting more environmentally-friendly transport;

promoting technological development and innovation to reduce carbon emissions from transport;

working with DEFRA and other stakeholders to deliver the joint Public Service Agreement target for air quality;

influencing international transport negotiations to achieve UK objectives for market liberalisation, improved environmental protection, consumer rights and better regulation. Sub-objectives include ensuring timely and proper implementation of all new EU obligations.

ensuring that the DFT adopts Better Regulation principles and reduces the administrative burdens imposed by transport regulations.

DFT's full business plan is available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/priorities

Environment-related projects undertaken by ENI in the past six months have included:

programme management of overall DFT carbon reduction activity (liaising with other parts of DFT including aviation and shipping sections, as well as relevant executive agencies);

contributing to cross-Government development of the Climate Change Bill and analysis of climate change strategy;

developing policy within the EU on mandatory targets for new car CO_2 emissions;

developing policy on the use of renewables in transport, in particular in respect of the EU Renewable Energy Directive and the Fuel Quality Directive, and implementing the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation;

supporting the work of H M Treasury in Budget 2008 on cleaner cars and incentives for people to buy them;

progressing the Low Carbon Transport Innovation Strategy, supporting research and development and procurement of low carbon vehicles;

policy development and stakeholder engagement relating to the climate change goal set out in the "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" discussion paper;

contributing to policy development in Europe on air quality, notably through negotiations on EURO VI standards for heavy duty vehicles.

In the past six months, as part of its responsibilities for cross-cutting international matters and for DFT's better regulation work, ENI's work has also included updating the DFT simplification plan, the preparations for European Transport Councils, and wider EU coordination work.

Fuels: Renewable Energy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the complementarity of the *(a)* targets and *(b)* sustainability criteria in the EU Fuel Quality Directive and the EU Renewable Energy Directive. [191811]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Commission has proposed a greenhouse gas reduction target for the Fuel Quality Directive which would, in our assessment, need to be met mainly through biofuels, in quantities much greater than would be required by the draft Renewable Energy Directive. In negotiations in the EU, the UK and other member states have made clear that this discrepancy needs to be resolved. The Commission's proposal for the Fuel Quality Directive does not include sustainability criteria for biofuels, though some have been proposed in the European Parliament. There are different sustainability criteria in the Renewable Energy Directive: again, we and other member states have stressed that it will be essential to have just one set, applying to both directives. In the high-level discussions on this issue the UK will be pressing for these criteria to be as robust and wide-ranging as possible.

Government Car and Dispatch Agency: Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Government Car and Dispatch Agency has spent on replacing cars *(a)* in 2007-08 and *(b)* since 27 June 2007. [191752]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) has spent £393,956 (excluding VAT) on cars for its fleet so far in 2007-08. Of that, £381,398 has been spent since 27 June 2007. The timing of this expenditure is part of GCDA's three year rolling programme of capital expenditure that was agreed with the Department for Transport during 2006-07. GCDA replaces approximately one third of its car fleet each year.

Heathrow Airport

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many visits she has made to Heathrow Airport to meet representatives of *(a)* businesses and the aviation industry and *(b)* local residents associations affected by Heathrow expansion in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008 to date. [189605]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* The Secretary of State, Ministers and Department for Transport officials have met a number of stakeholders in a variety of locations to discuss the Heathrow Consultation. The Department engaged with the local community at a series of dedicated roadshows.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings she has held with *(a)* BAA, *(b)* HACAN ClearSkies, *(c)* 2M group and *(d)* Future Heathrow Group on Heathrow expansion since her appointment. [193991]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since July the Secretary of State has held regular meetings at a senior level with BAA. These have covered a range of issues pertinent to BAA airports including Heathrow. Although the Secretary of State has not met HACAN ClearSkies or the 2M group, I have held meetings with these groups since July either individually or as part of meetings with a wider stakeholder attendance. Both myself and the Secretary of State have met with Future Heathrow Group on one occasion since July.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of each option for Heathrow expansion as set out in the adding capacity at Heathrow consultation on local public health, with particular reference to *(a)* air quality, *(b)* nitrogen oxide emissions and *(c)* noise pollution; and if she will make a statement. [194042]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our work has been focused primarily on demonstrating compliance with limits on local air quality pollutants and noise. The former relate to European obligations under Directives whose key objectives are protecting human health. The public health impacts of aviation are considered in the development of our policies. We monitor the continuing research on the effects of noise on human health. In addition we take account of existing guidelines and long-term targets recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Minister in her Department approved the consultation document on the third runway at Heathrow. [195183]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State approved the consultation document which was then subject to the collective Cabinet clearance process.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people from each London borough submitted representations to the Heathrow third runway consultation. [195707]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport' consultation ended on 27 February. We are not yet in a position to provide data on the numbers of responses received or provide any breakdowns.

Heathrow Airport: Health Hazards

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to make a health impact assessment of the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport. [197030]

Jim Fitzpatrick: While our principal focus has been on meeting the key noise and local air quality limits, we plan to update the initial impact assessment incorporated in our recent Heathrow consultation in the light of responses and relevant evidence received. We have made it clear that any proposals for future development would need to be the subject of a full health impact assessment by the airport operator at the planning stage.

Lorries: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many lorries in each region of England were detected by *(a)* the police and *(b)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, as being (i) overloaded, (ii) in an unsatisfactory mechanical condition and (iii) driven in breach of drivers' hours regulations, in each of the last 10 years; and what penalties were imposed on those drivers found to be in breach of the law. [192959]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed in April 2003, since then the relevant statistics relating to VOSA are:

	Prohibited for overloading	*Prosecuted for overloading*	*Mechanical prohibitions*	*Prohibited for drivers' hours tachograph and records*	*Prosecuted for drivers' hours tachograph and records*
2006-07					
North Eastern	609	135	2,660	857	1,527
North Western	887	106	2,548	1,735	952
West Midlands	771	197	1,591	995	564
Eastern	810	111	1,991	1,889	472
South Eastern	1,303	112	6,027	2,757	580
Western	702	128	2,805	874	510
Total	5,082	789	17,622	9,107	4,605
2005-06					
North Eastern	605	121	3,037	1,152	1,187
North Western	925	118	2,589	1,449	1,217
West Midlands	699	105	1,680	1,085	823
Eastern	717	118	1,622	1,550	688
South Eastern	773	128	3,763	2,456	691
Western	513	136	2,543	1,042	724
Total	4,232	726	15,234	8,734	5,330
2004-05					
North Eastern	522	125	2,848	1,124	1,252
North Western	780	156	2,472	1,216	1,417
West Midlands	420	101	1,571	937	558
Eastern	498	153	1,467	1,017	710
South Eastern	693	157	3,378	1,946	515
Western	444	144	2,325	727	627
Total	3,357	836	14,061	6,967	5,079
2003-04					
North Eastern	512	312	2,625	952	1,307
North Western	521	472	2,934	1,092	1,205
West Midlands	326	294	1,535	579	575
Eastern	507	439	1,561	626	1,409
South Eastern	819	480	2,866	1,764	1,163
Western	412	451	2,101	625	1,109
Total	3,097	2,448	13,622	5,638	6,768

VOSA does not individually record the number of prosecutions due to mechanical faults but VOSA is sure this would be an insignificant figure.

Data collected centrally on the Court Proceedings Database, held by the Ministry of Justice do not identify the vehicle type (e.g. lorry, buses or coaches etc) involved for the specified motoring offences.

Similarly the Fixed Penalty Notices, Written Warnings and Vehicle Defect Rectification Scheme motoring offences collections, also held by the Ministry of Justice do not identify types of vehicles involved.

Lorries: Safety Measures

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the average cost to a road haulier of fitting retro-reflective marking tape to a heavy goods vehicle; and what the total estimated cost of doing so is for all road hauliers; [198208]

(2) what consideration she has given to making the fitting of retro-reflective marking tape mandatory on all new heavy goods vehicles from 10 October 2009. [198209]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following European and international negotiations, it was agreed to require fitment of retro-reflective marking tape for new trucks over 7.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight (GVW) and new trailers over 3.5 tonnes GVW. The cost over 12 years has been estimated at between £152.6 million and £164.2 million and potential benefits over the same period have been estimated at £297 million. The cost per vehicle has been estimated as ranging from around £186 to almost £388.

The UK is working to implement the requirement via amendment to our national Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations by 10 October 2009. This is the earliest date that Contracting Parties to UN-ECE Regulation 48 can refuse to register new heavy trucks not fitted with reflective tape. A public consultation on proposed amendments will be carried out in due course.

Lorries: Testing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods vehicle test stations are operated by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency; and what their locations are. [197879]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency currently has 89 heavy goods vehicle test stations. A list of locations has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the maximum distance is that a road haulier is expected to travel to present his vehicle for examination. [197880]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)'s criteria is to provide a testing facility sufficient to accommodate at least 90 per cent. of its customers with a travel distance of 30 miles, or 60 minutes, and that target is currently exceeded by a substantial margin.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there are plans to change the *(a)* number and *(b)* location of Vehicle and Operator Services Agency-operated heavy goods vehicle test stations. [197881]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is currently undertaking a strategic review of its operational estate and has not ruled out changes. VOSA has recently relocated the Bristol heavy goods vehicle testing station to a more strategic location in Avonmouth.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there are plans to alter the *(a)* numbers and *(b)* terms of employment of staff employed and based at Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's heavy goods vehicle test stations. [197883]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has *(a)* no plans to reduce the number of staff employed in technical roles in its HGV test stations. However, there are plans to reduce the number of admin support staff. As part of the DFT Value For Money programme, VOSA has been investing in modern technology and call-handling processes to improve customer service and as a result, fewer admin staff are required. There are plans to reduce the admin work force by 19 FTEs. *(b)* VOSA has no proposals to change the terms and conditions of staff based at its HGV test stations. However, work has been done to investigate the options for more flexible opening hours for its test stations which may require new contracts to be negotiated.

Lorries: Tolls

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent consideration has been given to the possibility of introducing a vignette to charge lorries for road use; and if she will make a statement. [195828]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As announced in Budget 2008, the Government will not be progressing a vignette scheme at this stage. This decision was informed by the freight data feasibility study which found that all options considered, including a vignette, offered limited safety, congestion and environmental benefits. The conclusions of the study will be published shortly.

M25: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the latest ministerially-approved costs are of the *(a)* M25 widening schemes and *(b)* M1 widening schemes; and what the original estimated cost was of these schemes. [188494]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following table provides the information requested for the schemes on the M1 and M25 motorways, forming part of the Highways Agency's programme of major schemes, which were designated 'widening schemes' at programme entry. Following the Nichols report on the Highways Agency, revised cost estimates for a number of the schemes listed are currently in preparation. In addition,

following publication on 4 March of the 'Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study' a number of these schemes will be considered for their suitability for active traffic management (ATM), including hard shoulder running, as an alternative to conventional widening. Where ATM is selected as the preferred option the scheme cost will be re-estimated.

Scheme name	*Programme entry estimate*	*£ million Latest ministerial approved estimates*
M25 J12-15 widening[1]	94	120
M25 J1b to J3 widening ECI	66	[2]62
M25 J5 to J6/7 widening DBFO	214	214
M25 J16 to J23 widening DBFO	496	697
M25 J23 to J27 widening DBFO	419	419
M25 J27 to J30 widening DBFO	402	583
M25 total	1,691	2,098
M1 J6A to J10 widening	241	289
M1 J10 to J13 widening	382	601
M1 J21 to J30 widening (ECI) Contract 1		
M1 J21 to J30 widening (ECI) Contract 2	1,915	1,915
M1 J30 to J31 widening	135	135
M1 J31 to J32 widening[1]	20	20
M1 J32 to J34S	139	139
M1 J34N to J37	246	246
M1 J37 to J39	224	224
M1 J39 to J42 widening	202	202
M1 total	3,504	3,771

[1] Scheme complete.
[2] In addition, £12 million of work has been transferred to the A2/A282 scheme

M42: Motorway Service Areas

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on negotiations between the Highways Agency, Birmingham International airport and the management of the Blue Boar Inn on the proposed motorway service area at Junction 6 on the M42. [198387]

Mr. Tom Harris: The proposed motorway service area is on the mainline between Junction 5 and Junction 6 of the M42. This site was formerly being promoted by Blue Boar Motorways Ltd. and is now being promoted by Swayfields.

The Highways Agency is not negotiating with Birmingham International airport and the management of Swayfields with regard to the proposed motorway service area. As part of the planning process, the Highways Agency has a duty to co-operate and act reasonably in considering proposals coming forward. Our conclusions on the acceptability of the proposals have been set out in our Proof of Evidence submitted to the ongoing Public Inquiry.

The Highways Agency has worked with Birmingham International Airport Limited and the National Exhibition Centre on options for, improving motorway access from the M42 to their developments. A Joint Statement produced by the Highways Agency, Birmingham International Airport Limited and the National Exhibition Centre regarding options for improving motorway access from the M42 was read out and given to the Inspector at the Pre-Inquiry Meeting on 19 March 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport to reply to the letter sent to him by Campaign for Better Transport, Liftshare.com, Sustrans, Friends of the Earth and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England on 18 October on the proposed high occupancy vehicle lane on the M1 between junctions 7 and 10. [197575]

Mr. Tom Harris: A reply was sent on 17 March.

Metronet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1088W, on Metronet, what the size of the loan from TfL to Metronet is. [196638]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding of the administrators of the Metronet companies during their appointment is the responsibility of Transport for London and London Underground Limited.

Ministers: Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many former Ministers, other than the former Prime Minister, are supplied with a car from the Government Car and Despatch Agency; and how many former Ministers were in receipt of such cars on 1 January 2005. [195935]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Currently the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) provides cars and drivers for 6 former Ministers and former Prime Ministers. On 1 January 2005 GCDA provided cars and drivers to 11 former Ministers and Prime Ministers.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will take steps to quantify the down-time of drivers employed to drive ministerial cars supplied by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [195937]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency provides allocated cars and drivers to Departments for use by Ministers and senior officials. The day to day allocation of work for these drivers is the responsibility of each Department.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which Government Departments permanent secretaries have chosen not to make use of an allocated vehicle supplied by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [195938]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency does not provide allocated cars and drivers to the permanent secretaries of the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Ministry of Defence, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Justice or the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the merits of providing a pool of cars per Government Department rather than allocating cars to individual Ministers and permanent secretaries; and if she will make a statement. [195950]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency is responsible for providing official cars and drivers to Ministers and senior officials. There has been no formal review or assessment of the merits of introducing departmental driver pools since GCDA became part of the Department for Transport.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria are used in determining the entitlement of former Ministers to vehicles supplied by the Government Car and Despatch Agency; and what the process is for deciding when such use should cease. [195951]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The use of an official car after a Minister's departure from office will be on the advice of the security authorities. In line with successive Administrations, the Government do not comment on security issues.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in respect of how many former *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* permanent secretaries and *(c)* other categories, other than serving Ministers and permanent secretaries, requests have been received for the provision of vehicles by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [195952]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency provides official cars and drivers for Ministers and senior officials. GCDA does not accept requests to provide official cars and drivers directly from former Ministers or former officials. All requests for the provision of official cars and drivers are routed through the Cabinet Office. This information is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Motor Vehicles

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish her recommendations following the review of class *(a)* two and *(b)* three powered wheelchairs and powered scooters. [197999]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport published research into class two and three powered wheelchairs and mobility Scooters in 2006. The research included a series of recommendations to Government on areas such as fitness to drive and insurance requirements.

The review's findings are helping to inform policy development in this area. However, we do not have any additional announcements planned at this point in time.

Motor Vehicles: Fines

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Vehicle and Operator Services Agency staff will be employed to issue fixed penalty notices to vehicles where offences are detected. [197882]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) employs 590 traffic and vehicle examiners, all of whom may be required to issue fixed penalty notices. There are plans to employ a further 127 enforcement staff in the coming year as a result of reinvesting Gershon VFM post savings and new funding from DFT for additional enforcement activity. All these additional staff will be trained to issue fixed penalty notices.

Motor Vehicles: Fuels

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when her Department expects to complete its review of the Powering Future Vehicles Strategy. [197533]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is currently considering the status of the Powering Future Vehicles Strategy review, in light of the recent publication of the final report from the King Review of low-carbon cars. As announced in Budget 2008, a detailed Government response to the King Review will be published in the summer.

Motor Vehicles: Ministers

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what type of car each Government Minister receives from the Government Car and Dispatch Agency. [191763]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Cabinet Ministers may choose either a diesel powered Jaguar XJ or a Toyota Prius hybrid. Other Ministers may also choose from a Toyota Prius, a Honda Civic hybrid or any other suitable car with a CO_2 emission of 185 g/km or less.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many garages in the UK are licensed by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) to conduct private vehicle and motorcycle MOT tests; how often these garages are inspected by VOSA to ensure standards are being upheld; and how many inspectors VOSA employs to check on standards in these garages. [197884]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has 19,064 garages authorised to conduct MOT testing in Great Britain on private vehicles and motorcycles. In the financial year 2007-08, every active MOT garage received a VOSA site assessment in addition to any demand-led or targeted visits. This fully achieved a demanding Secretary of State key target last year. VOSA employs 330 vehicle examiners who spend around one third of their time on MOT garage supervision.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many non-UK registered vehicles were inspected by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency inspectors during the south-east pilot exercise in the 2007-08 financial year; and how many prohibition notes were issued. [197918]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) inspected and issued prohibitions to the following numbers of non-UK registered vehicles:

	Inspections	*Prohibitions*
Roadworthiness	17,320	8,762
Traffic offences (inc. weighing)	19,677	5,428

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for future charges for *(a)* private vehicle and motorcycle MOT tests, *(b)* heavy goods vehicle tests and *(c)* public service vehicle tests. [197921]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A consultation on proposals to raise HGV and PSV test fees by approximately 5 per cent. for 2008-09 closed on 10 March. A further consultation on MOT fees is due to close on the 30 of April. The results of these consultations are being/will be analysed. The Secretary of State (SoS) will announce her decision on future fees, having duly considered the response to these consultations in due course.

The SoS announced in 2006 her intention to abolish certain HGV and PSV operator licence fees and increase HGV and PSV test fees to recover the income lost. This rationalisation is planned to occur in April 2009 to coincide with the normal annual fee review cycle.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) plans to review fee levels regularly, including consultation on proposed changes.

Motorcycles: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 55-6W, on motorcycles: licensing, what her current estimate is of the costs provided in that answer; and if she will make a statement. [196709]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total estimated cost for implementing the new practical motorcycling test being introduced in September 2008 is £71,000,000.

Of this, £70,200,000 is for acquisition, design construction and development of multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs). The remainder of £800,000 has been allocated for equipment, training and site set-up cost.

The second European driving licence directive as amended by Commission directive 56/2000 aims to improve the standard of road safety for all road users including motorcycle and moped riders. Test candidates must be able to demonstrate that they are competent to ride their machines at a more demanding level than is currently the case. The new practical motorcycle test must be introduced no later than 30 September 2008. The higher speed exercises and other manoeuvres will be performed in the off-road element of the test conducted at MPTC sites.

In the interests of the safety of all road users, not least the motorcycling test candidate, assessing the new manoeuvres will be conducted off-road at MPTCs.

MPTCs will also cater for other types of practical tests, including for car drivers.

Motorways

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what purposes the hard shoulders of the motorway infrastructure are used. [194947]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Motorways; Traffic (England and Wales) Regulations 1982 define a hard shoulder and its uses. Regulation 7 provides that a vehicle may stop and remain at rest on a hard shoulder where it is necessary:

By reason of a breakdown or lack of fuel, oil or water or

By reason of any accident, illness or other emergency or

To permit any person carried in the vehicle to recover or move any object that has fallen onto a motorway or

To permit any person carried in the vehicle to give help to another person in association with the above situations.

The M42 (Junctions 3A to 7) Actively Managed Hard Shoulder and Variable Speed Limits) Regulations 2005, modified the 1982 regulations in respect of M42 Junctions 3A to 7 and the adjoining slip roads to introduce variable speed limits and create the concept of an 'actively managed hard shoulder', which may, in certain circumstances, be driven on.

Information for drivers on the use of the hard shoulder is given in the Highway Code, sections 269 to 271.

Motorways: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths there have been as a result of crashes involving vehicles parked on motorway hard shoulders in the last 10 years for which figures are available. [194934]

Mr. Tom Harris: Between 1997 and 2006 there were 85 fatalities resulting from road traffic accidents on M and A(M) class roads on the Highways Agency's trunk road network, where at least one vehicle was stopped on the hard shoulder.

The 85 fatalities (in accidents where at least one vehicle was parked on the hard shoulder) accounted for 4.9 per cent. of all fatalities on M and A(M) class roads on the Highways Agency's trunk road network (1,739 in total), recorded over the same period.

Motorways: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the annual change in carbon dioxide emissions expected to result from the planned motorway widening programme by 2015. [197541]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: Following the recent publication of the advanced motorway signalling and traffic management feasibility study, hard shoulder running will now be considered for the schemes which were due to be widened, apart from the first two sections of the M25 widening scheme".

The feasibility study modelled the emissions impacts of a programme of planned widening schemes comprising all the motorway elements of the Highways Agency's current major schemes programme, plus widening of the M6 from the north of Birmingham to Knutsford, for the year 2015. This high level analysis showed an increase in CO_2 of 0.3 megatonnes (an increase of 0.3 per cent.) for the widening package, compared to 0.2 megatonnes (0.2 per cent.) if all the widening schemes were to be replaced with hard shoulder running. This is compared to a reference case with no improvements to these parts of the motorway network. Year-on-year impacts were not modelled. Further details are included in the study report, available online at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/mtorsigntrafmanagement/

Passenger Transport Executives: Marketing

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the costs of rebranding passenger transport authorities as integrated transport authorities as proposed in the Local Transport Bill; and when the Government will provide funding for this purpose. [198389]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Transport Bill provides for the statutory designation of each passenger transport authority to be changed to "integrated transport authority". This reflects their proposed new responsibilities for leading the integration within the Local Transport Plan of the whole transport agenda including, for example highways and traffic issues. Most passenger transport in the former metropolitan areas is already provided under "brand" names such as Merseytravel or Nexus, and the legislation will not affect the ability of authorities to use such names. I expect the change in statutory designation not to impose any significant additional costs on authorities, and that any such costs will be more than offset by savings resulting from other measures.

Penalty Fares: Appeals

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which approved appeals bodies adjudicate on the penalty fares scheme. [194548]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are two approved appeal bodies handling National Rail penalty fare scheme appeals. These are the Independent Penalty Fares Appeals Service (IPFAS), and the Independent Appeals Service (IAS).

Public Transport

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of people who travel by public transport in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas. [198597]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the proportion of trips by people living in urban and rural areas which are by public transport.

Proportion of trips by main mode by residents of urban and rural areas, Great Britain, 2006

	Public transport
Urban	11
London	26
Other urban	9
Rural	4
Total	10

Source:
DfT: National Travel Survey 2006

Public Transport: Tickets

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage the deployment of train-bus Oystercard-type arrangements in major conurbations other than London. [195948]

Mr. Tom Harris: The smartcard and integrated ticketing programmes are being rolled out progressively. Plus Bus (add-on bus travel to a rail ticket) is growing and passenger transport executives already have integrated bus and train tickets, safeguarded through rail franchise agreements. The national concessionary bus passes are being introduced on ITSO smartcards and with older people being the biggest users of bus, this gives the potential for further smartcard initiatives.

The key to more integrated smart ticketing is to establish ITSO on rail in London and elsewhere. ITSO smartcards are being rolled out through new rail franchise agreements and train operators are encouraged to engage with local authorities on ticketing schemes.

The Northern Way have identified smartcards as a tool which would support economic growth by making public transport more attractive; and are considering how they might potentially encourage take up in the north.

Railways: Buckinghamshire

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the passenger capacity is of commuter trains serving *(a)* Wolverton, *(b)* Central Milton Keynes and *(c)* Bletchley train stations per day; and what the capacity is of (i) peak time services and (ii) an average train serving each. [197300]

Mr. Tom Harris: Commuter trains to London that serve the three stations in the Milton Keynes area have the capacity to transport over 50,000 passengers in each direction each day. Trains calling for London arrivals between 7 am and 10 am have almost 8,000

seats with an absolute capacity of 13,000. A typical peak time train serving the Milton Keynes area would have 412 seats and an absolute capacity of 720. Capacity at individual stations is a matter for London Midland.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people used *(a)* Wolverton, *(b)* Central Milton Keynes and *(c)* Bletchley train stations per day for (i) peak and (ii) non-peak journey times in the latest period for which figures are available; and what projection has been made of the likely numbers in each year until 2031. [197301]

Mr. Tom Harris: Depending on the time of year, a total of between 15,000 and 20,000 rail passengers use the three stations within the Milton Keynes region every weekday. The morning peak period carries between 5,000 and 8,000 of the daily passengers, the evening peak is almost as popular, and the remainder travel outside of these times. Over two-thirds of all the passengers have an ultimate origin or destination of London.

We expect numbers to continue to grow significantly over the next few years as a result of the projected population growth in the Milton Keynes region. The Department is providing for this growth by lengthening most peak time trains to 12 cars during 2009. Figures for individual stations are matters for London Midland.

The Department is currently engaged with Milton Keynes council in assessing the projected passenger numbers in the region as far ahead as 2031 as part of the Intercity Express project.

Railways: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the steps that need to be taken to facilitate rail freight movements from Felixstowe via Ipswich and Huntingdon to the midlands; what she estimates the cost of such steps to be; and if she will make a statement. [195940]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Network Rail Freight Route Utilisation Study, published March 2007, identified the Felixstowe, Ipswich and Peterborough to Nuneaton route as requiring gauge and capacity enhancement to meet growth in demand.

Hutchison Ports (UK) Ltd. (HPUK)—the owner of the Port of Felixstowe—is funding the cost of upgrading the gauge capability and capacity of the route between Felixstowe, Ipswich, Peterborough and the east coast main line and South Yorkshire.

The funding commitment from HPUK was made through a Section 106 agreement relating to the planning approval for Port of Felixstowe south quay reconfiguration.

The Peterborough to Nuneaton route has received £80 million in funding support through the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for gauge and capacity enhancements to complement the work east of Peterborough. This work will start in April 2008.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the potential for the diversion of freight traffic from the A14 to the rail network *(a)* in the absence of improvements to the rail network and *(b)* following improvement of the rail path from Felixstowe to the midlands. [195941]

Mr. Tom Harris: The business case supporting the Peterborough to Nuneaton gauge and capacity enhancement scheme, for which Productivity Transport Innovation Fund funding was announced in October 2007, estimated that these improvements have the potential to remove 65,000 lorry journeys per annum from a number of roads including the A14 when completed.

Railways: Greater London

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the implications for longer-distance commuters of the proposals of the Mayor of London in relation to Southern Metro services including their transfer to his responsibility; and if she will make a statement. [195944]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Transport has received a proposal from the Mayor of London regarding his involvement in the South Central franchising process. We continue to consider the proposal and its implications on all users of the railway.

Railways: Land

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who in her Department is responsible for monitoring BRB (Residuary) Limited's compliance with Departmental guidance on the sale of disused railway lines. [193982]

Mr. Tom Harris: Ministers are responsible for monitoring BRB (Residuary) Limited's compliance with the departmental guidance on the sale of disused railway lines. In addition, officials from the Department for Transport are members of the Property Review Group which has been established by the company in accordance with that guidance.

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will seek an explanation from Network Rail for delays to maintenance work over the Easter holiday on the rail network from Essex into London Liverpool Street; what procedures were put in place following delays to maintenance work on the same network over the new year holiday to prevent a recurrence; and if she will make a statement. [197563]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: These are operational matters for Network Rail. Although the Government have no power to intervene in Network Rail's operations, Ministers regularly meet with Network Rail to discuss a range of issues relating to the railways.

Railways: Standards

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 952-3W, on Great Western Trains, if she will make it her policy to place in the Library copies of each train operating company's four-weekly report on their joint performance improvement plans as soon as they are available. [198400]

Mr. Tom Harris: The four-weekly reports on joint performance improvement plans contain commercially sensitive information; therefore, it would not be appropriate for these reports to be available in the Library.

Railways: Tickets

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made in extending Oyster card deployment to national rail services in the Greater London area. [195947]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport, Transport for London and train operators are working together on the acceptance of Oyster 'Pay As You Go' on rail services in the London Travelcard zones and the acceptance of ITSO smartcards on Oyster equipment. Commercial and contractual negotiations are taking place.

Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the average delay on motorways and trunk roads was for *(a)* all journeys and *(b)* the 10 per cent. most delayed journeys in each region in each year since 1997; [191814]

(2) which routes accounted for the most delayed journeys on motorways and trunk roads in each year since 1997; and what the average delay on each of these routes was in each of those years. [191815]

Mr. Tom Harris: Figures for total and average vehicle delay for individual routes on England's motorways and trunk roads have been placed in the House Libraries. These present delays in respect of all journeys and the worst 10 per cent. of journeys in each year since 2004-05. The earliest available data are for the period August 2004 to July 2005 and the latest for January 2007 to December 2007. Data before 2004-05 are not held on this basis.

These figures represent average daytime delays (6.00 am to 8.00 pm) on the 91 routes currently used for monitoring performance on the strategic road network. Figures are presented on a rolling year basis.

Delay is calculated as the difference between observed journey time and a reference journey time (the time that could theoretically be achieved when the traffic is free flowing).

Figures for average delays on motorways and trunk roads for individual regions are not calculated on this basis.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by her Department on the number of (i) fatal, (ii) serious and (iii) minor road accidents caused by the driver using on a mobile telephone; and if she will make a statement; [198673]

(2) how many road accidents were caused by the driver using a mobile telephone in each of the last two years for which information is available; and how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females (i) were killed, (ii) were seriously injured and (iii) received minor injuries, broken down by (A) driver, (B) front seat passenger and (C) rear seat passenger. [198674]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not commissioned research into the numbers of accidents caused by a driver using a mobile phone and is unaware of research specifically into the numbers of accidents. The Department is aware of research available elsewhere into the risks posed by the use of a mobile phone while driving. That is summarised in sections 5.201 to 5.214 of the report (published in 2000) of the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (the Stewart Report) on "Mobile Phones and Health" — available on-line at:

www.iegmp.org.uk/report/text.htm

Contributory factor data recorded by police officers in their statistical returns to the Department has indicated there were 306 reported personal injury road accidents with 'driver using mobile phone' in 2005. In 2006, this figure was 345.

The numbers of *(a)* males and *(b)* females who were (i) killed, (ii) seriously injured and (iii) slightly injured in personal injury road accidents, reported at the scene by a police officer, involving 'driver using mobile phone' as a contributory factor, by casualty class in 2005 and 2006 are given in the table. Pedestrian casualties are not included in the table.

Number of casualties

		2005			2006		
Casualty severity	*Casualty class*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*[1]	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*[1]
Killed	Driver or rider	8	3	11	17	8	25
	Car front seat passenger	0	0	0	2	1	3
	Car rear seat passenger	0	0	0	3	0	3
	Other-vehicle passenger	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seriously injured	Driver or rider	30	12	42	31	22	53
	Car front seat passenger	4	3	7	3	5	8

Number of casualties

Casualty severity	Casualty class	2005 Male	2005 Female	2005 Total[1]	2006 Male	2006 Female	2006 Total[1]
	Car rear seat passenger	2	0	2	1	2	3
	Other-vehicle passenger	1	1	2	0	0	0
Slightly injured	Driver or rider	175	89	264	170	127	297
	Car front seat passenger	23	31	55	22	42	64
	Car rear seat passenger	16	22	38	11	26	37
	Other-vehicle passenger	1	4	5	12	10	22

[1] Includes cases where gender is not given

The contributory factor 'Driver using mobile phone' includes 'hand held' and 'hands free' phones.

Roads: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total budget allocated to major road schemes is for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [195924]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency's total budget for delivery of major improvement schemes in 2007-08 was £969 million.

The Highways Agency's budget is set annually and so only available for 2008-09. The Highways Agency's 2008-09 budget for major improvement schemes is £1,049 million.

Roads: Rural Areas

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to reduce deaths and injuries on rural roads. [198378]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The majority of the Department's road safety policies will have an impact on the number of deaths and serious injuries on rural roads. In addition there are a number of policies specifically aimed at the rural road network.

The Department is investing £8 million in a Rural Road Safety Demonstration Project which will be introduced from 1 April 2007 and continue for three years.

The Rural Road Safety Demonstration Project is intended to demonstrate good practice for local highway authorities in developing and implementing an area wide, data-led, strategy for addressing road casualty reduction in rural areas. It is intended that good practice guidance will be developed from the knowledge gained during the project, and that this will be disseminated to other highway authorities.

The Department also published guidance to local authorities on setting local speed limits in August 2006. This requests local traffic authorities to review speed limits on their A and B roads, and implement any necessary changes by 2011.

Lower speed limits are encouraged where the evidence or characteristics of the road warrant this. But equally local traffic authorities should consider increasing limits if it is warranted and can be done safely.

Single European Sky Initiative

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to promote the introduction of the Single European Sky initiative. [197577]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government support the Single European Sky (SES) and the associated Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research (SESAR) Project and are working to ensure that the objectives of these two efforts are fully met.

The UK is an active member, through both the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), of the Single Sky Committee (SSC) which was established in 2004 to give strategic direction. Senior officials from the Department also participated in the High Level Group, which was created by the European Transport Commissioner, to look at the future of the European Aviation Regulatory Framework; the Government fully support its ten recommendations and action plan that were published in July 2007.

The European Commission are currently working on the drafting of a second package of SES legislation and both the CAA and relevant divisions of the DfT are engaged in that work. The Government will closely scrutinise the proposals for this second package when they are issued later this year.

Somerset County Council

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings her Department has had with the Executive of Somerset County Council in the last three years. [193980]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has met with officers at Somerset county council on a number of occasions over the last three years to discuss transport and operational issues. The following included the attendance of representatives from the Council's Executive:

24 July 2006—Presentation to Somerset County Council at Road Safety Workshop.

In addition members of the Council's Executive may also have been present at meetings over the last three years between the Department for Transport and the South West Regional Assembly or other regional partnership bodies.

Southern: Trains

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has made an estimate of the number of dual-voltage trains that would be needed to operate both the Watford to Brighton service and the Thameslink service. [198245]

Mr. Tom Harris: 109 dual-voltage trains will be required to operate the Thameslink service from March 2009. If the Watford-Brighton service were to be retained in its present form, and if the resources were to be set aside for that service, the requirement would be eight trains.

Speed Limits: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimates her Department has made of the changes in carbon dioxide emissions attributed to the variable speed limits in force on the M25 in each year since the scheme was introduced. [197571]

Mr. Tom Harris: The change in carbon dioxide emissions was estimated as part of the evaluation of the M25 J15-16 controlled motorway scheme. The variable speed limits were operational in the morning (7am to 11am) and evening (3pm to 7pm) peak periods. The assessment showed a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 4.5 per cent. on the northbound section and a reduction of 2.9 per cent. on the southbound section during the peak hours. This translates into a potential weekday saving measured over a calendar year of 1,184 tonnes of carbon dioxide for J15-16.

Changes in other years and on other sections are expected to be similar.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what account the advanced motorway signalling and traffic management feasibility study took of the impact of carbon dioxide emissions of active traffic management operating at *(a)* 50 mph and *(b)* 60 mph; and if she will make a statement; [197572]

(2) what estimate she has made of the effect on carbon dioxide emissions if the maximum speed for hard shoulder running in the modelling for the advanced motorway signalling and traffic management feasibility study were reduced from 60 mph to 50 mph. [197573]

Mr. Tom Harris: All traffic modelling of the impacts of hard shoulder running undertaken as part of the advanced motorway signalling and traffic management feasibility study was carried out on the basis of a 60 mph speed limit during operation of the hard shoulder as a running lane.

The additional modelling undertaken to ascertain the effects on emissions of the smoothing of the traffic flow brought about by the imposition of controlled lower speed limits and hard shoulder running was done using average speed emissions curves based on actual data collected during the M42 pilot, which operated a 50 mph limit for hard shoulder running. It was not possible to provide a comparison with a 60 mph limit.

Following detailed safety assessment, hard shoulder running with a 60 mph speed limit is the standard to be adopted for future hard shoulder running schemes, starting with the M42 where this has been operational since 18 March. As a larger data set for hard shoulder running becomes available, the speed emissions relationships will be reviewed.

Further detail on the modelling undertaken is set out in the advanced motorway signalling and traffic management feasibility study report and technical annex, which are available on the DfT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/mtorsigntrafmanagement/

Thameslink: Trains

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many dual-voltage trains will be available to run on Thameslink following the decision to order 11 new trains; and how many trains will remain on the West London Line. [198246]

Mr. Tom Harris: 109 dual-voltage trains will be available to run on Thameslink, so that there will now be no need to transfer class 377 (Electrostar) trains from the West London Line to Thameslink. However, Southern has now lost the opportunity to use class 465 (Networker) trains, which were to have been transferred from Southeastern, because of gauge clearance problems on Southern routes. In the light of this information, Southern is now having to re-assess the rolling stock allocations for all its suburban routes.

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the proposal to transfer trains from the West London Line to Thameslink since the order of 11 new trains for Thameslink. [198247]

Mr. Tom Harris: There will now be no need to transfer class 377 (Electrostar) trains from the West London Line to Thameslink. However, Southern has now lost the opportunity to use class 465 (Networker) trains, which were to have been transferred from Southeastern, because of gauge clearance problems on Southern routes. In the light of this information, Southern is now having to re-assess its rolling stock allocations.

Train Operating Companies: Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requests have been received from train operating companies for extra rolling stock which have been *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* rejected since 1 January 2005. [190559]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are a number of discussions which have taken place since 2005 which have resulted in contract orders on a number of train operating companies.

Contract date	*TOC*	*Number of vehicles*	*Type*
May 2005	Chiltern	6	Diesel
June 2005	Southeastern	174	Electric

Contract date	TOC	Number of vehicles	Type
February 2006	SWT	68	Electric
May 2007	Southern	48	Electric
August 2007	London Midland	148	Electric
December 2007	London Midland	69	Diesel
January 2008	Chiltern	8	Diesel

Transport: Higher Civil Servants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to which (*a*) private companies, (*b*) other organisations and (*c*) lobbying organisations in the transport sector former senior officials from her Department have gone to work on leaving the Department in the last five years. [194000]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Before departure, all Senior Civil Service staff are reminded of their obligation under the business appointment rules to seek permission before accepting an outside appointment within two years of leaving Crown Service.

Senior Civil Servants' applications to accept outside appointments in the last five years were to the following organisations:

(a) Private Companies

Price Waterhouse Coopers
Bomel
Accord Consultancy Services
WSP Management and Consultancy
Consultancy for Association of Train Operating Companies
Jacobs UK Ltd
British Airways (Airline Flight Safety Review Board)
Serco Science
Alpha to Omega Motoring Ltd
Faber Maunsell
Det Norske Veritas
Mouchel Parkman Services
Steer Davies Gleave
Brookings Institute (USA)
Consultant for EDS
Downer EDI Works ltd (in New Zealand)
GNER/MTR
Securicor

(b) Other Organisations

Civil Aviation Authority
Transport for London
Guide Dogs for the Blind
Disability Rights Commission
Government of Ontario
European Commission
St Johns Ambulance
Northampton County Council
Essex County Council
Transport Research Laboratory

(c) Lobbying Organisations

No applicants have classified their prospective employer as a Transport lobbying organisation, but some of those under(a) will carry out lobbying activity in this area.

Tyne and Wear : Metro:

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much capital funding from the public purse the Tyne and Wear Metro received in each year since 1997; [197658]

(2) how many people were prosecuted for fare evasion on the Tyne and Wear Metro in each year since 1997; [197656]

(3) how many passengers travelled on the Tyne and Wear Metro in each year since 1997. [197632]

Mr. Tom Harris: The figures for passenger journeys and prosecutions are as follows.

	Number of Passenger journeys (million)	Number of Prosecutions (as advised by Nexus)
1997-98	35.0	1,220
1998-99	33.8	3,015
1999-2000	32.7	1,904
2000-01	32.5	1,877
2001-02	33.4	2,827
2002-03	36.6	2,995
2003-04	37.9	3,477
2004-05	36.8	4,627
2005-06	35.8	5,723
2006-07	37.9	5,736

The prosecutions are mostly for fare evasion but the figures include a small element for other offences, for example relating to trespass and disorder. A precise breakdown is not available.

Since April 1997 the Government have provided the following specific capital funding.

	Purpose	£ million
1999-2000 to 2003-04	Extension of the Metro to Sunderland	37.465
2000-01	Metrocar refurbishment	0.46
2002-03 to 2004-05	Four Lane Ends Bus/Metro Interchange	7.625
2000-01	CCTV provision	7.2

The Government have also supported investment in the Metro through local transport capital block funding provided to the Tyne and Wear local authorities and the Passenger Transport Executive (Nexus) though the local transport plan (LTP) system and previous arrangements. The proportion of this funding spent on the Metro is a matter for the local LTP partners and information is not held centrally. Nexus has also received grants from the European Commission for Metro capital funding.

In addition the Government have provided an annual subsidy for the Metro in every year since 1997. Up to and including 2004-05 this was provided solely as revenue support although Nexus were able to use

this for capital spending on the Metro. In 2005-06 and 2006-07 the annual subsidy has included a specific element of capital grant of £4.180 million and £4.305 million respectively.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Consultants

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency on consultants in each of the last five financial years. [197919]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed in April 2003, since then VOSA's consultancy costs are as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	3.0
2004-05	3.4
2005-06	1.4
2006-07	3.0
2007-08	2.4

Year to date

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Finance

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total Vehicle and Operator Services Agency staff salary bill was in each of the last five financial years. [197920]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was formed in April 2003, since then VOSA's total staff salary bill has been as follows:

	£000
2003-04	69,081
2004-05	78,018
2005-06	85,671
2006-07	86,268
2007-08	-

Figures not available yet

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: ICT

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason laptops and hand-held devices issued within the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency have been recalled; what effect this recall is expected to have on enforcement and other activities; and when it is expected that all laptops and hand-held devices will be reissued to staff. [190238]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In accordance with Government-wide direction, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) implemented the policy that no unencrypted departmental laptops or drives containing personal data should be taken outside secured office premises.

The agency minimised the impact on its enforcement activities through increased use of encrypted mobile compliance devices (MCDs), laptops with printing function disabled, and temporary paper-based enforcement processes.

The overall impact was a temporary reduction in VOSA's normal enforcement performance of about 20 per cent. The agency completed deployment of encrypted operations laptops on 11 March 2008.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Manpower

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has for (*a*) future numbers of Vehicle and Operator Services Agency inspection staff and (*b*) their terms of employment. [197917]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has (*a*) no plans to alter the number of inspection staff in test stations in the future, however, there are plans to increase the number of staff involved in enforcement activity. There are 30 new frontline posts as a result of re-investing under the Gershon review and 97 posts as a result of additional DFT funding.

(*b*) The posts will be recruited with staff on newly agreed flexible working patterns to allow the continued roll-out of extended working patterns which was piloted at ports in the south-east.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether there are plans to alter the (*a*) number and (*b*) terms of employment of Vehicle and Operator Services Agency staff who will issue fixed penalty notices. [197924]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has no plans to alter the (*a*) number and (*b*) terms of employment of Vehicle and Operator Services Agency staff that will issue fixed penalty notices. However, VOSA is rolling out revised working patterns for Enforcement staff on a staged basis, with a view to having as many as possible 24/7 shift working contracts over the coming year or two.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on trends in opium production in Afghanistan. [196704]

Dr. Howells: The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducts annual surveys of opium cultivation in Afghanistan. We remain concerned by the total opium cultivation figures, but welcome the UNODC's findings in its Rapid Assessment survey, that they expect cultivation to "decrease slightly in 2008". Poppy cultivation has increased primarily in the south, where insecurity is greatest. In the north and east—where security, alternative livelihoods and governance exists—poppy cultivation has fallen: in 2007, the number of poppy free provinces doubled from six to 13. (Further information is available in the joint UK/US paper, 'Fighting the Opium Trade in Afghanistan: Myths, Facts, and Sound Policy'—available on the counter narcotics page at:

www.fco.gov.uk/ukandafghanistan).

This year we hope to see further progress and support the government of Afghanistan's target of over half of all provinces becoming poppy free in 2008. The following data are drawn from the UNODC surveys.

	Estimated opium poppy cultivation (hectares)	*Potential total volume of opium production (metric tonnes)*
2007	193,000	8,200
2006	165,000	6,100
2005	104,000	4,100
2004	131,000	4,200
2003	80,000	3,600
2002	74,000	3,400
2001	8,000	185
2000	82,172	3,276
1999	91,983	4,565
1998	64,674	2,693

Armenia: Elections

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the (*a*) conduct and (*b*) outcome of the election in Armenia on 19 February 2008; and if he will make a statement. [197033]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK supports the various pre-election and post election interim assessments made by the independent International Election Observation Mission (IEOM), in which it participated. These generally noted some improvements on previous elections, highlighting for example genuine attempts to address previously identified shortcomings; a non-discriminatory candidate registration process; the ability of candidates to campaign at public meetings; and improvements in electoral legislation and in the accuracy of the national register of votes.

The IEOM however, raised many concerns, such as the lack of clear separation between state and party functions and the unequal treatment of candidates in the media; and the vote count in some 16 per cent. of polling stations visited was assessed as "bad" or "very bad". A subsequent interim report from the IEOM three weeks later, following the handling of complaints, appeals and recounts, was much more critical of these processes. The Armenian Constitutional Court rejected appeals from opposition candidates challenging the election results.

With EU partners and bilaterally, we have expressed our serious concerns about recent political developments in Armenia, including violent clashes with demonstrators on 1 March, which resulted in eight deaths and scores of injured. We have urged the Armenian government to engage in a dialogue with the opposition to address their concerns. We welcome the recent lifting of the state of emergency in Yerevan, but we urge the Armenian authorities to lift continuing restrictions on freedom of assembly; to avoid further harassment of opposition politicians and ensure that any prosecutions are handled in a transparent and fair manner; to ensure an independent and open inquiry into the events of 1 March; and to address the substantive concerns raised by the IEOM.

Bombs

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government has made to ensure that civil society organisations will have a strong voice during the negotiations in May on a treaty banning cluster munitions. [196859]

Dr. Howells: The Government welcomes the continued active participation of civil society organisations in the Oslo Process on cluster munitions. At the Dublin meeting in May, final negotiations on the text of a treaty will take place and civil society organisations are being invited to attend by the Government of Ireland as observers as per the rules of procedure for Dublin which can be found at:

http://www.clustermunitionsdublin.ie/pdf/draft-rules-for-dublin-c-en.pdf.

The Government are pleased with the outcome of the last Oslo Process meeting in Wellington (18-22 February), where the UK was able to join many other nations in supporting the Wellington Declaration this document can be found at:

http://www.mfat.govt.nz/clustermunitionswellington/conference-documents/Wellington-declaration-final.pdf.

We believe that this declaration and the associated compendium of proposals, which includes contributions from the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Cluster Munition Coalition, pave the way for a successful outcome in Dublin, securing a legally binding instrument prohibiting the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Central African Republic: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports of Lord's Resistance Army troop movements into the Central African Republic; and if he will make a statement. [197078]

Meg Munn: The Government are aware of unverified reports that the Lord's Resistance Army is relocating from Garamba national park, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the Central African Republic.

Chad: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of recent claims by the Government of Chad of Sudanese support of rebel forces active in Chad; and if he will make a statement. [196913]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports that both Sudan and Chad continue to support each other's rebels. The Government, together with the UN, the EU and the African Union, has urged both sides to cease all support for armed groups in the region, commit to a peace process and abide by previous ceasefire agreements.

Chad: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* political and *(b)* security situation in Chad; and if he will make a statement. [196919]

Meg Munn: The political and security situation in Chad remains unstable following rebel incursions into the capital, N'Djamena, on 2 February 2008. The UN estimated that roughly 30,000 people were forced to flee into neighbouring Cameroon during the fighting, though many Chadians have now returned to N'Djamena.

In the East, roughly 13,000 new refugees have crossed the border from Sudan. UN and humanitarian operations in Eastern Chad were curtailed during the fighting, but have largely returned to normal. EUFOR, the EU force in Eastern Chad and the Central African Republic, has now reached initial operating capability and will increase security around refugee and Internally Displaced Persons camps.

The Dakar Accord was signed by the Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno and the Sudanese President Omar Hassan Bashir in Senegal on 13 March 2008. It commits the two countries to reconciling their differences, normalising relations and contributing to stability in the region. The Government welcome the signing of this agreement.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives in (i) N'Djamena and (ii) Yaounde have had with (A) members and (B) representatives of the government of Chad on the (1) grounds for and (2) nature of the detention of former President Lol Mahamat Choua; and if he will make a statement. [197133]

Meg Munn: The UK is represented in Chad through our high commission in Yaounde. We have not had any bilateral contact with members or representatives of the government of Chad on this issue. We are supporting EU efforts to investigate the circumstances surrounding the detention of Lol Mahamat Choua and the arrest of several other Chadian political opposition leaders. EU representatives have been in contact with Chadian opposition politicians.

The EU General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008 stated

> "The Council expresses its deep concern over the arrest of members of the unarmed political opposition in Chad, including Mr. Choua. The Council calls on President Deby to show restraint and immediately release these detainees".

We will continue to support EU initiatives encouraging an official Chadian Commission of Inquiry into this matter.

Chad: Sudan

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the accord signed between the Governments of Chad and Sudan at the Dakar summit on 14 March; and if he will make a statement. [196910]

Meg Munn: The Dakar Accord was signed by the Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno and the Sudanese President Omar Hassan Bashir in Senegal on 13 March 2008. It commits the two countries to reconciling their differences, normalising relations and contributing to stability in the region. The Government welcome the signing of this agreement. We will make clear to both Chad and Sudan that we expect them to abide by the terms of this agreement.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department *(a)* offered and *(b)* provided to the Government of Senegal in reaching the Dakar agreement between the Governments of Chad and Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [196911]

Meg Munn: The Dakar Accord between Chad and Sudan was an initiative of President Wade of Senegal. The Government were not asked for any assistance in facilitating the agreement.

We welcome the Dakar Accord and will make clear to both Chad and Sudan that we expect them to abide by the terms of this agreement.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of peace accords reached between the Governments of Sudan and Chad in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [196912]

Meg Munn: There have been several peace accords between Chad and Sudan in the last five years. The most notable of these are the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006, the Khartoum Agreement of 28 August 2006, the Cannes Declaration of 15 February 2007 and the Riyadh Agreement of 3 May 2007. These agreements have not been respected by the Governments of Chad and Sudan.

The Government welcome the new Dakar Accord, signed on 13 March 2008 by President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad and President Omar Hassan Bashir of Sudan. We will make clear to both Chad and Sudan that we expect them to abide by the terms of this agreement.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of relations between Sudan and Chad; and if he will make a statement. [196920]

Meg Munn: Tensions between Chad and Sudan remain high following the cross-border fighting in January 2008 and the Chadian rebel incursions into N'Djamena on 2 February 2008. The Dakar Accord, signed in Senegal on 13 March 2008, commits both sides to reconciling their differences, normalising relations and contributing to stability in the region. We will make clear to both Chad and Sudan that we expect them to abide by the terms of this agreement.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the evidential basis is for the statement that Justice for Colombia supports the Revolutionary Armed Forces

of Colombia made by the Minister of State for South America; and if he will make a statement. [196922]

Dr. Howells: This Government regard an active civil society, able to operate freely and without fear, as a fundamental aspect of any democracy, particularly so in a country as dangerous as Colombia. Trade unionists have an absolutely key role in this.

We welcome the opportunity to work with all those organisations who share our goal of promoting peace and prosperity in Colombia, including the Trades Union Congress and Justice for Colombia. We intend to work closely with British trade unions and their affiliated bodies to uphold the rights and security of trade unionists in Colombia.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Colombia on the *(a)* protection of trade unionists in that country and *(b)* deaths of Antonio Gomez and Carmen Carvajal Ramirez; and if he will make a statement. [196921]

Dr. Howells: We regard human rights defenders and trade unionists as a fundamental part of Colombian civil society. We have repeatedly urged the Colombian government to do their utmost to ensure that these brave people can take forward their essential work safely and with adequate protection. I did so when visiting Colombia in November 2007, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did so with the Colombian Vice President in March. I also reiterated the Government's strong support to a delegation of Colombian trade unionists who visited the UK in early March, a visit co-organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Trades Union Congress (TUC).

I have urged the Colombian government to continue with its programme of expanding protection to trade unions and other human rights defenders, including when I spoke to Vice President Santos and the new Colombian Ambassador to London in March 2008. We will continue to discuss with the Colombian TUC and their UK counterparts how this Government can offer its practical support to Colombian trade unionists.

We make regular and numerous representations to the Colombian government on specific cases of abuse of trade unionists. I have asked our Embassy in Bogota to make representations to the Colombian government on the cases of Antonio Gomez and Carmen Carvajal Ramirez, and will write to the hon. Member with the outcome of those representations once the Embassy receives a response. I will also arrange for copies of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Credit Cards: Fraud

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage UK citizens to minimise the risk of credit card fraud whilst abroad. [198126]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office website warns British nationals travelling abroad, of known credit card scams and frauds in its country specific Travel Advice pages. In addition, there is general advice on how to avoid credit card fraud while travelling abroad in the travelling-and-living abroad section:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/staying-safe-/travel-insurance/credit-card-protection.

Departmental Databases

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 642-3W, on departmental databases, which US-registered service providers have been engaged; and what types of personal information they have been engaged to manage. [197146]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold this information centrally and it could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197062]

Meg Munn: No staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, or its agencies, have attended the Influencing with Integrity, Emotional Intelligence, Counselling Skills for the Workplace, Managing your Confidence, Balancing Work/Life Realities and Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months.

Entry Clearances

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many ancestral visas were issued in the last five years for which figures are available; and what the countries of origin were of the applicants to which they were issued. [196957]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Figures for ancestral visas are only available for the last four years and are as follows:

Nationality	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Grand total*
Australia	4,230	4,742	4,548	3,779	17,299
New Zealand	2,165	2,092	2,247	2,064	8,568
South Africa	2,036	2,299	2,045	1,722	8,102
Canada	514	585	556	518	2,173

Nationality	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand total
Zimbabwe	344	290	257	218	1,109
India	26	30	24	21	101
Zambia	15	19	10	9	53
Kenya	9	11	6	7	33
Sri Lanka	5	11	3	4	23
Ghana	7	5	3	5	20
Tanzania	1	1	8	8	18
Malawi	1	10	2	3	16
Trinidad and Tobago	3	5	6	2	16
Uganda	4	3	5	4	16
Nigeria	2	2	5	4	13
Botswana	2	4	1	4	11
Malaysia	7	1	2	1	11
Jamaica	1	5	4	0	10
Namibia	7	3	0	0	10
Pakistan	1	4	1	1	7
Bangladesh	0	2	3	0	5
Mauritius	2	0	1	2	5
Barbados	1	2	1	0	4
Thailand	4	0	0	0	4
United States	1	2	1	0	4
Guyana	0	3	0	0	3
Mozambique	1	1	0	1	3
St. Lucia	0	3	0	0	3
Bahamas	0	2	0	0	2
British overseas citizen	1	1	0	0	2
Sierra Leone	1	1	0	0	2
Singapore	1	1	0	0	2
Swaziland	0	0	0	2	2
Austria	0	0	1	0	1
Belize	1	0	0	0	1
Cameroon	0	1	0	0	1
Central African Republic	1	0	0	0	1
China	0	1	0	0	1
Fiji	0	0	1	0	1
Malta	1	0	0	0	1
Mauritania	0	1	0	0	1
Nepal	1	0	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	0	1
Russia	0	0	0	1	1
Grand total	9,397	10,143	9,741	8,380	37,661

Notes:
1. Date range 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2007
2. These statistics have not been published and should be used for informational purposes. All data are based on UK ancestry – employment only.

Source:
MSR Search
Date: 26 March 2008

International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives in (i) Zagreb and (ii) Belgrade have had with (A) members and (B) representatives of the Governments of (x) Croatia and (y) Serbia on the (1) beginning of the trial of General Ante Gotovina, (2) co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), (3) future co-operation with the ICTY and (4) (aa) diplomatic and (bb) economic incentives for such co-operation; and if he will make a statement. [197179]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia's (ICTY) view is that Croatia continues to co-operate fully with ICTY and has done so since October 2005. We welcome this. We have not held formal meetings with the Croatian Government to discuss the opening of the trial of General Ante Gotovina. Continued full co-operation with ICTY remains a condition for their progression on the EU accession track.

The issue of Serbia's co-operation with ICTY arises regularly in ministerial and official-level contacts with the Serbian Government. We regularly press the Serbian Government to fully co-operate with ICTY.

The UK is committed to seeing all four outstanding ICTY indictees, including Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, arrested and brought to trial before the Tribunal. The UK has given full and consistent support, both practical and political, to ICTY's work.

Kenya: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the vote in Kenya's parliament on 18 March, unanimously approving the power-sharing agreement between Mr. Odinga and Mr. Kibaki; and if he will make a statement. [196915]

Meg Munn: The Government welcomed the power-sharing agreement signed by President Kibaki and Prime Minister-designate, Raila Odinga, on 28 February. The constitutional reforms passed unanimously on 18 March to enshrine the agreement in law. It is important that Kenya's leaders display the leadership, patience and tolerance necessary to ensure that the agreement is implemented in full.

Kosovo: Civil Disorder

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the civil unrest in Mitrovica on 18 March; and if he will make a statement. [197084]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our embassy in Pristina provided detailed reporting on the disturbances in Mitrovica on 17 March 2008. We understand that the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) will be carrying out an investigation into the events of the day.

On the morning of 17 March, UN police entered the UN court building in Mitrovica to arrest Kosovo Serb protestors who had occupied the building on 14 March. In response, Kosovo Serbs attacked UNMIK police and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR)) troops, including with grenades and small arms fire. 25 UNMIK police officers and 22 KFOR troops were injured and one Ukrainian police officer was killed. Serbian media report that around 70 Kosovo Serb civilians were injured. We have strongly condemned the violent disturbances directed against UN and NATO personnel. The situation is currently calm but tense in northern Kosovo and stable elsewhere. Our embassy in Pristina continues to monitor the situation on the ground in Northern Kosovo.

Nagorno Karabakh

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the government of (i) Azerbaijan, (ii) Armenia, (iii) Russia, (iv) the US and (v) with the European Commission on (A) reported statements by Azeri President Ilham Aliev on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, (B) recent reports of armed clashes on 4 March 2008 and (C) possible initiatives in response to events in the region; and if he will make a statement. [197036]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The armed clashes on the line of contact between the Azerbaijani and Armenian forces, along with statements by the leadership of both Azerbaijan and Armenia, have been discussed extensively by our officials in Baku and Yerevan, in Vienna among the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) member states, in Brussels among EU partners and between officials in London and the Azerbaijan embassy. I sent a message to the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister urging that they do everything possible to calm the situation, including ensuring that the personal representative of the OSCE chairman in office to the Minsk Group is granted the necessary access to enable him and his staff to obtain clarity of the events of 4 March. Others including the US, the Finnish Foreign Minister, as the OSCE Chairman in Office, the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the EU have issued statements or sent messages urging restraint on both sides.

Officials will remain in close contact with all the relevant parties, including the mediators. We continue to urge all sides to calm the current tensions and to resume contacts leading towards a negotiated settlement, which remains the only way to secure a lasting, peaceful resolution of the dispute.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the recent statements by Azeri President Ilham Aliev on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh; and if he will make a statement. [197083]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are following closely the situation in Azerbaijan and Armenia following fighting along the Line of Contact between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces on 4 March, and have noted the statements made by both sides since the adoption of a resolution on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, by the UN General Assembly, on 14 March.

We have seen some suggestions that one, or both of the parties, may withdraw from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group-facilitated negotiation process for a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The EU statement made at the UN on 14 March supported the mediation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group, expressed support for all steps which contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and called upon all parties to avoid actions which heighten tensions. We will continue to impress upon the sides that there is no sustainable alternative to a peacefully negotiated solution.

Natural Gas: Prices

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely political effects of the decision announced on 11 March 2008 by KazMunaiGas, Uzbekneftgaz and Turkmengaz to raise prices for natural gas; what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives have had with the governments of (i) Kazakhstan, (ii) Turkmenistan and (iii) Uzbekistan on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [197034]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It was announced on 11 March, following a meeting between the Chief Executive Officer of Russia's Gazprom and the heads of the Kazakh, Turkmen and Uzbek state gas companies, that Gazprom would pay European market rates for the Central Asian gas that it imports, beginning from 2009. However, the announcement is a framework agreement and the exact pricing formula has yet to be determined. It is expected that the actual price paid for the gas will be based on a net-back formula related to the cost of the gas, less transport costs.

There has been significant press speculation on the agreement and the underlying reasons behind it, in particular on the likelihood that Gazprom will seek to pass on the increased price to Ukraine and the impact that this may have on the price Ukraine pays for its gas. However, until the exact commercial parameters of the agreement are clear, it would be premature to draw conclusions about its likely political effects.

We have not had any formal discussions with the Governments of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan on this issue since 11 March. However, we remain in regular contact, both bilaterally and through the EU, with all three governments on energy related issues.

Organisation of the Islamic Conference

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the achievements of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [196907]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference comprises 57 member states from across the Islamic world making it the second largest intergovernmental organisation after the UN. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office considers it an important organisation for intercultural dialogue, reducing poverty and addressing other global and regional issues.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* possibility and *(b)* merits of having a European Union observer at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC); what discussions (i) he, (ii) his Department and (iii) UK representatives have had with (A) members and (B) representatives of (1) the governments of members states of the OIC, (2) the Permanent Secretariat of the OIC, (3) the governments of member states of the European Union and (4) the European Commission concerning observer status for the EU; and if he will make a statement. [196909]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Formal contact between the EU and Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) currently takes place on an ad hoc basis. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not sought observer status for the EU at the OIC.

Russia: Oppression

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives overseas have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the Government of Russia on the detention of Maxim Reznick; and if he will make a statement. [197185]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We welcome the news that Maksim Reznik was released from custody on 21 March 2008, following a decision made by the St. Petersburg court.

The UK regularly raises its concerns over human rights violations, including individual cases, both in its annual bilateral consultations and through the EU. The next EU/Russia human rights dialogue will be held on 17 April 2008. We will continue to monitor this case closely.

Serbia: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the proposed resolution by the Serb parliament abandoning Serbia's pursuit of membership of the European Union unless EU member states rescind their recognition of Kosovo's statehood; and if he will make a statement. [197080]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our embassy in Belgrade closely follows political developments in Serbia. The resolution, proposed by the Radical party, was not endorsed by the Serbian Government and was not debated by the Serb Parliament. The Parliament has now been dissolved pending elections scheduled for 11 May.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* the UK representative in (i) Belgrade, (ii) Pristina and (iii) Moscow have had with (A) members and (B) representatives of the governments of (1) Serbia, (2) Kosovo and (3) Russia on (x) the proposed resolution by the Serb parliament abandoning Serbia's pursuit of membership of the European Union unless EU member states rescind their recognition of Kosovo's statement, (y) possible reactions by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo and (z) Russia's position on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [197081]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The resolution, proposed by the Radical party, was not endorsed by the Serbian Government and was not debated by the Serb Parliament. The Parliament has now been dissolved pending elections scheduled for 11 May.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* the UK representative in (i) Brussels, (ii) Berlin, (iii) Paris and (iv) Madrid have had with (A) members and (B) representatives of the European Commission and the governments of (1) Germany, (2) France and (3) Spain on (w) the proposed resolution by the Serb parliament, abandoning Serbia's pursuit of membership of the European Union unless EU member states rescind their recognition of Kosovo's statement, (x) possible reactions by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo, (y) Russia's position on this

issue and (z) the possibility of a co-ordinated response by the EU and member states; and if he will make a statement. [197082]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The resolution, proposed by the Radical party, was not endorsed by the Serbian Government and was not debated by the Serb Parliament. The Parliament has now been dissolved pending elections scheduled for 11 May.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary last discussed Serbia's European future with his EU colleagues, including those from Germany, France and Spain, and with the European Commission, at the Gymnich meeting in Brdo, Slovenia on 28-29 March.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives overseas have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of (A) the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, (B) the government of Ethiopia, (C) the European Union Commission, (D) the governments of member states of the European Union and (E) the United States administration on the recent increase in fighting in (1) Mogadishu and (2) elsewhere in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [197177]

Meg Munn: The Government maintain regular contact with all of the relevant actors. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met with President Yusuf in January 2008 and with Prime Minister Hussein at the African Union Summit in February 2008, where he also met Prime Minister Meles of Ethiopia. Officials at our high commission in Nairobi and our embassy in Addis Ababa are in regular contact with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, including the President and Prime Minister, and with the Government of Ethiopia. Officials in London, overseas in Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Washington, in Brussels and at the UK Mission to the UN in New York are in regular contact with their counterparts in other EU missions, with the EU Commission and the US administration. Close co-operation with our international partners ensures that our messages and assistance to Somalia are consistent, mutually reinforcing, and supportive of efforts made by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General to achieve progress on political, security and humanitarian tracks.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of progress on *(a)* establishing security, *(b)* establishing the rule of law and *(c)* improving humanitarian conditions in Somalia since the beginning of 2007; and if he will make a statement. [197134]

Meg Munn: The Government continue to work with international partners and the UN to make progress on security, rule of law and improving humanitarian conditions in Somalia.

Security remains of concern. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), established to provide an external security presence, is still building up its deployment. Most recently, the UK has provided funding to assist Burundian troops to deploy and has funded a reconnaissance visit by the Nigerian military ahead of their planned deployment. Increasing the numbers of AMISOM troops will help to improve the security of Mogadishu. However, long-term security will be dependent on a political solution and the establishment of the rule of law.

The UK contributes to the UN Development Programme Rule of Law and Security programme (ROLS) in Somalia. Through the Department for International Development, the UK has committed £6 million to the ROLS programme since 2006. Currently 3,410 Somali police officers have been trained. These officers will form the core of future civilian law enforcement, leading to a more secure environment for all Somalis.

The humanitarian conditions in Somalia remain very difficult. The Prime Minister, Nur Hassan Hussein, has 17 years of humanitarian experience. He has shown himself an effective partner in tackling both the humanitarian issues and political reconciliation in Somalia. We expect this to lead to improved aid community access to those in need. During 2007, the UK committed £8.6 million in additional humanitarian assistance, beyond our annual programme, to respond to the suffering of the people of Somalia.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* political and *(b)* security situation in Somalia since January; and if he will make a statement. [197176]

Meg Munn: The Government assess that the political situation in Somalia has improved since January, offering a fresh opportunity for Somalis to make real progress on the issues facing that nation. The appointment of Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein and the endorsement of his cabinet in January marked a significant point. Since January the Transitional Federal Government has agreed a package of assistance with the European Union, has drawn up a reconciliation plan for clans in Mogadishu and a timetable for a Constitutional Process and has begun working closely with the UN and the international donor community.

The Government assess that the security situation remains fragile. However, further political progress will lead to long-term improvements in the security situation and allow for further reconciliation and state-building to take place. However, we also recognise that progress on building trust between the parties is likely to take time, since Somalia has experienced much violence and suffering during the past 17 years. We therefore continue to encourage all parties to take responsibility for participating in continuing and constructive dialogue to settle their political differences and to call for an end to the violence.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK

representatives in Colombo have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of (A) the government of Sri Lanka and (B) the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam on (1) civilian deaths since and (2) the humanitarian effects of (x) the resumption of major fighting in Sri Lanka in August 2006 and (y) the government's formal withdrawal from the ceasefire agreement on 2nd January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [197135]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The conflict and its impact on civilians is the focus of high level discussions between the British and Sri Lankan governments. We are gravely concerned by the humanitarian impact of the conflict on the civilian population. All parties to the conflict need to do more to protect civilians.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister in November 2007 in Kampala. He said that we stood ready to support a process of reconciliation and underlined the need for respect for human rights and democracy. During visits by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Dr. Howells) to Sri Lanka in February and July 2007, he expressed deep concern at the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation.

The Government do not regularly meet the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). My right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy) visited Sri Lanka, including LTTE controlled territory in November 2006, to share his experience of peace-building in Northern Ireland with the parties to the conflict. Officials from our high commission in Colombo and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office meet representatives of a broad range of Tamil views, on a regular basis.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the viability of introducing a no-fly zone in regions of the Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [196908]

Meg Munn: We rule nothing out but we are not currently proposing a no-fly zone for Darfur. We assess that a no-fly zone would restrict essential humanitarian operations and be a major logistical challenge due to the size of Darfur and the lack of available air assets. The UN-African Union Mission in Darfur is mandated to monitor military activity, including flights prohibited by UN Security Council Resolution 1591. We continue to push for its rapid and effective deployment.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the implications of fighting in southern Sudan between the armed forces of Southern Sudan and the Misseriya since late November 2007; and if he will make a statement. [197038]

Meg Munn: We are aware of clashes between units of the Sudan People's Liberation Army and armed elements of the Misseriya tribes in Southern Sudan, and that the UN Mission in Sudan personnel are mediating to end the fighting. We continue to press both the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to deal with the root causes of these clashes and deliver basic services.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the willingness of *(a)* the government of Sudan, *(b)* the Sudanese Liberation Army, *(c)* the Justice and Equality Movement, *(d)* other rebel groups and *(e)* the Janjaweed in Darfur to reach a political solution to the civil war; and if he will make a statement. [197169]

Meg Munn: The African Union and UN Special Envoys assess that there are five main rebel groups in Darfur: the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the United Resistance Front (URF) and three factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM/Abdel Wahid, SLM/Abdel Shafie and SLM/Unity). Of these, SLM/Unity and the URF have publicly stated their readiness to participate in political talks, whereas the other three have yet to do so. The Special Envoys are currently talking to all these groups to encourage them to unify and agree common platforms for negotiations with the government of Sudan. The envoys will return to Sudan on 7 April to continue this process and we have urged them to intensify contacts with the movements.

We welcome the government of Sudan's public commitment to attend further political talks, but this commitment must be matched by action that builds confidence with the rebels, including stopping attacks in Darfur and reigning in the Janjaweed militia, as they committed to in the Darfur peace agreement. Similarly the various movements, including JEM, must cease military activity.

The views of wider Darfuri society, including Arab groups, need to be taken into account in the political process. We are urging the Special Envoys and their staff, and the UN Civil Affairs and the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Co-operation (set up as a result of the Darfur peace agreement) to co-operate and work with civil-society in this process.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the government of Russia on its position on Darfur (A) prior to and (B) since Ambassador Vitaly Churkin's statement at the UN Security Council meeting on 11 March; and if he will make a statement. [197170]

Meg Munn: Following the 11 March UN Security Council consultations on Darfur, the Security Council agreed that Russia, as Council chair, would brief the media: expressing the Council's concern at the worsening security and humanitarian situation; calling for a cease-fire; reiterating the need for all parties to facilitate the UN African Union Mission in Darfur's (UNAMID) deployment; recalling the obligation of all parties to engage in political talks; and looking forward to a positive result between Sudan and Chad in Dakar.

We have regular discussions with the Government of Russia about Darfur. We have urged Russia to support the effective deployment of UNAMID and to use its

influence with the Government of Sudan to press Sudan to fulfil its commitments and end the violence.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the time needed to deploy the remaining 17,000 United Nations and African Union troops projected to operate in Darfur; what the main logistical difficulties are in deploying the full number; and if he will make a statement. [197171]

Meg Munn: The UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) currently has approximately 10,500 personnel, including troops, police and other civilian staff. We understand further Egyptian and Ethiopian battalions, and supporting units, are due to deploy by the end of May. As one of the most complex and logistically difficult missions the UN has ever undertaken, UNAMID is unlikely to reach full deployment before the end of 2008.

Several African troop contributing countries require assistance with training and equipping prior to deployment; we are supporting with £4 million to assist their deployment. Delays in generating force capabilities, and lack of co-operation from the Government of Sudan, have also slowed deployment of UNAMID. We are pressing the Government of Sudan to expedite UNAMID deployment and we are working closely with the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations in lobbying to fill capability shortfalls.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the government of Sudan on (A) the current and (B) the proposed deployment of troops as part of the African Union/United Nations hybrid operations in Darfur; what concerns have been raised by the government of Sudan; what conditions have been (1) proposed and (2) attached to the deployment; and if he will make a statement. [197172]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 12 March called for the UN-African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to be in place as quickly as possible and on 19 March announced £4 million to support African troops deploying for UNAMID. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for the speedy deployment of UNAMID in a joint statement with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development on 27 February. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, has repeatedly pressed the Government of Sudan to expedite the deployment of UNAMID, including during his visit to Sudan and the AU Summit between 28 January and 1 February. Our ambassador in Khartoum and other officials are also in regular contact with the Sudanese government on this issue.

The terms of UN Security Council Resolution 1769 reflect an agreement between the UN and the AU that UNAMID should be 'predominantly African' in character. This allows for non-African troop contributions, particularly where specific capabilities are required. The Government of Sudan has argued that sufficient troops have been pledged by African countries. We have pressed the AU and the UN to choose the troops needed to ensure an effective mission, irrespective of nationality. And we have called on the Government of Sudan to accept the force composition agreed by the UN and the AU and remove all obstacles to the effective deployment of UNAMID.

Sudan: Sanctions

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the Chinese government to support UN sanctions against Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [196925]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed Darfur with Chinese Premier Wen during his visit to China on 18 January. UK Ministers subsequently agreed with the Chinese Special Envoy for Africa, Liu Guijin, in London on 21-22 February the key goals of:

accelerating the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur deployment so as to improve security and humanitarian access;

re-energising the Darfur political process; and

supporting implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reinforced these messages during his visit to China on 25-29 February, both in talks with Chinese Ministers and in a public speech at Peking university.

We continue to make clear that the UK will pursue further targeted sanctions against any party that undermines resolution of the Darfur conflict. We have regular discussions with other members of the UN Security Council, including China, that sanctions must be one of a range of measures to help resolve the conflict.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives have had with the governments of (i) the Central African Republic, (ii) Uganda and (iii) the Democratic Republic of Congo on recent activity by the Lord's Resistance Army; and if he will make a statement. [197077]

Meg Munn: The Government have not had any discussions with the Governments of the Central African Republic, Uganda or the Democratic Republic of Congo regarding recent activity by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). We are aware that discussions regarding the LRA have taken place between these Governments at the regional level.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with President Yoweri Museveni on *(a)* government negotiations with the Lord's Resistance Army and *(b)* the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant for Joseph Kony; and if he will make a statement. [197079]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with President Museveni. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed the Lord's Resistance Army and the International Criminal Court warrants with Ugandan Foreign Minister Kutesa on 10 March in London. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Museveni discussed the conflict in northern Uganda when they met at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Kampala on 24 November 2007.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to President Yoweri Museveni's statement in London on 11 March 2008 and the answer on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 650W, on Uganda: politics and government, what assessment his Department has made of the (i) impact on the sustainability of a peace agreement in Uganda should Joseph Kony not face charges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) and (ii) likelihood of a peace agreement being reached if ICC (A) investigations and (B) charges against Joseph Kony are not dropped. [196968]

Meg Munn: We hope that the Lord's Resistance Army will sign the Final Peace Agreement with the Ugandan government even if the International Criminal Court warrants are not suspended. The Government considers justice to be an essential part of a sustainable peace and it is vital that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed during the conflict in northern Uganda are held to account.

UN Peacebuilding Fund

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding the UK has provided for the UN Peacebuilding Fund; what commitments the UK has entered into for further such funding; and what steps he has taken to encourage others to make contributions to the Fund. [197892]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has committed £30 million over three years (2007-09) to the UN Peacebuilding Fund, of which £18 million has been disbursed so far. The UK regularly encourages other contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund as a member of the Peacebuilding Commission.

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support is provided by the United Kingdom to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. [196828]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK drove the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in 2005 and has since been a very active member of the PBC's Organisational Committee.

The UK continues to provide full support to the PBC, working closely with partner countries and with countries on the PBC's agenda. Through our mission to the UN in New York and our Embassies and the Department for International Development (DFID) offices in Burundi and Sierra Leone, the UK has assisted with the development of the Strategic Peacebuilding Frameworks for both countries and are now engaged in supporting their monitoring and implementation. We are working closely with Brazil, chair of the Country Specific Meeting for Guinea-Bissau, the latter being the most recent country on the PBC's agenda.

We, in particular through the UK Mission to the UN, also work closely with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), which act as the secretariat to the PBC. DFID has provided US$1 million in support to the PBSO over two years.

USA: North Korea

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives in Washington DC have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the United States Administration on the planned meeting between US Assistant Secretary of State, Christopher Hill and Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Kye-gwan; and if he will make a statement. [197178]

Dr. Howells: We continue to have regular contact with the US Administration and other participants in the Six-Party Talks, including in the week leading up to Assistant Secretary Hill's latest talks with Vice-Minister Kim Kye-gwan in Geneva that commenced on 13 March. The UK supports the ongoing Six-Party process and the goal of de-nuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. We welcome the leadership shown by the US, Japan, China and Republic of Korea, and encourage all parties to implement the agreements reached.

Uzbekistan: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the human rights situation and *(b)* the transparency of (i) law enforcement agencies and (ii) the court system in Uzbekistan; and if he will make a statement. [197035]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We remain concerned about the overall human rights situation in Uzbekistan for reasons set out in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office 2007 Annual Human Rights report launched on 25 March 2008. Harassment of human rights defenders is common-place and we are disturbed by reports that Mutabar Tojibaeva has been moved from prison in Tashkent and that her family do not know her whereabouts. Restrictions remain on civil society, non-governmental organisations, media and religious organisations. Set against this, however, the Uzbek authorities have recently taken some positive steps which we welcome. These include the release in February of prominent human rights defenders, the ratification by the Uzbek Parliament in March of two international labour organisation conventions, including on the worst forms of child labour, and the

resumption of prison visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross. We hope that this overall positive progress will continue.

There is little transparency in the work of the law enforcement agencies. There is no system for systematically investigating all allegations of torture or corruption, although small numbers of police are punished. There is no independent watchdog to hold police and other law enforcement bodies to account. Transparency in the court system is a little better and most trials are open to the public. Uzbek law provides for closed trials to preserve state secrets or to protect victims and witnesses, but over the past 12 months our embassy in Tashkent has been unable to gain access to trials where these circumstances did not apply.

In January new habeas corpus legislation came into force which transferred the authority to issue arrest warrants from the prosecutor to the courts. This has required comprehensive amendments to the criminal justice system, including to court and police procedures, which should increase transparency and protection of detainees' rights. We, and our EU partners, stand ready to assist the Uzbek authorities with support for its practical implementation.

JUSTICE

Bail: Housing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many units and what proportion of prison officers' accommodation will be used to provide accommodation under the bail accommodation support scheme, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [197989]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to use prison officer accommodation for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service. ClearSprings Ltd. provide the Bail Accommodation and Support Service using housing sourced from private landlords and some properties they themselves purchase.

ClearSprings Management

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 376-77W, on ClearSprings Management, in which towns accommodation for remand prisoners is needed; how many accommodation places for remand prisoners are needed in each town; and if he will make a statement. [197288]

Mr. Hanson: We are continually assessing need for accommodation under BASS. I have instigated informing local MPs as well as police and probation where local schemes are being considered.

ClearSprings: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many hostels managed by ClearSprings have been opened in Wales in the last 12 months; [197801]

(2) whether there is a duty on ClearSprings to consult (*a*) the local community, (*b*) the police, (*c*) the Probation Service and (*d*) local authorities prior to opening a bail hostel in Wales; [197802]

(3) how many bail places were provided by ClearSprings in (*a*) 2006-07 and (*b*) 2007-08; [197805]

(4) how many bailees placed in hostels in Wales run by ClearSprings have been charged with a subsequent offence. [197807]

Mr. Hanson: The bail accommodation and support service provided by ClearSprings does not provide hostels. Normal residential housing in the community, typically with three people sharing a house, is provided for defendants whom the courts have granted bail and for offenders released on home detention curfew. Nine houses have been made available in Wales in the last 12 months. ClearSprings are required to consult the local authority, the police and probation when acquiring properties for the service. There is no requirement for any other community consultation. The service commenced from 18 June 2007. In 2007-08, from that date up to 28 March, 481 people were bailed and 375 were released on Home Detention Curfew into the service across England and Wales. Reliable information on the number of people released into the service who are charged with a subsequent offence is not available.

Convictions: Disclosure of Information

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department plans to bring forward proposals to reform the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 on the disclosure of previous criminal convictions for ex-offenders; and if he will make a statement. [197304]

Mr. Hanson: The Government undertook a review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act in 2002 and published the document 'Breaking the Circle' which set out proposals for reform of the Act. That paper made proposals for modifying disclosure periods for offences, and other changes to the operation of the Act. In 2003 the Government agreed that the proposals had merit and proposed to legislate when parliamentary time allowed. I am currently reviewing the position in the light of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, which was based on the recommendations of the Bichard report, and which makes changes to the disclosure situation for ex-offenders in many areas of employment.

Criminal Injuries Compensation: EC Nationals

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many citizens of other EU countries have (*a*) made and (*b*) received compensation in respect of criminal injuries compensation claims in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [197439]

(2) the average payment was in respect of successful criminal injuries compensation claims made by citizens from other EU countries in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [197441]

Maria Eagle: Anyone, of any nationality or domicile, who sustains an injury in Great Britain as a result of

violent crime, is eligible to apply for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, which administers the scheme, does not record information about an applicant's nationality since that is not a qualifying criterion for compensation. The Authority cannot, therefore, supply the information requested.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in securing agreements with third countries on the return of prisoners held in the UK. [196816]

Mr. Hanson: In 2007, prisoner transfer agreements were concluded with Jamaica and with Pakistan. The agreement with Jamaica will come into force when amendments have been made to Jamaican law. The agreement with Pakistan was signed on 24 August 2007 and will enter into force as soon as we have confirmation that constitutional arrangements in Pakistan have been completed and instruments of ratification have been exchanged. We expect that the agreement will be in force soon.

In addition to the agreements signed last year, an agreement with Ghana has recently been concluded and will be signed shortly. Negotiations with Nigeria and Vietnam are at an advanced stage.

Domestic Violence: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the delivery of domestic violence programmes in probation areas in Wales against delivery timetables in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [197900]

Maria Eagle: National guidance to probation areas states that offenders sentenced to a community order with a requirement to attend an accredited domestic violence programme should commence the group work programme by the 12th week of the order. In some cases this timeline can be altered at the discretion of the offender manager. There is no timetable for offenders on licence.

Offenders waiting for a place on a domestic violence programme are under the supervision of their offender manager. The offender manager will monitor the risk posed by the offender and manage it. Additionally the offender manager will normally prepare offenders for the programmes by carrying out set work. This can take between six and 12 weeks.

Driving Offences: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were charged with a speeding offence in each London borough in each of the last five years. [197283]

Maria Eagle: Available information on the number of proceedings at magistrates courts for speed limit offences within the Metropolitan and city of London police force areas combined from 2001 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2006 data will be available later this year.

Information on the number of people charged by the police is not collected centrally.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for speed limit offences[1], London[2], 2001 to 2005

	Number of offences
2001	9,968
2002	8,971
2003	9,184
2004	9,487
2005	11,589

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regs 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.
[2] Metropolitan and city of London police combined.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Driving Offences: Speed Limits

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many drivers have been *(a)* cautioned for and *(b)* convicted of speeding in (i) St Ives constituency, (ii) Cornwall, (iii) the South West Region, (iv) Greater London and (v) England in the last 12 months. [198383]

Maria Eagle: Available information for 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following table. 2006 data will be available later this year.

Information is available at police force area level only.

Written warnings[1] issued and findings of guilt at all courts for speeding offences[2] within Devon and Cornwall police force area, the south west region, Greater London[3] and England, 2005

	Number of offences	
	Written warnings	Findings of guilt
Devon and Cornwall police force area		5,200
South west region	1,600	19,700
Greater London[3]	0	10,700
England	5,500	148,400

[1] Written warnings only. Formal cautions are not given for summary motoring offence of speeding.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 and 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regs 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.
[3] Metropolitan and city of London police combined.
Notes:
1. 0 means less than 50.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Misuse

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of *(a)* prisons, *(b)* community rehabilitation orders

and (c) drug treatment and testing orders in stopping drug taking by offenders. [196929]

Mr. Hanson: There is evidence to support the effectiveness of certain treatments in reducing substance misuse. Treatments which are effective in addressing substance misuse include pharmacotherapies (e.g. methadone); psychological treatments; residential rehabilitation; 12-step treatment; and therapeutic communities[1].

(a) Success of prisons in stopping the drug taking of offenders

The evaluations to date of drug treatment programmes in prisons in the UK suggest that these programmes can reduce re-offending[2].

The best available measure of drug prevalence in prisons is the random mandatory drug testing (rMDT) programme, which routinely tests prisoners chosen at random for panel of drugs. The positive rate for rMDT has dropped from down from 24.4 per cent. in 1996-97 to 8.8 per cent. in 2006-07[3].

NOMS has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised models of care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers in prison. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

(b) Success of community rehabilitation orders in stopping the drug taking of offenders

For offences committed on or after 4 April 2005, the Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced the community order which replaced all previous community sentences, including community rehabilitation orders (CROs) and drug treatment and testing orders (DTTOs), for adult offenders. Under the Act, the court may impose a community order with a drug rehabilitation requirement. It is too early to have an effective assessment.

(c) Success of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs) in stopping the drug taking of offenders

Research[4] concluded that DTTOs can reduce spending on drugs and re-offending, although it was not possible to determine to what extent these changes were due to the DTTO or whether other factors also contributed.

[1] Gossop, M. (2006). 'Treating drug misuse problems: evidence of effectiveness'. London: NTA.

[2] Ramsay, M. (ed) (2003). 'Prisoners' Drug Use and Treatment: Seven Research Studies'. Home Office Research Study 267. London: Home Office.

Martin, C. and Player, E. (2000). 'Drug Treatment in Prison: An Evaluation of the PAR Treatment Programme'. Winchester: Waterside Press.

[3] Drugs Strategy Team, NOMS Interventions and Substance-Abuse Unit.

[4] Hough, M., Clancy, A., McSweeney, T. and Turnbull, P.C. (2003). The impact of Drug Treatment and Testing Orders on Offending: two year reconviction results. Home Office Research Findings 184. London: Home Office.

Turnbull, P., McSweeney, T., Webster, R., Edmunds, M. and Hough, M. (2000). Drug treatment and testing orders: Final Evaluation Report. Home Office Research Study 212. London: Home Office.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the delivery of drug and alcohol abuse programmes in probation areas in Wales against delivery timetables in (a) 2006-07 and (b) 2007-08. [197808]

Mr. Hanson: National guidance to probation areas states that offenders sentenced to a community order with a requirement to attend the accredited offender substance abuse programme (OSAP) should commence the group work programme when their motivation and ability to complete the programme has been assessed. There is no set time given the nature of the lifestyle of those dependent upon alcohol or drugs.

Offenders waiting for a place on OSAP are under the supervision of their offender manager and also may be subject to a drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR). The offender manager will monitor the risk posed by the offender and manage it. Additionally the offender manager will normally prepare offenders for the programmes by carrying out set work.

Electoral Register

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government has taken to make voter registration more accessible. [198121]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EA Act) introduced a number of new provisions to make electoral registration more accessible and to enhance the accuracy of the electoral register. These have included:

- Imposing a new duty on electoral registration officers to take all necessary steps, such as sending the canvass form more than once, making house to house inquiries and promoting registration, and
- Increasing the time available for electoral registration to 11 days prior to polling day.

The Office for National Statistics has recently published electoral registration rates for the UK and as of the 1 December 2007:

- The number of parliamentary electors grew by 307,669 to 45,082,854; and
- The number of local government electors grew by 463,340 to 45,920,503.

In addition, Section 67 of the EA Act requires the Electoral Commission to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services and this will also provide more information about electoral registration and help share best practice.

In light of the Slough Judgment concerning electoral fraud, the Government are currently considering the effectiveness of the new measures and are keeping electoral registration under review to identify initiatives that will further ensure the accuracy and integrity of the electoral register.

Fireworks: Prosecutions

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there were for firework-related offences in (a) 2003, (b) 2004, (c) 2005 and (d) 2006. [197268]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to fireworks in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2006 can be viewed in the table as follows.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to fireworks in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against
2003	599
2004	730
2005	708
2006	571

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] The data relate to the following Statutes:

Emergency Laws (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 S.3 orders made under.

Explosives Act 1875

Explosives Act 1923 and order in council and rules thereunder.

Fireworks Act 1951

Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol, etc.) Act 1985 Section 2A(1).

Fireworks Act 2003 S.11 (1),(2),(3)(a)(b),(4).

Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005 S.25(1)(a) and (b)

Highways Act 1980 S.131(1)(d), S.161(2)(b)

Metropolitan Police Act 1839 S.54(15)

Fireworks Safety (Regulations) 1997 S.6(1)

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employers of migrant domestic workers were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of psychological abuse, physical abuse or sexual abuse of their employees in each of the last three years. [197984]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of employers of migrant domestic workers who have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for psychological abuse, physical abuse or sexual abuse of their employees is not held centrally.

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice does not separately identify either the category of defendant (i.e. employer etc.) the type of victim (i.e. migrant domestic worker), or the type of abuse.

Juries: Wales

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the cost of providing bilingual juries in Wales. [197601]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to Part 1 of our consultation document "The Use of Bilingual (English and Welsh-speaking) Juries in Certain Criminal Trials in Wales", some options for bilingual juries would give rise to additional costs. A copy of the consultation document is on the CJS website at:

http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk/downloads/application/pdf/Welsh%20jury%20consultation%20-%20English.pdf

We have identified potential resource implications for the Jury Central Summoning Bureau (JCSB) and in moving jurors further than usual, whether in hotel fees or travel costs. These costs have not been quantified. In the event that we were to decide in principle in favour of bilingual juries, full costings would be carried out.

Labour Party: Marketing

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2303W, on Labour Party: marketing, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Labour party's licence issued by the Office of Public Sector Information. [198087]

Mr. Wills: The Labour party has a Click-Use license, which is listed on the Office of Public Sector Information's (OPSI) Click-Use website. The licence can be viewed on the OPSI website at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/index.htm

The Click-Use licence is not a traditional licence in that applicants accept the terms of a set of licence terms online. It follows that there is not a specific licence naming the Labour party as a licensee. A list of Click-Use licence holders with the terms of the Click-Use licence can be viewed on the OPSI website.

Copies of the relevant pages will also be deposited in the Library.

Legal Aid Scheme: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate expenditure on legal aid for defendants with drug addictions in 2007. [197660]

Maria Eagle: An individual applying for legal aid is not required to disclose whether he or she has a drug addiction. Moreover, an individual with a drug addiction could receive legal aid in matters not connected with the addiction. Therefore, it is not possible to provide reliable estimates of expenditure on legal aid for those with drug addictions.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he will answer the letter of 15 January 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Miss E. A. Price. [195388]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

A reply was issued to the hon. Member on 30 January 2008.

National Identity

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of devolving further powers to local communities on attitudes towards British citizenship and national identity; [198384]

(2) when his Department plans to take forward the proposals in the report of Lord Goldsmith's Citizenship Review; [198385]

(3) what consideration he has given to the report of the recommendation in Lord Goldsmith's Citizenship Review on a national day focused on ideas about shared citizenship. [198386]

Mr. Wills: A robust sense of citizenship and national identity is reinforced by a democracy which is healthy and engages citizens at all levels. The Government believe that devolving power to Parliament, to citizens and to local communities, as included in the Governance of Britain Green Paper and the 2006 Local Government White Paper, will help revitalise our democracy.

The Government welcome Lord Goldsmith's Review of Citizenship and its contribution to the current debate about legal and social rights and responsibilities.

We have already announced many measures as part of the earned citizenship document which are consonant with Lord Goldsmith's proposals on acquiring citizenship and we are also interested in his thoughts on supporting and encouraging volunteering, which we will study closely.

Prison Officers: Housing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether prison officers' accommodation will be sold in order to avoid the costs that would be incurred in upgrading properties to meet the 2010 Decent Housing standard. [197990]

Mr. Hanson: No.

Prison Service: Location

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has conducted a sustainability appraisal in the light of the recent relocation announcements regarding the Prison Service. [198036]

Maria Eagle: It is unclear from the question which relocation announcement the hon. Member refers to. However, since 1999 the Prison Service has actively pursued the Government's environmental and sustainability agenda.

Details of progress made by the Service in addressing its commitments, aims and targets regarding sustainable development are contained in its recently published Annual Sustainable Development Report 2006-07 and which can be found on its website: www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Prisons: MRSA

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile were recorded in each prison in each of the last five years. [197926]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Prison Service's Performance Standard, Health Services for Prisoners (May 2004), requires every prison establishment to have in place effective arrangements for the prevention, control and management of communicable diseases. These must include arrangements for the notification of all incidents of notifiable disease, such as tuberculosis, to the local Health Protection Agency's Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC) and an action plan in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease.

Upon the detection of any infection in a prison establishment, appropriate health care and infection control procedures should be instituted in partnership with infection control teams in primary care trusts and health protection units.

Probation: Foreigners

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether there are any restrictions on the ability of probation service staff to recommend supervision of foreign nationals in Wales where interpreters would be required. [197800]

Maria Eagle: There is no policy restriction on the ability of probation staff to recommend supervision, delivered with the assistance of an interpreter, for foreign national offenders in Wales. As with any other offender, a recommendation would be based on the individual's risks, particular needs, eligibility and suitability.

Probation: Manpower

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many qualified probation officers were employed in Wales on *(a)* 31 December 1997 and *(b)* 31 December 2007. [197798]

Maria Eagle: Information is not available for the period requested. Data collected prior to April 2003 were collated by a different source and were incomplete in some categories and therefore are not directly comparable with the figures collected since that time.

The following table shows the staff in post in probation officer grades in Wales from 2003 onwards. It also shows the number of trainee probation officers at the same period.

	2003[1]		2004[1]		2005[1]		2006[1]		2007[2]	
Staff in post	*PO*	*TPO*	*PO*	*TPO*	*PO*	*TPO*	*PO*	*TPO*	*PO*	*TPO*
Dyfed Powys	46.30	15.00	49.10	15.00	55.70	18.00	49.80	16.00	47.80	16.00
Gwent	68.10	25.00	67.30	33.00	65.30	23.00	92.10	29.00	92.40	29.00
North Wales	67.10	26.00	88.20	21.00	88.30	24.00	90.10	20.00	87.30	19.00
South Wales	157.60	83.00	195.90	48.00	215.10	44.00	210.40	41.00	207.50	29.00
Total	339.10	149.00	396.50	117.00	424.40	109.00	442.40	106.00	435.00	73.00
NPS	6271.50	1818.20	6584.90	1774.00	6894.40	1386.70	7209.55	1134.09	7007.75	1031.20

[1] Figures provided are as at 31 December.
[2] Figures provided are as at 30 June and are about to be published.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation staff managers were employed in Wales on *(a)* 31 December 1997 and *(b)* 31 December 1998. [197799]

Maria Eagle: Information is not available for the period requested. Data collected prior to April 2003 were collated by a different source and were incomplete in some categories and therefore are not directly comparable with the figures collected since that time.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197509]

Maria Eagle: There is no record of any contracts awarded to Rackspace by the Department, its predecessor or agencies in the last nine years.

Residence Orders

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residence orders were awarded to *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each year for which figures are available. [197374]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information is available on the overall number of residence orders made under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 and is published annually in judicial statistics, but the courts in England and Wales do not collect information about who the order is made in favour of from each case record.

A study entitled "Residence and Contact Disputes in Court Volume 1" by Professor Carol Smart and others, University of Leeds (DCA Research Series 6/03) published September 2003, found the following:

Outcomes where mothers applied for residence or for residence and/or contact:

Outcome	*Percentage (number = 120)*
Residence to mother	42
Shared residence	5
Contact only to mother	3
No order/withdrawn	19
Dismissed	10
Residence to respondent/other	3
Residence to respondent plus contact to mother	3
Other	15
Total	100

Outcomes where fathers applied for residence or for residence and/or contact:

Outcome	*Percentage (number = 83)*
Resident to father	36
Shared residence	7
Contact only to father	11
No order/withdrawn	23
Dismissed	4
Residence to respondent or other	3.5
Residence to respondent plus contact to father	12
Other	3.5
Total	100

The sample size is small compared to the overall numbers of residence orders made in all types of court in England and Wales and the sample was taken from three county courts so the percentages above may not give an accurate reflection of all residence orders made in all levels of court.

The overall number of residence orders made for the years 2002-06 is set out as follows.

	Number
2002	30,006
2003	31,996
2004	31,878
2005	26,523
2006	30,035

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he will publish the Government's action plan on the recommendations from the inquests into Gareth Myatt and Adam Rickwood; [198051]

(2) what consultation there has been with the families of Adam Rickwood and Gareth Myatt about the Government's action plan on the recommendations from the inquests into the boys' deaths. [198052]

Mr. Hanson: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 22WS.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) met both families on 18 October to discuss their concerns following the inquests. In drawing up the action plan we have taken full account of the families' concerns.

Voting Behaviour

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps the Government has taken to address negative voting trends. [198122]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to looking at ways in which the electoral process can be made more convenient and responsive to the overall needs of the electorate. As part of this commitment, we have and will continue to look at measures which can be introduced to encourage eligible persons to vote at elections.

Under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EA Act), we introduced a number of measures aimed at increasing voter turnout, including a requirement for local electoral officers to take appropriate steps to

increase participation in the electoral process in their areas, the costs of which may be reimbursed by the Secretary of State.

The EA Act also introduced a new duty requiring electoral registration officers to take all necessary steps to register electors, including sending the canvass form more than once, making house to house enquiries and inspecting records they are permitted to inspect. And this new duty is making a difference to the levels of registration, as confirmed by the Office for National Statistics when they recently published electoral registration rates for the UK. As of the 1 December 2007:

The number of parliamentary electors increased by 307,669 to 45,082,854; and

The number of local government electors increased by 463,340 to 45,920,503

Following our commitment in the "Governance of Britain" Green Paper, we will also be consulting shortly on the merits of moving voting to the weekend for general, European and local elections. This will include consideration as to whether this would improve voter participation at elections.

It is important that we capture young people's interest at an early age and build their understanding of democratic and political processes so that they take an active part in society, as they become adults and citizens. My Department has undertaken a number of projects to encourage participation and engagement among young people. This includes setting up a Youth Citizenship Commission which will consider how to increase young people's participation in politics.

Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times restrictive physical interventions were used in each *(a)* young offender institution and *(b)* secure children's home in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [197310]

Mr. Hanson: Young adults are not placed in secure children's homes. The Youth Justice Board began collecting data against a common definition of restraint across the under-18 secure estate in April 2007. The following table shows the total number of restrictive physical interventions between 1 April 2007 and 31 January 2008 in each under-18 young offender institution and secure children's home. Information on restraints of young adults in senior young offender institutions is not collected centrally.

Establishment type	*Number of restrictive physical interventions*
Secure Children's Homes	
Aldine House	20
Atkinson Unit	91
Aycliffe	174
Barton Moss	104
Clayfields	66
Eastmoor	393
Gladstone House	86
Hillside Secure Centre	28
Kyloe House	15
Lincolnshire Secure Children's Home	154
Orchard Lodge	154
Red Bank	212
Sutton Place	63
Swanick Lodge	40
Vinney Green	63
Young Offender Institutions	
Ashfield	368
PARC	52
Brinsford	105
Castington	164
Feltham	273
Hindley	297
Huntercombe	338
Lancaster Farms	293
Stoke Heath	120
Thorn Cross	0
Warren Hill	192
Werrington	226
Wetherby	318
Cookham Wood	17
Downview	22
Eastwood Park	27
Foston Hall	51
New Hall	58

Source:
Data supplied by the Youth Justice Board from administrative systems

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Saudi Arabia

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the sum of the Export Credits Guarantee Department's exposure in respect of the al-Yamamah arms deal with Saudi Arabia was on *(a)* 31 December 1989, *(b)* 31 December 1994, *(c)* 31 December 1999, *(d)* 31 March 2005 and *(e)* 12 September 2006. [196623]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD exposure as at the requested dates is set out as follows.

	£ million
31 December 1989	450
31 December 1994	750
31 December 1999	1,000
31 March 2005	750
12 September 2006	750

Business: Bermuda

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to Bermudan businesses wishing to *(a)* invest in the United Kingdom and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much was made available for these purposes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [192530]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has the lead role within Government for delivering trade development and inward investment services for business. It brings together the work of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on international trade and investment.

UKTI and its network of partner agencies across the UK welcome, and are available to assist, foreign direct investment (FDI) projects seeking to locate in the UK from all over the world including Bermuda. However we dedicate specific resource to priority markets to maximise taxpayers' investment and Bermuda is not one of these.

Business: Cyprus

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to Cypriot businesses wishing to *(a)* invest in the United Kingdom and *(b)* take part in joint ventures with UK companies; how much was made available for these purposes in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [192531]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has the lead role within Government for delivering trade development and inward investment services for business. It brings together the work of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on international trade and investment.

UKTI and its network of partner agencies across the UK welcome, and are available to assist, foreign direct investment (FDI) projects seeking to locate in the UK from all over the world including Cyprus. However we dedicate specific resources to priority markets, in order to maximise taxpayers' investment and Cyprus is not one of these.

Capita

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will provide a geographical breakdown of the 46,000 claims identified by Capita to his Department's Yorkshire monitoring committee as not having made services claims for mining industrial diseases. [197662]

Malcolm Wicks: I am unsure to what the figure of 46,000 relates. Approximately 60,000 vibration white finger claimants were eligible to claim services on the basis of their medical staging for general damages but, for whatever reason, did not do so.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the annual carbon dioxide emissions from the proposed coal-fired power station in Kingsnorth, Kent. [197291]

Malcolm Wicks: The applicant estimates that if the proposed station was generating some 12 TWh of electricity per annum it would produce some 8.6 MTe of CO_2. However the amount of annual carbon dioxide emissions depends on the actual amount of electricity generated.

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the environmental impact of a coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth, Kent. [197362]

Malcolm Wicks: The Secretary of State has a quasi-judicial role in deciding E.ON's application for his consent to build a new coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. It would therefore be improper for him to express a view on whether he is in favour or against the proposal prior to taking a fully considered decision.

Coal: Concessions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many residents in Bassetlaw constituency are in receipt of concessionary coal. [197859]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* There are currently 1,230 Bassetlaw residents who receive concessionary coal via the Department.

Coal: Mining

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the note taken of the meeting of 20 March 2008 between Ministers, officials and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers on the future of the coal industry. [197380]

Malcolm Wicks: On 19 March 2008, I met my hon. Friend the Member for Sherwood (Paddy Tipping) and representatives of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers to hear their views about recent events in connection with the possible restart of Harworth Colliery. Information relating to internal meetings, discussions and advice is not disclosed, as to do so, could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Energy: Meters

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish the report he commissioned from Mott McDonald on smart meters; with which organisations he has discussed the report; and what the timetable is for the introduction of such meters. [198054]

Malcolm Wicks: My Department is currently working up its impact assessment on smart metering, which will take account of the analysis by Mott MacDonald, as well as that of a number of other organisations. The Mott MacDonald report, with other analysis, will be published later this month, together with the Government's impact assessment and their response to the metering and billing consultation. As part of this process, my Department has held discussions with a range of interested parties, including

gas and electricity suppliers, meter owners and service providers, Ofgem and Energywatch. The Government will set out their views on the next steps on smart metering shortly.

Global Nuclear Energy Partnership: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources his Department plans to commit to the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. [191458]

Malcolm Wicks: There are no plans *(a)* to commit funds other than Travel and Subsistence *(b)* resources other than that necessarily involved in our membership of the GNEP Steering and Ministerial committees. Any future funding or resource commitment would be subject to further justification.

UK membership of GNEP allows us to help shape this international programme and help develop and share international best practice. It also helps position UK organisations to compete for international contracts and take part in collaborations that benefit their missions.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been paid in compensation for *(a)* hearing loss, *(b)* vibration white finger and *(c)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, broken down by constituency. [197474]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department publishes the data for Vibration White Finger and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease claims on our webpage:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/coal-health//statistics/constituency/page20839.html

These statistics are updated monthly and include the information requested.

A table containing the figures for hearing loss claims has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many claims for *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease have not been fully settled, broken down by constituency. [197475]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department publishes data for vibration white finger and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims on our webpage:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/coal-health/statistics/constituency/page20839.html.

These statistics are updated monthly and include the information requested.

Lighting: Billing

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the role of the unmetered supply operator (UMSO) is in calculating local authority bills for street lighting; and if he will take steps to ensure that the charging policy of the UMSO does not inhibit the development by local authorities of small-scale trials of low-energy street lighting technologies. [196375]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: Each unmetered supply operator (in this context, the electricity distributor or DNO) is obliged to prepare a use of system charging methodology approved by Ofgem which is designed to achieve a number of relevant objectives as set out in their licence. These include an obligation to review the Use of System charging methodology at least once a year and have a methodology that takes account of developments in the licensee's distribution business.

Ofgem would expect a DNO to ensure that its methodology takes account of developments in its distribution business and DNOs should be made aware of the results of any small scale trials of low-energy street lighting which may result in changes to a local authority's inventory. It is for the DNO and local authorities concerned to work together and a DNO to assess whether or not, as a result of such trials, a change is required to its Use of System methodology or Use of System charges. This would be a matter that the DNO would generally discuss with Ofgem.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget for the low carbon building programme was in 2007-08; and what proportion of this budget has been spent. [196382]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) phase 1 has a £36 million budget over three years. We did not set yearly allocations. For the 2007-08 tax year we have currently spent £5.1 million, including management fees.

Phase 2 of the programme has a £50 million budget over three years and we did not set yearly allocations. From April 2007 to the end of February 2008 we spent £1.3 million, including management fees. The total of grants allocated on phase 2 in this period was £7.4 million.

Recent changes to LCBP and planning requirements should help to boost uptake. All technologies under LCBP phase 2 will now receive 50 per cent. grant funding. This will make it a more affordable option and enable more organisations to take part. We have also extended the length of time householders have to apply for grants through to June 2010 for the remaining £10 million funds. In addition, from 6 April 2008 we will be relaxing the planning rules to make it easier for householders to install microgeneration technologies.

Metering: Finance

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the provision of smart meters on a national basis, broken down by main budget heading. [197739]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are currently working up their impact assessment of smart metering, and will publish that assessment later this month, together with the Government's response to the metering and billing consultation. The assessment will include a detailed examination of costs and benefits.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from companies associated with smart-meter production or sales. [197740]

Malcolm Wicks: In the course of developing its impact assessment on smart metering, my Department has been in discussion with a range of interested parties about the costs and benefits of smart metering. My Department has received written representations as part of this process, as well as in response to the metering and billing consultation.

Mining: Compensation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the timetable is for the transfer of information to the Law Society on claimants under the Miners' Compensation Claim scheme as piloted in Rother Valley. [197661]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has already provided some information to the Legal Complaints Service (LCS). This will enable LCS to plan the next stages of their campaign which, I understand, is planned for autumn 2008. The Department will continue to work with LCS to ensure they have the information they require.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many requests from the Serious Fraud Office he has acceded to for information on mining compensation. [197663]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is co-operating fully with the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) however, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on ongoing inquiries.

My statement in December 2005 reported that, although their investigations are continuing, the SFO were not now focusing on any suspected fraud against the Department.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Foreign Workers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 251W, on Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: foreign workers, what the nationalities were of the 12 foreign nationals employed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority since its establishment. [196645]

Malcolm Wicks: The nationalities of the 12 foreign nationals who have been employed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority since its establishment are as follows:

	Number
USA	2
Irish	2
South African	2
Canadian	1
French	1
German	1
Greek	1
Italian	1
Australian	1

Nuclear Power Stations: Costs

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins), *Official Report*, columns 1632-3W, on nuclear power stations: costs, what discount rate was assumed in carrying out the cost-benefit analysis. [197320]

Malcolm Wicks: The cost benefit analysis assumed in the central case a post tax real discount rate of 10 per cent. There were also low and high sensitivity cases in which rates of 7 per cent. and 12 per cent. respectively were used.

The full analysis can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39525.pdf

Nuclear Power: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how the Government plans to strengthen the capacities of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Nuclear Security Fund, as indicated at paragraph 4.21 of the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, Cm 7291. [196829]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK is a contributor to the Nuclear Security Fund (NSF) and provides a cost free UK expert to the fund. The UK seeks to further strengthen delivery mechanisms within the NSF by improving internal IAEA efficiency. We intend to do this by providing continuing assessment and feedback on project progress, exploring means to overcome difficulties and by encouraging the agency to streamline its operations. We will seek to feed our experience of working with the NSF into the current '2020 Review' of the Agency's operations.

Oil

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment the Government has made of the likely year of peak global oil production; what contingency plans the Government has made should global oil supplies peak sooner than International Energy Agency predictions; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the UK economy of the passing of peak production. [197009]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The Government's assessment is that the global oil (and gas) reserves are sufficient to sustain economic growth for the foreseeable future. This is consistent with the assessment made by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its 2007 World Energy Outlook (WEO).

However, the Government recognise the need for further investment both in upstream and downstream oil in order for production to keep pace with the growing global oil demand.

The Government constantly monitor risks to the UK economy, including from energy-related developments, as detailed in the Energy White Paper (May 2007) and the Long-term Opportunities and Challenges for the UK (November 2006). In addition, the UK's policies, as outlined in the Energy White Paper, in promoting open and competitive markets, increasing energy efficiency, investing in low carbon technologies and the use of alternative energy sources such as renewables will reduce the risks to the UK of any potential future declines in global oil and gas production.

The Government are also aware of a wide range of academic and industry studies which look at future world oil supplies, including the peak oil phenomenon, and meets regularly with experts to discuss this and other oil market issues.

Post Offices: Closures

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to his answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 972, that in certain circumstances the Chairman of the Post Office would himself review cases and take closure decisions, what the procedure is by which this process can be engaged in respect of the proposed closure of Laverstock Post Office on 1 April. [197783]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The review process for closure decisions after public consultation is instigated by Postwatch where it considers that Post Office Ltd. has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation or that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

A four-stage process provides for review on an individual case basis. Where Post Office Ltd. and Postwatch are unable to reach an agreed way forward after the first three stages, a review of the closure decision is then undertaken by the chairman of Royal Mail Group. I understand that in the case of Laverstock, discussions about the closure did not proceed beyond the first stage of the review process as Postwatch were satisfied at that stage that all relevant factors had been duly considered by Post Office Ltd. in reaching their decision.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08. [196213]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The 2007 Energy White Paper sets out the Government's policy to promote energy innovation in renewable technologies. The Government are supporting a wide range of technology push measures to stimulate research and development and demonstration through the Research Councils, Technology Strategy Board, Energy Technologies Institute (all DIUS funded) and the Environmental Transformation Fund (DEFRA and BERR funded).

These bodies work closely together to ensure that funding activities are complementary and together effectively supports a portfolio of technologies, including renewables such as wind, wave and tidal, microgeneration and photovoltaics and bioenergy.

In addition market pull comes by providing the market mechanisms and incentives such as the renewables obligation (RO). By 2010 the RO along with exemption from the climate change levy will provide around £1 billion per year in support to the renewables industry. We are introducing measures to allow banding of the RO. This will provide the generation industry with greater incentive to develop and deploy those technologies which are currently further from commercial deployment.

Small Businesses

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new businesses were registered in *(a)* St. Albans and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [196186]

Malcolm Wicks: VAT registration data provide the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up activity.

The number of new VAT registrations in St. Albans and England are shown in the following table for 2002 to 2006, alongside data for the stock of all VAT registered businesses. Data for registrations in 2007 will be available in autumn 2008.

Number of VAT registrations and stock of VAT registered businesses in St. Albans and England

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Registrations						
St. Albans	540	655	620	620	660	
England	155,770	168,250	160,565	158,995	159,315	
Stock at start of year						
St. Albans	5,715	5,725	5,850	5,940	6,045	6,160
England	1,521,285	1,541,155	1,574,270	1,602,230	1,635,845	1,670,500

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2006, available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

Although the number of new registrations has fluctuated over the period, the total number of VAT registered businesses in St. Albans has increased annually, from 5,715 at the start of 2002 to 6,160 at the start of 2007, an increase of 445 (8 per cent.). For England, in comparison, the total number of VAT registered businesses has increased from 1.52 million to 1.67 million, an increase of 149,000 (10 per cent.).

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (43 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Unfair Practices

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many investigations the Office of Fair Trading is conducting into UK markets. [196666]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) publishes an annual plan providing an overview of its current and planned work. The OFT recently concluded a public consultation on its draft annual plan for 2008-09, a copy of which can be found on the OFT website at http://www.oft.gov.uk/news/press/2007/163-07. A copy of the annual plan for 2007-08 and further information about the work of the OFT can be found at the "OFT at work" section of the OFT's website at

http://www.oft.gov.uk/oft_at_work/

The OFT also publishes an annual report providing detailed information about the work it has undertaken during that year. The 2006-07 annual report can be found on the OFT website at

http://www.oft.gov.uk/advice_and_resources/publications/corporate/annual-report/annual-report-2006.

Utilities: Fees and Charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to prevent utility providers charging those who do not pay charges by direct debit more than those who do. [195589]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* In respect of gas and electricity supply, in broad terms, the rebate given to customers paying by direct debit, rather than standard credit or prepayment, reflects the lower cost of serving direct debit customers. However, Ofgem is currently conducting a probe into the energy market, the results of which will be published shortly. If the evidence shows that prepayment meter users are treated less favourably than other customers in respect of their charges for energy, then we will look to Ofgem and the energy suppliers to come forward with proposals to reduce any disadvantage. If sufficient progress is not made by winter 2008-09, the Secretary of State is prepared to use his existing statutory powers with a view to reducing the differential between prepayment and other forms of payment.

For telecoms, Ofcom is currently consulting on introducing new guidance for communications providers who levy additional charges on consumers, such as for not paying bills by direct debit. This will spell out Ofcom's view of the law and what providers have to do to meet their obligations under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract Regulations 1999 to ensure that additional charges are fair and transparent. Once the guidance has been finalised Ofcom is proposing to give providers three months to comply. Ofcom will then start an enforcement programme.

Wind Power: Noise

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 559-60W, on wind power: noise, when he expects installation and product standards for micro wind turbines to be published. [189194]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 27 February 2008]:* Under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) installation and product standards for micro wind, which address noise issues, will be published shortly. More information on development of the standards is available on the MCS website:

www.microgeneration.org

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people attended hospital accident and emergency departments in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Basildon Hospital NHS Trust and *(c)* Southend Hospital NHS Trust in each of the last three years. [197659]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held in the format requested. Information is collected on attendances at accident and emergency (A and E) departments, minor injury units and walk-in centres at trust level, and can be found in the following table for Essex national health service trusts. The data currently available for 2007-08 cover only the first three quarters of the year (April to December 2007).

Attendances at A and E departments, minor injury units and walk in centres, NHS organisations in England 2004-05 to quarter three 2007-08

Organisation	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 (Q1 -Q3)*
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	99, 893	101,342	104,685	74,076
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	97,230	99,355	95,470	60,500
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	70,291	72,212	73,351	56,207
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	82,888	85,806	86,384	66,923
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	76,189	80,718	81,230	64,746

Note:
Data for 2007-8 are for quarter one to quarter three. *Source:* Department of Health dataset QMAE.

Alcoholic Drinks: Labelling

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to reviewing the Food Labelling Regulations 1984 to require the listing of all ingredients in drinks with alcohol. [197812]

Dawn Primarolo: A proposal made by the European Commission (EC) in January 2008 for a new food information regulation would introduce ingredient labelling on alcoholic drinks.

There would be an exception for wine, beer and spirits, pending a review by the EC with a proposal to produce a report to determine the labelling of these categories of drinks after five years of the entry into force of the regulations.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for taking forward UK negotiations and has issued a public consultation on the proposal, further information is on the FSA website at:

www.food.gov.uk/consultations/ukwideconsults/2008/infoprovision.

The FSA's consultation on the proposal requests comments and views on these issues.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulations govern the labelling of alcohol to display suitability for vegans and vegetarians. [197813]

Dawn Primarolo: There is no definition in law for the use of the terms 'vegetarian' and 'vegan' either at United Kingdom, or European level. There are no current rules that make display of this information mandatory and any labelling of food or drink products as 'vegetarian' or 'vegan' is voluntary. Consumers are protected by general legal provisions outlawing false or misleading labelling in UK legislation.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the expenditure by the NHS on treatment of illnesses related to alcohol abuse in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [196557]

Dawn Primarolo: We estimate that alcohol abuse costs the national health service around £1.7 billion each year, with an estimated £217 million spent each year on specialist treatment for alcohol dependence. Additional funding of £15 million has been included within primary care trust general allocations from 2007-08 to improve alcohol interventions.

Baby Care Units

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new-born babies required specialist cots and incubators in each of the last 10 years. [197327]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect the information requested. The following table details the number of births recorded in the last 10 years that required specialist care, level 2 intensive care and level 1 intensive care. It is likely that each of these births would have required a specialist cot or incubator but it should be taken as an approximate number of those pieces of equipment actually used.

Count of births by neonatal level of care for the period 1997-98 to 2006-07 in national health service hospitals in England

Finished consultant birth episodes

Neonatal level of care description	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
Special care	33,069	31,879	30,848	28,811	28,743	28,510	28,727	31,397	36,102	36,117
Level 2 intensive care (high dependency intensive care)	3,835	4,051	4,051	4,389	4,415	4,233	4,336	4,675	4,741	4,458
Level 1 intensive care (maximal intensive care	6,272	6,173	5,459	5,110	5,049	6,053	5,636	6,061	7,133	6,862
Total	43,176	42,103	40,358	38,310	38,207	38,806	38,699	42,133	47,976	47,437

Bone Diseases

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations he has received on behalf of people with ankylosing spondylitis in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [197768]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in England who had been diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis broken down by *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [197769]

Ann Keen: The Department published the Musculoskeletal Framework in July 2006 in which we estimated that about 200,000 people in the United Kingdom were living with ankylosing spondylitis. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have estimated a prevalence of 0.15 per cent. and an annual incidence of 6.9 per 100,000 population. A more detailed breakdown of these figures has not been produced.

The Department has received recent representations on the cost of providing treatment for those with

ankylosing spondylitis and the availability of drugs, especially the anti-tumour necrosis factor drugs (anti-TNF).

Brain Cancer

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in increasing survival rates for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with brain cancer in the last five years. [197727]

Ann Keen: Of the adult patients (over 15 years) diagnosed with brain cancer between 1998 and 2003, 12.3 per cent. of men and 16.2 per cent. of women survived for at least five years. This compares with five-year survival rates of 12.5 per cent. for men and 15.3 per cent. for women diagnosed between 1996 and 1999.

Analysis of survival rates among children with brain cancer undertaken in 1999 showed that significant progress has been made on survival rates since the 1960s. This analysis showed that 68 per cent. of children diagnosed with cancer of the brain and central nervous system in the mid-1990s survived for at least five years compared with 37 per cent. in the 1960s.

Caesarean Sections

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the reasons for elective births by Caesarean-section in the last 12 months. [195624]

Ann Keen: In 2004, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a guideline on caesarean section (CS) in which it addressed planned (elective) caesarean sections. It found a number of reasons why a planned CS may take place. Some of them include breech presentations, multiple pregnancies and conditions such as placenta praevia. In addition, a CS may have also been undertaken at the request of the women.

The NICE guidelines recommend that the doctor or midwife should discuss the benefits and risks of a CS compared with a normal birth. If a CS has been requested by the women a note will be taken, although a CS will not be automatically agreed. If it has been requested because of a fear of giving birth, an opportunity to discuss the fears with a counsellor should be offered.

Ultimately, it is clinical decision that a CS would be of benefit to the mother and/or baby.

Cancer: Queen's Hospital Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for cancer at the Queen's Hospital, Romford in 2007. [196553]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested, as data are not collected at individual hospital level. The information is collected as finished consultant episodes (FCEs) at trust level, which are defined as a period of admitted care under one consultant within one health care provider.

The number of FCEs with a primary diagnosis of cancer and neoplasms for Barking, Havering and Redbridge National Health Service Trust, of which Queen's Hospital is a part, was 11,072 for the year 2006-07. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year. In addition, cancer treatments could take place in other settings, for example a patient could be classed as a 'regular attender' or these treatments may occur in outpatients.

Cancer: Research

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research and development schemes into new cancer treatments his Department sponsors; and if he will make a statement. [196674]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The NIHR research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS and are open to researchers investigating new cancer treatments.

The NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme focuses specifically on the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of health care treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care in the NHS and is funding a range of research on cancer treatments. In addition, the NIHR National Cancer Research Network provides NHS support for trials and other well designed cancer studies.

In partnership with Cancer Research UK, the NIHR is funding 15 experimental cancer medicine centres across England. A further two centres are in development. This initiative brings together laboratory and clinical patient-based research to speed up the development of new therapies by evaluating novel drugs and biomarkers, thus individualising patient treatment.

The Department works in close partnership with United Kingdom cancer research funders through the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI). NCRI initiatives such as the NCRI Prostate Cancer Collaboratives—to which the Department contributes over half of the total £11.6 million funding—are discovering and developing new cancer treatments.

The Department does not normally take on the role of sponsor under the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004.

Cancer: Screening

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in the London borough of Havering received *(a)* breast, *(b)* cervical and *(c)* bowel screenings in each of the last five years. [196555]

Ann Keen: The requested information is collected by national health service organisation and not by local borough. Information on breast and cervical screening for Havering Primary Care Trust (PCT) can be found in the following table. There are currently no bowel cancer screening data being collected.

Roll-out of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme began in April 2006. The first invitations were sent out in July 2006, and full national roll-out is expected by December 2009.

Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 53 to 64 (target age group) for England and specified organisations, at 31 March 2003 to 2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Havering PCT					
Eligible Population[1]	17,727	17,704	17,784	17,990	18,273
Women screened (less than 3 years since last test)	14,195	14,112	14,073	14,076	13,514
Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (percentage)	80.1	79.7	79.1	78.2	74.0

[1] This is the number of women in the registered population less those recorded as ineligible.

Notes:

1. The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years. Coverage of the screening programme is currently best assessed using the 53 to 64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays.
2. The breast screening programme covers women aged 50 to 64 but it was extended to invite women aged 65 to 70 in April 2001. The last unit began inviting women aged 65 to 70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.

Source:

KC63 The Information Centre for health and social care

Cervical screening programme: coverage of women aged 25 to 64 (target age group) for specified organisations, 31 March 2003 to 2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Havering PCT					
Eligible population[1]	59,497	59,804	60,137	60,992	61,331
Women screened (less than 5 years since last adequate test)	49,072	48,689	48,576	48,039	48,506
Coverage (less than 5 yrs since last adequate test) (percentage)	82.5	81.4	80.8	78.8	79.1

[1] This is the number of women in the resident population less those with recall ceased for clinical reasons.

Note:

National policy for the cervical screening programme is that eligible women aged 25 to 64 should be screened every three or five years (women aged 25 to 49 are screened every three years, those aged 50 to 64 every five years).

Source:

KC53 Parts A2 and A3, The Information Centre for health and social care

Cancer: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on treating *(a)* men and *(b)* women with cancer in hospitals in the west midlands in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [195414]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The Department centrally collects disease level expenditure estimates from primary care trusts (PCTs) as part of programme budgeting returns. The following table shows estimated aggregate expenditure on cancer for PCTs in the west midlands region from 2003-04 to 2006-07.

Financial year	£ Aggregated expenditure
2003-04	306,112,000
2004-05	358,382,000
2005-06	400,604,000
2006-07	451,665,000

Notes:

1. 2003-04 data are net expenditure.
2. 2004-05 to 2006-07 data are net expenditure but also take account of lead/host commissioner arrangements.
3. 2006-07 data may not be comparable with previous years due to changes in data definitions.

Care Homes: Elderly

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to repeal the liable relatives rules in respect of care home financing for elderly patients; and if he will make a statement. [197366]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Provisions for the repeal of the liable relatives rule are contained in clause 139 and schedule 13 of the Health and Social Care Bill which is currently making its way through Parliament. Subject to the Bill receiving parliamentary approval, we intend to repeal the rule later this year.

Childbirth: Foreigners

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-UK residents from *(a)* other EU and *(b)* other countries gave birth in hospitals in England in each of the last five years, broken down by trust. [197856]

Dawn Primarolo: These data are not collected centrally.

Chiropody

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of the development of a national service framework for podiatry services; [197255]

(2) what podiatry services are provided free at the point of delivery; and for which groups such services are provided; [197256]

(3) under what circumstances podiatry services are provided by *(a)* a foot health practitioner and *(b)* a regulated chiropodist or podiatrist. [197257]

Ann Keen: No assessment has been carried out centrally. Guidance for access to foot care services is included in the national service frameworks for older people, diabetes, and long-term conditions, and the "White Paper Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services".

All national health service podiatry services are provided free of charge on the basis of assessed clinical need. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities

for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of podiatry services.

A foot health practitioner can only provide podiatry services if they are a registered podiatrist. The titles podiatrist and chiropodist are protected by law. Anyone using these titles must be registered with the Health Professions Council. It is also an offence to imply that someone is one of these professions, for example by stating that they provide podiatry services when they are not on the register.

Chlamydia: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on chlamydia screening, when his Department expects to announce which primary care trusts have met their targets for screening 15 per cent. of their 15 to 24 population in 2007-08. [197825]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for the National Chlamydia Screening Programme have been reported to the end of December 2007. Data for the final quarter, January 2008 to March 2008, will be reported to the Health Protection Agency in April and published in May.

Community Care: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much a district nurse home visit costs on average, exclusive of the cost of any treatment being administered. [196821]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for local national health service organisations to commission services to meet local needs. This may include determining the cost of providing home visits by a district nurse.

Dental Services: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on NHS dentistry in each Staffordshire constituency in each year since 1997. [195421]

Ann Keen: The Government's fundamental reform programme for primary dental care services was introduced from 1 April 2006. Primary care trusts (PCTs) were given responsibility for planning and commissioning primary dental services and provided with local, devolved, dental budgets.

North and South Staffordshire PCTs reported the following expenditure on primary dental care services in 2006-07, the first year of the new service arrangements. Data on expenditure by individual parliamentary constituency are not collected centrally.

£000

	Gross expenditure	Income from dental charges paid by patients	Net expenditure
National Health Service expenditure on primary dental care services, North Staffordshire PCT, 2006-07	6,483	1,818	4,665
NHS expenditure on primary dental care services, South Staffordshire PCT, 2006-07	22,574	5,734	16,840

Source:
Audited Primary Care Trust Summarisation Schedules 2006-07

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental care services were provided under former general dental service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand-led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much NHS work they chose to undertake. PCTs were not given fixed funding allocations, except in those areas where personal dental services (PDS) pilots were established to test alternative, local commissioning arrangements and new forms of contract remuneration.

Local level data on primary dental care expenditure prior to April 2006 is held by the Information Centre for health and social care, which is due to publish its report 'NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 1997-98 to 2005-06' in the near future. A copy will be placed in the Library following publication.

This report will give access to the available local-level information by PCT, strategic health authority and parliamentary constituency on expenditure on NHS primary dental care.

Dental Services: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general dental practitioners providing NHS services there were in the City of York *(a)* at the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the last 10 years. [197129]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service dentists, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E and Annex G of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Annex E provides information by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G provides information by constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

The numbers of dentists on open NHS contracts, in England, as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007, are available, in

table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This information is provided by SHA and by PCT. Information by constituency is not available under the new dental contractual arrangements.

This report, published on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust-led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

The numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The methodology for reporting dental work force information since the introduction of the new contract on 1 April 2006 is currently under review. The review is to ensure that the figures provide an appropriate measure of the work force, given the way that the work force reporting system is being used by PCTs. The work force data provided in the 2006-07 report will therefore remain the latest available until this review is complete.

Both reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of (*a*) adults and (*b*) children in (i) the City of York, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iii) England were registered with an NHS dentist in each of the last 10 years. [197130]

Ann Keen: Figures showing the proportion of the population registered with an national health service dentist, adults and children, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex B of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT).

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, is available in the Library and also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Under the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of adults and children seen by an NHS dentist as a percentage of the population, in England, are available in Table C2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 2, 30 September 2007" report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007 and 30 September 2007. The information is provided by SHA and by PCT.

This report, published on 28 February 2008, is available in the Library and also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstatsq20708.

Both reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

The information requested is not available at constituency level.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts were awarded by his Department to (*a*) KPMG, (*b*) PricewaterhouseCoopers, (*c*) Ernst and Young, (*d*) McKinsey, (*e*) Deloitte and (*f*) other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196582]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

Dermatology

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in increasing the numbers of dermatologists working in the NHS. [197811]

Ann Keen: There were 444 dermatologists identified in the NHS work force census on 30 September 2007, that is an increase of 158 (17 per cent.) from 1997. The work force census on 30 September 2007 also showed that there were 250 doctors training in the dermatology speciality, this is an increase of 73 (41.2 per cent.) from 1997.

Dermatology: Finance

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department provided for dermatology care in the NHS in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [197677]

Ann Keen: Funding for dermatology services forms part of the revenue allocations. The following table shows the revenue allocations made to health authorities from 1996-97 to 2002-03 and to primary care trusts (PCTs) from 2003-04 to 2008-09. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations.

£000

	Total England Allocation
1996-97	20,886,002
1997-98	21,816,441
1998-99	22,895,307
1999-2000	31,192,915
2000-01	34,234,888
2001-02	37,157,382
2002-03	41,468,469
2003-04	45,027,181
2004-05	49,328,244

	£000
	Total England Allocation
2005-06	53,924,975
2006-07	64,309,595
2007-08	70,354,697
2008-09	74,197,471

Diabetes

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with (*a*) type 1 and (*b*) type 2 diabetes in (i) Tyne and Wear, (ii) the North East and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years. [197262]

Ann Keen: Data on the number of people with a specific type of diabetes are not available. The overall number of people with diabetes can be provided based on the read codes that are used in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). The QOF data for diabetes cover people over the age of 17. Data are only available for the financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

'Tyne and Wear' is not analogous to a national health service organisation. The sum of the primary care trusts of Newcastle, North Tyneside, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland is the closest we can provide.

In July 2006, strategic health authorities (SHAs) were restructured. We have provided for 2004-05 and 2005-06 the old SHAs that became the new North East SHA. Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA became the North East SHA.

	Area	Diabetes list size
2004-05	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	51,408
	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	39,552
	'Tyne and Wear'	39,067
	England	1,766,391
2005-06	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	54,970
	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	42,380
	'Tyne and Wear'	41,511
	England	1,890,663
2006-07	North East SHA	101,690
	'Tyne and Wear'	43,111
	England	1,961,976

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the commitment in the 2008 drug strategy, "Tackling drugs, changing lives", to achieve better outcomes for those entering treatment by raising standards across all treatment providers through new local clinical governance arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [196531]

Dawn Primarolo: Clinical governance is an increasingly important quality and safety assurance framework for all drug treatment providers. There are important issues about how clinical governance can work across complex drug treatment systems and how this can be helpful to drug treatment services, not just those in the national health service, and their commissioners.

The National Treatment Agency (NTA) is working with local partnerships to help ensure that clinical governance is operating effectively across the drug treatment sector. The NTA have asked that partnerships set out in their annual treatment plans what actions were planned at a partnership level to identify the current arrangements for clinical governance and what is planned to support their future development to enable service providers to respond to recent guidelines. This should include, as a minimum:

a planned audit by the partnership of current clinical governance arrangements; and

an objective that all providers will review their practice in line with recent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence drug misuse guidelines and technology appraisals (which together effectively update recognised standards of practice) and clinical excellence guidance documents and the recently revised 'clinical guidelines' through an effective clinical governance mechanism.

In February this year the NTA published a consultation draft of guidance on clinical governance in drug treatment. Consultation will finish on 14 May 2008.

Eyesight: Testing

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of (*a*) children under 16-years-old and (*b*) adults entitled to free eye tests who have regular eye examinations. [197968]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no estimate of the numbers of individuals who are entitled to a sight test and who have regular eye examinations.

Numbers of General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) sight tests paid for by the national health service per 10,000 persons in England, Wales, Scotland and Great Britain for the years ending 31 March 1996 to 2005 are

available in Table 3 of "General Ophthalmic Services: Consultation tables for England, Wales and Scotland, 2004-05". Information is available for children (aged 15 and under), students in full-time education (aged 16 to 18) and other eligible adults.

Copies of this report, published 30 November 2005, have been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/genopth2005

The Information Centre for health and social care will aim to publish a complete time series of population rates for numbers of GOS sight tests paid for by the NHS, by patient eligibility in the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales – Year Ending 31 March 2008" report. This report is due to be published in July 2008.

Folic Acid

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet representatives of *(a)* Folic Acid Action and *(b)* the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus to discuss the proposals of the Food Standards Agency to limit the strength of folic acid in food supplements. [196594]

Dawn Primarolo: Women who might become pregnant are recommended to take 400 micrograms per day folic acid until the 12 week of pregnancy to reduce the risk of neural tube defect affected pregnancies. There are no plans to revise this long standing Food Standards Agency/departmental advice or to limit the levels of folic acid in those supplements aimed at women of child-bearing age. There are therefore no plans for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to meet these organisations.

General Practitioners: Training

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hours of training relating to substance misuse those preparing to become GPs receive. [197329]

Ann Keen: The educational and training curricula of doctors is set and managed by the appropriate Royal College for the specialty concerned. The content of the training curriculum is agreed by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board. The Department is not involved in setting training programmes but does share a commitment with those bodies that all health professionals are trained so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver high quality healthcare in their specialty.

Genetics: Testing

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to regulate the sale by biotechnology companies of genetic testing kits which determine susceptibility to psychiatric disorders; and if he will make a statement. [196229]

Dawn Primarolo: In its response to the Human Genetics Commission (HGC) report on direct to consumer genetic tests in 2007, the Department and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency undertook to work with the HGC and other interested parties, such as the Advertising Standards Authority, to develop a voluntary code of practice to ensure that genetic testing services are safe, effective and are promoted responsibly.

Health Centres: Railway Stations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the use by UK nationals of drop-in health centres at London's mainline stations in the last two years. [197336]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are three centrally procured operational contracts for commuter walk-in centres in London at Victoria, Liverpool Street and Canary Wharf. These are located close to major commuter hubs and not actually within mainline stations.

The Department collects information on ethnic origin from patients but has made no formal analysis of this data. All patients visiting the commuter walk-in centres are asked to fill in a form which gathers information on ethnic origin. It is not compulsory to fill in these forms and therefore the Department does not hold full data sets about the ethnic origin of the patients treated.

The following table shows the number of patients who voluntarily recorded their ethnic origin as British at commuter walk-in centres in London for January 2006 to December 2007.

Facility	*Patients treated*	*Number of recorded British nationals treated*[1]	*Date of service commencement*	*Average number of patients per day*
Liverpool Street	41,463	30,103	December 2005	80
Canary Wharf	30,380	20,769	April 2006	74
Victoria	22,582	16,098	December 2006	117
Total	94,425	66,970		

[1] This column represents people who have listed themselves as 'white British' 'Asian or Asian British' and 'black or black British'. Due to the way ethnic origin statistics are collected this means the number of people recorded here could also include some non-British nationals.

Health Visitors

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors there were in each *(a)* region and *(b)* primary care trust in each of the last five years for which figures are available in terms of (i) headcount and (ii) full-time equivalent staff. [196818]

Ann Keen: A table has been placed in the Library which shows the number of health visitors in England during the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority and primary care trust for both headcount and full-time equivalent staff.

Heart Diseases: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many men under the age of 35 years in *(a)* Romford constituency, *(b)* the London borough of

Havering and (c) Greater London had heart attacks in each of the last five years. [196673]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the evaluation report on pilot sites for the provision of primary angioplasty will be published. [197877]

Ann Keen: The evaluation of the primary angioplasty pilot sites being carried out by the University of Sheffield into staffing, patient experience and costs is due to be completed by the end of April 2008. This will feed into the final report by the Department to be published later this year.

Hereditary Diseases

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether (a) he, (b) his Ministers and (c) his officials have had meetings in relation to birth defects in consanguineous marriages in the last six months. [196755]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of birth defects in consanguineous marriages is not collected centrally. The Department's correspondence unit has no record of any representations on birth defects as a result of from consanguineous marriages this year. Neither Ministers nor officials have met to discuss this issue in the last six months.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding his Department has allocated to hospitals in the west midlands for deep cleaning to date, broken down by hospital. [195416]

Ann Keen: All trusts were required to submit and agree their deep clean plans with primary care trusts in their area by 14 December 2007 and this process has been monitored and assessed by strategic health authorities (SHAs). As set out in the written ministerial statement given by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State on 17 January, *Official Report*, columns 38-39WS, further information on the implementation of the deep clean of the national health service is available from SHAs. All deep cleans will be complete by the end of March 2008.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he issues to NHS bodies on the level of charges levied at hospital car parks; whether such guidance permits the setting of charges at levels above those required for cost recovery; and if he will make a statement. [197718]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service bodies are able to charge for car parking on their premises as an income generation scheme. NHS bodies have income generation powers enabling them to generate income by utilising spare capacity resulting from a non-core function.

Providing car parking services will inevitably incur overheads that must be paid for, such as maintenance and operational costs, security and lighting. If no charges were imposed, these costs would have to be found from elsewhere, at the risk of diverting funds away from patient services. Profits after covering these costs are allowed, but they must only be used to improve the health service.

The Department issued revised guidance to the NHS in December 2006 entitled Income Generation: Car Parking Charges—Best Practice for Implementation on the issues to be considered when setting up a car parking scheme or when reviewing existing ones, including what kind of car parking scheme to offer, what charges to impose and what concessions to consider.

However, the fact remains that it is for individual NHS bodies to set the level of car parking charges on their premises, taking account of all the relevant local factors.

Hospitals: Waste Disposal

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department monitors the (a) level of emissions from hospital incinerators and (b) effects on health of dioxins produced from burning hospital waste. [197835]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department provides advice and guidance to the national health service on the management and disposal routes of healthcare waste in health technical memorandum (HTM) 07-01: "Safe management of healthcare waste". A copy of HTM 07-01 is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_063274

It is the role of the Environment Agency and the relevant local authority to licence and register all waste disposal plant, including NHS operated sites and a number of privately operated sites that are still located on hospital land. This will include monitoring the level of emissions and reporting on dioxin levels to ensure they are within acceptable and permissible limits.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill: Hearing Impaired

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with representatives of deaf communities on provisions in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. [196923]

Dawn Primarolo: Officials at the Department have had contact with the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, the British Deaf Association, Islington Deaf Campaign and the Stop Eugenics group. Communication with these groups is ongoing.

Injuries: Sports

Mr. Caborn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people attended accident and emergency departments as a result of sports injuries in the last two years. [197258]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally. Hospital Episode Statistics does not collect data on accident and emergency attendance.

Junior Doctors: Labour Turnover

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many junior doctors left the NHS in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of the number likely to leave the NHS in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [196161]

Ann Keen: We do not collect the number of junior doctors who have left the national health service. We do collect the number in post, which is shown in the following table.

England as 30 September each year

Number

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Registrar Group	14,619	16,823	18,006	18,808	30,759
Senior House Officer	18,698	20,601	21,642	18,863	5,954
Foundation Year 2	–	–	–	3,693	4,830
House Officer and Foundation Programme Year 1	4,003	4,273	4,663	4,905	5,240
Total	37,320	41,697	44,311	46,269	46,783

Kidney Patients: Medical Treatments

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people received dialysis treatment in each of the last five years, broken down by trust; [195395]

(2) what the average waiting time for the commencement of dialysis treatment is, broken down by trust. [195400]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information.

Information on acceptance rates onto renal replacement therapies, the percentage of patients on each modality of treatment, and the referral to treatment times for incident patients is collected by the UK Renal Registry. The annual reports containing analysis of data from 1997 to 2006 can be found on the Renal Registry's website at:

www.renalreg.com/reports/.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects clinical trials for the use of avastin in the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration to commence. [196809]

Dawn Primarolo: Avastin has not been licensed for use in wet age-macular degeneration (AMD) and the companies that make Avastin have not applied for a licence for the treatment of AMD.

The National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment Programme commissioned a head-to-head trial of Avastin and Lucentis in July 2007 to compare their clinical and cost-effectiveness in the treatment of wet AMD. Funding for the trial will amount to £2.8 million over a period of 42 months.

Further details about the trial can be found at:

www.ncchta.org/project/1625.asp

The law does allow the use of either unlicensed medicines or the prescribing of a licensed medicinal product 'off-label' – that is outside the terms of its marketing authorisation in order to meet special clinical needs. Such prescriptions are subject to the individual clinician's judgment and are on the personal responsibility of the prescriber, and subject to funding by individual primary care trusts.

Maternal Mortality

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of UK (*a*) maternal and (*b*) infant mortality rates against EU benchmarks; and if he will make a statement. [195397]

Ann Keen: The United Kingdom is one of the safest places in the world to have a baby. The UK rate for 2000-02 of seven maternal deaths per 100,000 pregnancies is comparable to that of France (17), Switzerland (seven) and the USA (14).

For the past 52 years, the UK is the only country in the world in which health professionals submit their work to review by their peers and they proactively notify the Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health of any women they know have died.

The infant mortality rate for England was 5.0 per 1,000 live births in 2004, compared to the 2004 European Union average of 5.3 per 1,000, according to the latest World Health Organisation data. These rates have fallen by around 40 per cent. in the last 15 years and they are broadly comparable to other industrialised countries, according to the latest United Nations Children's Fund report. Action to reduce health inequalities in infant mortality continues to be a national priority.

It is difficult to make international comparisons due to differential definitions and data registration systems, and comparisons should be made with caution. The review system used to establish maternal death in the UK, unlike in other countries, covers not just those where death certificates name maternal death. The differences in registrations of live births mean that there are variations between countries in reporting live births and infant deaths.

Maternity Services: Closures

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternity units in England have closed since May 2005. [198451]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. Any decisions on changes to services should be locally led and transparent, with full consultation with local people. It is only right that decisions about service reconfiguration and which maternity units remain open or close, are matters for local primary care trusts to determine, taking into account local population needs, priorities and resources, and having followed all appropriate processes, including public consultation.

Maternity Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on maternity services in each of the last five financial years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* NHS trust. [195753]

Ann Keen: Information is not available by individual trust. The following table shows expenditure by region. The expenditure shown is for the commissioning of secondary healthcare (maternity) by strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs).

On 25 January 2008, we announced extra funding over the next three years, totalling £330 million to ensure mothers get the best possible care. The funding which will available to trusts from April 2008 will also ensure a growth in the maternity work force.

SHA area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
	£000s	*£000s*	*£000s*	*£000s*	*£000s*
North East	74,560	79,861	91,634	86,823	88,551
North West	227,671	222,087	232,236	246,229	254,309
Yorkshire and the Humber	129,157	128,768	141,008	151,349	178,431
East Midlands	93,732	116,418	139,056	134,221	138,948
West Midlands	135,737	151,453	152,441	181,340	176,080
East of England	111,963	114,646	137,075	144,498	131,464
London	179,322	235,184	289,020	318,324	271,826
South East Coast	104,958	112,444	110,282	118,213	111,155
South Central	91,135	89,246	110,115	140,165	137,468
South West	108,522	100,179	141,971	156,042	128,545
England	1,256,757	1,350,286	1,544,838	1,677,204	1,616,777

Sources:
Audited SHA summarisation forms 2002-03
Audited PCT summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2006-07

Maternity Services: Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims under Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts there have been relating to maternity services since 1995; and what the value has been of such claims. [195748]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Numbers and values of open Obstetrics claims by year since 1995

NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Provision (£)*	*Damages paid (£)*	*Defence costs paid (£)*	*Claimant costs paid (£)*	*Total paid (£)*
1995-96	1	65,910	260,000	55,717	96,000	411,717
1996-97	15	20,713,281	14,528,917	1,000,993	1,765,121	17,295,031
1997-98	38	69,061,487	36,891,074	3,306,765	4,523,569	44,721,408
1998-99	36	65,345,652	32,882,070	2,318,862	3,304,852	38,505,784
1999-2000	60	90,270,296	59,615,618	4,470,430	6,320,348	70,406,396
2000-01	77	111,124,415	37,003,394	4,574,095	4,524,231	46,101,720
2001-02	102	153,984,627	38,508,925	5,157,911	4,108,059	47,774,895
2002-03	95	156,242,842	29,710,673	4,242,325	3,799,108	37,752,105
2003-04	102	150,071,824	20,910,337	3,366,845	1,753,813	26,030,995
2004-05	141	112,589,541	11,467,436	2,679,355	1,641,137	15,787,928
2005-06	209	158,600,728	11,101,880	2,598,870	1,597,013	15,297,763
2006-07	286	140,322,361	2,863,559	1,508,175	744,086	5,115,819
2007-08 so far	368	122,591,874	393,619	309,698	137,162	840,479
Total	1,530	1,350,984,839	296,137,504	35,590,040	34,314,496	366,042,039

Numbers and values of closed obstetrics claims by year since 1995

NHSLA notification year	*Number of claims*	*Damages paid (£)*	*Defence costs paid (£)*	*Claimant costs paid (£)*	*Total paid (£)*
1995-96	20	5,417,067	203,938	369,449	5,990,454
1996-97	95	45,301,545	2,220,487	4,622,019	52,144,050
1997-98	120	33,496,440	2,228,494	3,762,454	39,487,387
1998-99	198	37,430,932	3,138,317	4,778,256	45,347,505
1999-2000	347	56,064,232	5,786,991	8,472,891	70,324,114

Numbers and values of closed obstetrics claims by year since 1995

NHSLA notification year	Number of claims	Damages paid (£)	Defence costs paid (£)	Claimant costs paid (£)	Total paid (£)
2000-01	419	68,584,013	6,524,745	8,169,565	83,278,323
2001-02	837	43,369,399	8,428,152	11,039,158	62,836,709
2002-03	828	31,478,208	5,492,940	10,327,096	47,298,243
2003-04	652	20,481,953	2,795,414	5,310,219	28,587,586
2004-05	561	11,067,514	1,915,640	3,873,399	16,856,553
2005-06	466	3,501,356	899,224	2,395,002	6,795,582
2006-07	304	1,604,464	239,987	967,494	2,811,944
2007-08 so far	70	125,198	10,126	96,790	232,114
Total	4,917	357,927,318	39,884,453	64,183,793	461,990,565

Numbers and values of all obstetrics claims by year since 1995

NHSLA notification year	Number of claims	Provision (£)	Damages paid (£)	Defence costs paid (£)	Claimant costs paid (£)	Total paid (£)
1995-96	21	65,910	5,677,067	259,654	465,449	6,402,171
1996-97	110	20,713,281	59,830,462	3,221,480	6,387,140	69,439,082
1997-98	158	69,061,487	70,387,514	5,535,259	8,286,022	84,208,795
1998-99	234	65,345,652	70,213,002	5,457,179	8,083,107	83,853,288
1999-2000	407	90,270,296	115,679,850	10,257,421	14,793,239	140,730,509
2000-01	496	111,124,415	105,587,407	11,098,841	12,693,796	129,380,044
2001-02	939	153,984,627	81,878,324	13,586,063	15,147,218	110,611,604
2002-03	923	156,242,842	61,188,881	9,735,264	14,126,204	85,050,349
2003-04	754	150,071,824	41,392,290	6,162,259	7,064,031	54,618,580
2004-05	702	112,589,541	22,534,950	4,594,995	5,514,536	32,644,481
2005-06	675	158,600,728	14,603,236	3,498,095	3,992,015	22,093,345
2006-07	590	140,322,361	4,468,022	1,748,162	1,711,580	7,927,764
2007-08 so far	438	122,591,874	518,817	319,823	233,952	1,072,593
Total	6,447	1,350,984,839	654,059,822	75,474,493	98,498,289	828,032,604

Notes
NHSLA Notification year relates to the year the claim was notified to the NHSLA, and not the year the incident occurred nor the year the claim was settled.
Open claims include claims where damages have been agreed but final payments have not yet been paid.
Provisions denote the likely amount that the NHSLA expects to pay on the claim, given current available data, should it be successful. Provisions are subject to change over time.
Data shown is valid for the period up to 20 March 2008.
Source
NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA).

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient safety incidents relating to maternity services were reported to the National Patient Safety Agency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [195750]

Ann Keen: The number of patient safety incidents relating to maternity services reported to the National Patient Safety Agency is shown in the following table:

Year reported	Frequency
2005	28,891
2006	50,608
2007	74,986

The increase in the number of incidents reported annually reflects the trend in all incident reporting. An increased number of reported incidents does not necessarily mean a higher number of incidents but may instead reflect greater levels of reporting.

Medicine: Overseas Students

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of medical graduates from overseas medical schools who applied for speciality training in 2007 had indefinite leave to remain. [196654]

Ann Keen: The available data allow applicants to be categorised as one of a limited number of categories, shown in the following table.

Breakdown of eligible modernising medical careers 2007 applicants (England)

	International Medical Graduates (IMGs)		United Kingdom Graduates (UKGs)		All applicants	
	Number	Percentage of IMG total	Number	Percentage of UKG total	Number	Percentage of aggregate total
UK nationals	1,811	13	11,994	88	13,805	50
Other European economic area (EEA) nationals	1,545	11	389	3	1,934	7
Non-EEA nationals on highly skilled management programme	8,352	59	573	4	8,925	32
Other non-EEA nationals	2,517	18	668	5	3,185	11
Total	14,225	100	13,624	100	27,849	100

Note:
Applicants are categorised as England applicants according to their first choice round 1 application.

Mental Health Services: MRSA

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile were recorded in mental health units in each of the last five years. [197963]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Methadone

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many methadone prescriptions were issued by primary care trusts in each of the last five years. [196843]

Dawn Primarolo: Methadone can be prescribed as a cough suppressant, as an analgesic or for the treatment of addiction. All three uses are included in these figures and cannot be separated. The Department does not hold information on prescriptions issued, only on prescription items prescribed in primary care trusts and then dispensed. The total number of items prescribed in England and dispensed in the United Kingdom for methadone since February 2003 are shown in the following table.

Prescription items prescribed in the community in England and dispensed in the UK

	Methadone (thousand)
2003 (February to December)	843.3
2004	1,046.0
2005	1,246.7
2006	1,514.1
2007	1,783.9

Source:
Electronic Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool system

Midwives: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date he estimates midwife numbers will have risen sufficiently to provide 36 midwives per 1,000 deliveries. [195747]

Ann Keen: The number of midwives is expected to rise by an additional 4,000 by 2012. Estimates to provide 36 midwives per 1,000 deliveries are not yet available.

The September 2007 Census figure shows that the number of midwives (full-time equivalent (FTE)) increased by 2.5 per cent. from September 2006 and we now have more than 25,000 (19,298 FTE) midwives, the highest number ever.

In January 2008 we announced extra funding of £330 million over the next three years to ensure that mothers get the best possible maternity care. This money will be available to the national health service from April 2008 to invest in their maternity services.

NHS Cleaning Summit

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda, *(b)* minutes and *(c)* summary of feedback from delegates at his Department's cleaning summit on 28 February; [194899]

(2) which organisations were represented at his Department's cleaning summit held on 28 February; [194900]

(3) what the cost was of his Department's cleaning summit held on 28 February. [194901]

Ann Keen: The NHS chief executive, David Nicholson hosted a Cleanliness summit on 28 February, as per the commitment in "Clean, Safe Care: reducing infections saving lives" (January 2008). This was a meeting aimed at understanding the broad challenges of delivering clean hospitals, and at sharing ideas for ongoing work. Formal minutes were not recorded, although notes were taken of subjects raised, and of plans for future work. Copies of the agenda, a letter to invitees from the NHS chief executive, which includes a list of delegates and a note of key points and next steps from the meeting have been placed in the Library.

The meeting was held at the Department and administrative costs were met from within departmental overheads. Additional costs were for a buffet lunch and an external facilitator:

	£
Facilitator	738.20
Lunch	264.80

Note:
Excluding VAT

NHS Counter Fraud Squad: Manpower and Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many staff were assigned to the NHS Counter Fraud Squad in each of the last five financial years; [197914]

(2) how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time investigators were employed by the NHS Counter-Fraud Squad in each of the last five years; [197949]

(3) what the budget of the NHS Counter-Fraud Squad was in each of the last five years; [197961]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost of fraud to the NHS in each of the last three years. [197962]

Ann Keen: The number of staff employed by the NHS Counter Fraud Service (CFS) at the end of the last five financial years and the number of those staff who were either full or part-time investigators is shown in the following table.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total number of staff in post	243	289	246	197	170
Number of full-time investigators	58	57	60	51	48
Number of part-time investigators	4	4	4	3	3

The NHS CFS budget figures for the last five years is shown in the following table.

	£ million
2003-04	8,929
2004-05	13,893
2005-06	11,521
2006-07	11,620
2007-08	10,491

Information on the cost of fraud to the national health service for the last three years is not available in the format requested. The NHS CFS has developed risk measurement exercises to carry out examinations of samples of cases in specific areas of NHS spending and produce statistically robust estimates of fraud, corruption and error. Exercises have been carried out across pharmaceutical, optical and dental primary care cervices. These show an overall reduction in losses to fraud within these services of £94.65 million, or 55.4 per cent. as a result of anti-fraud work.

NHS Questionnaires

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2860W, on NHS questionnaires, what businesses were contracted by the Department to conduct surveys on its behalf in 2007-08; and what the cost to the public purse was of each of these contracts. [196230]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

NHS: Ancillary Staff

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1897-903W, on NHS: ancillary staff, what proportion of staff at each acute hospital trust was designated as *(a)* medical, *(b)* nursing, *(c)* midwifery and health visiting, *(d)* scientific, *(e)* therapeutic, *(f)* technical, *(g)* ambulance, *(h)* NHS infrastructure support and *(i)* administrative staff in the latest period for which figures are available. [195437]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in acute trusts in England by main staff group as at 30 September 2007

headcount percentage

		All NHS staff	*Medical and dental staff*	*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff*	*Qualified ambulance service staff*	*Support to clinical staff*[1]	*NHS infrastructure support*[2]
Total specified organisations		100	10.8	33.6	11.9	0.0	28.1	15.6
Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust	REM	100	10.2	29.6	16.2	0.0	32.3	11.7
Airedale NHS Trust	RCF	100	8.0	25.4	12.7	0.0	30.0	23.9
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	RTK	100	13.2	32.0	11.5	0.0	28.4	14.9
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	RF4	100	12.3	38.9	12.0	0.0	29.2	7.7
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RVL	100	12.4	38.4	11.1	0.0	30.2	7.8
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RFF	100	10.8	33.3	13.1	0.0	31.8	11.1
Barts and the London NHS Trust	RNJ	100	15.9	39.0	12.5	0.0	20.4	12.2
Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust	ROD	100	8.9	35.2	7.5	0.0	34.1	14.3
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	RC1	100	9.9	33.4	11.6	0.0	30.2	15.0
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust	RQ3	100	11.6	39.2	15.0	0.0	22.3	11.7
Birmingham Women's Healthcare NHS Trust	RLU	100	5.8	35.6	14.8	0.0	26.4	17.4
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	RXL	100	9.0	32.4	10.3	0.0	29.7	18.6
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	RMC	100	10.2	36.1	10.4	0.0	29.6	13.8

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in acute trusts in England by main staff group as at 30 September 2007

headcount percentage

		All NHS staff	*Medical and dental staff*	*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff*	*Qualified ambulance service staff*	*Support to clinical staff*[1]	*NHS infrastructure re: support*[2]
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RAE	100	11.4	33.3	11.7	0.0	26.1	17.6
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	RXH	100	12.6	37.3	13.1	0.0	25.2	11.8
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	RG3	100	12.3	38.3	10.1	0.0	27.7	11.5
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXQ	100	12.2	35.5	11.7	0.0	28.0	12.7
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	RJF	100	10.0	32.2	12.9	0.0	26.0	18.9
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	RWY	100	9.0	29.9	16.2	0.0	29.9	15.0
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RGT	100	12.7	38.3	14.5	0.0	23.9	10.6
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals	RW3	100	9.4	35.9	14.1	0.0	26.9	13.6
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	RQM	100	17.6	43.8	12.7	0.0	19.0	6.8
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RFS	100	9.3	29.5	11.6	0.0	30.0	19.6
Christie Hospital NHS Trust	RBV	100	8.0	23.6	19.8	0.0	27.1	21.4
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	RLN	100	9.9	33.0	12.8	0.0	26.5	17.8
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Trust	REN	100	9.5	21.5	30.6	0.0	14.8	23.6
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RJR	100	8.6	27.6	14.2	0.0	32.3	17.4
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RXP	100	9.4	33.9	8.5	0.0	29.4	18.7
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	RN7	100	10.9	37.2	12.1	0.1	28.3	11.2
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RTG	100	8.9	28.7	12.7	0.0	31.7	17.9
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust	RP5	100	7.7	27.7	11.3	0.0	20.1	33.1
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	RNA	100	10.2	36.1	13.8	0.0	34.8	5.1
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	RC3	100	11.8	51.4	5.9	0.0	21.5	9.4
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	RWH	100	11.5	36.2	10.7	0.0	22.9	18.7
East Cheshire NHS Trust	RJN	100	8.3	30.8	13.0	0.0	34.7	13.2
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	RW	100	11.6	33.5	13.7	0.0	30.5	10.8

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in acute trusts in England by main staff group as at 30 September 2007

headcount percentage

		All NHS staff	*Medical and dental staff*	*Qualified nursing midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff*	*Qualified ambulance service staff*	*Support to clinical staff*[1]	*NHS infrastructure support*
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXR	100	8.2	35.1	10.8	0.0	27.2	18.7
East Somerset NHS Trust	RA4	100	10.4	32.6	10.5	0.0	31.6	14.9
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	RXC	100	8.6	30.7	9.0	0.0	33.4	18.4
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	RVR	100	11.5	44.5	8.2	0.0	26.0	9.8
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	RDE	100	10.8	36.2	14.9	0.0	32.1	5.9
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RDU	100	9.9	32.8	10.0	0.0	32.1	15.1
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	RR7	100	8.4	30.5	10.4	0.0	27.1	23.7
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RTE	100	9.2	31.8	13.1	0.0	27.9	17.9
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Sick Children NHS Trust	RP4	100	14.1	36.8	15.9	0.0	19.1	14.1
Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	RJ1	100	13.5	34.3	15.3	0.0	19.7	17.2
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	RQN	100	15.4	39.6	13.8	0.0	21.8	9.4
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	RCD	100	11.0	30.3	14.1	0.0	29.4	15.0
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	RR1	100	9.5	36.1	10.5	0.0	31.9	12.0
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	RD7	100	9.2	39.0	8.4	0.0	23.7	19.8
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	RLQ	100	10.2	35.6	12.0	0.0	35.2	7.0
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	RAS	100	10.1	37.9	8.7	0.0	31.4	11.9
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	RQQ	100	9.7	34.9	9.0	0.0	29.9	16.4
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQX	100	12.3	35.9	9.2	0.0	31.7	10.9
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWA	100	10.3	33.8	10.6	0.0	28.3	17.0
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	RGQ	100	9.1	34.3	14.8	0.0	33.7	8.2
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	RGP	100	8.3	27.4	10.5	0.0	30.6	23.0
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	RNQ	100	9.1	32.5	7.3	0.0	32.7	18.3
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	RJZ	100	17.0	37.9	14.3	0.0	22.9	7.7
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	RAX	100	12.5	35.4	12.9	0.0	30.4	8.8

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in acute trusts in England by main staff group as at 30 September 2007

headcount percentage

		All NHS staff	*Medical and dental staff*	*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff*	*Qualified ambulance service staff*	*Support to clinical staff*[1]	*NHS infrastructure support*[2]
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RXN	100	10.1	33.0	11.4	0.0	29.2	16.2
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	RR8	100	11.1	30.2	13.8	0.0	25.9	19.0
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	REP	100	6.9	52.4	8.1	0.0	20.3	12.3
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	RC9	100	11.7	34.1	10.6	0.0	29.6	14.0
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	RWF	100	10.9	31.4	9.1	0.0	28.4	20.2
Mayday HealthCare NHS Trust	RJ6	100	12.1	39.0	9.8	0.0	17.6	21.3
Medway NHS Trust	RPA	100	10.2	31.6	7.6	0.0	32.7	17.9
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	RQ8	100	11.6	35.9	11.5	0.0	23.1	18.0
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	RJD	100	9.5	26.6	12.5	0.0	30.7	20.6
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RXF	100	9.6	30.8	12.0	0.0	32.7	14.8
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	RD8	100	11.1	30.5	10.3	0.0	35.5	12.5
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RP6	100	17.7	23.1	16.1	0.0	27.3	15.7
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	RTX	100	7.4	32.3	10.2	0.0	28.6	21.1
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	RNH	100	13.3	40.1	6.1	0.0	29.6	10.8
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust	RM1	100	12.2	33.8	12.8	0.0	33.3	8.0
North Bristol NHS Trust	RVJ	100	8.4	35.5	13.4	0.0	25.5	17.1
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWW	100	7.8	29.7	13.2	0.0	33.5	15.8
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RNL	100	9.4	35.4	10.1	0.0	31.8	13.2
North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	RBZ	100	8.2	31.7	11.7	0.0	32.4	16.1
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RN5	100	10.5	34.3	9.8	0.0	20.1	24.9
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RAP	100	12.8	38.6	10.8	0.0	24.3	13.6
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	RVW	100	9.8	31.7	11.2	0.0	27.1	20.3
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	RV8	100	13.3	38.5	14.7	0.0	25.2	8.3
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	RNS	100	10.3	34.6	11.5	0.0	31.1	12.5
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	RJL	100	8.2	28.3	11.9	0.0	27.0	24.6

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in acute trusts in England by main staff group as at 30 September 2007

headcount percentage

		All NHS staff	*Medical and dental staff*	*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff*	*Qualified ambulance service staff*	*Support to clinical staff*[1]	*NHS infrastructure support*[2]
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust	RTF	100	8.1	31.7	11.2	0.0	30.9	18.1
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	RX1	100	11.4	32.2	13.2	0.0	26.2	17.0
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	RBF	100	7.8	28.7	23.9	0.0	28.2	11.5
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	RTH	100	16.2	35.7	12.9	0.0	24.8	10.4
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RGM	100	8.7	35.5	13.7	0.0	27.8	14.3
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RW6	100	10.2	34.5	7.9	0.0	34.2	13.1
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RGN	100	10.3	35.3	11.8	0.0	30.7	12.0
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	RK9	100	12.5	30.8	13.9	0.0	28.8	13.9
Poole Hospital NHS Trust	RD3	100	9.5	29.3	14.2	0.0	37.1	9.9
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	RHU	100	9.7	34.6	9.6	0.0	29.6	16.6
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	RG2	100	13.0	41.4	9.6	0.0	28.3	7.7
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	RGZ	100	12.7	34.2	10.0	0.0	33.0	10.1
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RPC	100	12.3	29.5	12.2	0.0	29.7	16.2
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS	RL1	100	8.3	24.8	16.7	0.0	32.5	17.7
Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	RHW	100	10.8	32.3	11.3	0.0	26.8	18.7
Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust RDZ	RDZ	100	8.0	31.9	11.4	0.0	33.5	15.2
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	RT3	100	11.6	39.5	14.9	0.0	16.6	17.4
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	REF	100	11.7	29.7	12.2	0.0	27.8	18.7
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	RH8	100	10.5	29.6	12.0	0.0	23.7	24.2
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	RAL	100	13.5	35.8	14.9	0.0	18.9	16.9
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	RQ6	100	11.2	30.7	13.8	0.0	27.8	16.5
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust	RBS	100	8.6	36.3	16.1	0.0	19.5	19.4

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in acute trusts in England by main staff group as at 30 September 2007

headcount percentage

		All NHS staff	*Medical and dental staff*	*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff*	*Qualified ambulance service staff*	*Support to clinical staff*[1]	*NHS infrastructure support*[2]
Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RPY	100	12.1	34.2	16.9	0.0	19.2	17.6
Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disorders NHS foundation	RBB	100	5.0	26.1	18.9	0.0	34.4	15.6
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	RAN	100	10.2	38.3	15.3	0.0	13.9	22.2
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	RRJ	100	9.0	34.4	7.6	0.0	31.4	17.7
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	RA2	100	14.0	32.1	16.7	0.0	20.8	16.3
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	RD1	100	10.6	32.3	11.6	0.0	26.9	18.5
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	RPR	100	10.2	36.3	10.0	0.0	22.4	21.0
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	RM3	100	11.2	33.7	7.9	0.0	33.0	14.2
Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	RNZ	100	8.9	29.4	14.2	0.0	21.5	25.9
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	RXK	100	11.8	31.7	10.1	0.0	30.3	15.9
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	RCC	100	9.1	28.5	7.9	0.0	25.2	29.2
Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Trust	RCU	100	12.3	28.5	16.2	0.0	19.5	23.5
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RHQ	100	9.8	31.1	12.9	0.0	29.0	17.3
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	RK5	100	8.1	28.0	9.0	0.0	31.5	23.4
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	RXW	100	9.8	31.8	13.6	0.0	32.1	12.6
South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	RA9	100	9.6	25.3	13.1	0.0	32.5	19.4
South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	RM2	100	11.7	36.4	12.5	0.0	31.4	7.9
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	RTR	100	11.3	33.7	11.3	0.0	31.7	12.0
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	RE9	100	7.9	26.6	10.6	0.0	27.5	27.4
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	RJC	100	11.9	34.9	12.4	0.0	31.6	9.3
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	RHM	100	13.0	35.8	12.8	0.0	25.5	12.9
Southend Hospital NHS Trust	RAJ	100	9.2	26.3	15.5	0.0	37.6	11.4
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	RVY	100	8.6	28.2	14.1	0.0	29.3	19.8

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in acute trusts in England by main staff group as at 30 September 2007

headcount percentage

		All NHS staff	*Medical and dental staff*	*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff*	*Qualified ambulance service staff*	*Support to clinical staff*[1]	*NHS infrastructure (support)*
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ7	100	13.7	36.4	19.2	0.0	20.7	10.0
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	RBN	100	8.7	30.5	7.4	0.0	31.5	21.9
St Mary's NHS Trust	RJ5	100	18.5	35.9	13.8	0.0	20.5	11.2
Stockport NHS Trust	RWJ	100	8.3	32.6	19.0	0.0	29.8	10.2
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	RTP	100	11.8	33.7	8.2	0.0	32.3	13.9
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	RNS	100	11.6	39.8	9.5	0.0	29.4	9.7
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	RMP	100	10.3	35.7	9.7	0.0	31.4	13.0
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	RBA	100	10.6	31.1	12.0	0.0	30.1	16.2
The Cardiothoracic Centre – Liverpool NHS Trust	RBQ	100	7.8	42.2	12.4	0.0	17.7	19.9
The George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	RLT	100	7.9	28.2	10.8	0.0	37.2	16.0
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	RJ2	100	12.2	41.0	9.3	0.0	21.5	16.0
The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust	RBT	100	7.3	29.8	11.6	0.0	31.1	20.1
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	RTD	100	12.2	33.4	13.7	0.0	27.7	13.1
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	RQW	100	11.3	33.4	7.2	0.0	27.5	20.7
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	RCX	100	10.8	32.0	9.8	0.0	30.5	16.9
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	RFR	100	8.4	30.5	10.7	0.0	40.1	10.2
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	RL4	100	10.4	32.1	11.0	0.0	30.6	15.8
The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWD	100	9.7	32.3	9.4	0.0	31.3	17.2
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	RKE	100	8.7	40.3	10.8	0.0	19.8	20.4
The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	RBL	100	7.9	30.4	10.2	0.0	34.8	17.5
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	RM4	100	7.4	29.8	7.4	0.0	32.5	22.9
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	RA7	100	12.2	31.6	13.8	0.0	27.3	15.1
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RRV	100	14.6	39.9	15.7	0.0	15.7	14.2

NHS hospital and community health services: NHS staff in acute trusts in England by main staff group as at 30 September 2007

headcount percentage

		All NHS staff	*Medical and dental staff*	*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*	*Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff*	*Qualified ambulance service staff*	*Support to clinical staff*[1]	*NHS infrastructure support*[2]
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	RRK	100	11.3	33.0	13.5	0.0	20.8	21.5
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	RJE	100	9.6	31.9	10.4	0.0	26.7	21.4
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	RKB	100	11.5	36.5	11.4	0.0	29.9	10.7
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	RWE	100	11.8	32.6	12.0	0.0	30.5	13.0
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	RBK	100	7.9	29.6	8.9	0.0	31.5	22.1
Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust	RET	100	11.8	34.3	8.5	0.0	32.6	12.8
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	RBD	100	9.0	31.7	10.9	0.0	34.5	13.9
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	RWG	100	12.1	34.9	10.8	0.0	29.1	13.2
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RFW	100	15.0	46.3	6.4	0.0	20.8	11.4
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	RGR	100	9.5	33.3	10.6	0.0	30.2	16.1
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	RA3	100	9.9	29.5	9.6	0.1	28.0	22.9
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	RGC	100	12.7	40.7	10.4	0.0	26.3	9.9
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	RN1	100	8.6	32.2	11.2	0.0	24.8	23.2
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	RWP	100	9.6	36.5	10.3	0.0	30.1	13.6
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	RPL	100	9.6	31.7	10.9	0.0	32.1	15.7
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	RRF	100	8.7	28.5	7.0	0.0	30.6	25.2
York Hospitals NHS Trust	RGB	100	9.3	31.8	12.1	0.0	30.4	16.4

[1] Includes clerical and administrative staff working specifically in clinical areas, for example medical secretaries and medical records officers.
[2] NHS Infrastructure Support includes administrative managers and senior mangers, maintenance staff, and clerical and administrative staff working in central functions.
Central functions includes areas such as personnel, finance, IT, legal services, library services, health education and general management support services.

Note:
Percentages for some organisations will not total 100 due to the exclusion of small numbers of staff who are classed as "Other and unknown".

Source:
1. The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census
2. The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

NHS: Violent Patients

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered on the violent patient register of each London primary care trust in each of the last three years. [195649]

Ann Keen: There is no legislative provision for the maintenance of a violent patient register. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are required to consult their Local Medical Committee, if there is one, about any proposals they have to establish a specific scheme in their area for dealing with violent patients requiring primary medical services. In setting up local arrangements PCTs might keep lists of the patients to whom these primary medical services arrangements apply but this is not a legislative requirement.

NHS: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surplus or deficit he expects (*a*) York NHS foundation trust, (*b*) North Yorkshire and York primary care trust and (c) Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority to have at the end of the 2007-08 financial year; and whether he expects North Yorkshire and York primary care trust to have brought its expenditure in the 2007-08 year into balance with its income. [197087]

Ann Keen: The latest published information on year-end forecast outturn is for quarter three, 2007-08.

North Yorkshire and York primary care trust (PCT) forecasted a year-end outturn position of £19 million deficit at quarter three.

Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority (SHA) reported a forecast year-end outturn position of £268 million surplus at quarter three.

The Department does not collect quarterly year-end forecast outturns for foundation trusts. Monitor is due to publish quarter three financial data for foundation trusts shortly.

North Yorkshire and York PCT agreed a service modernisation and financial recovery plan with Yorkshire and the Humber SHA in April 2007 that outlined plans to return to financial balance in 2008-09 as well as the measures the PCT intends to take to achieve this.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how funds from NHS underspends in the last five years have been re-allocated; and how he plans to allocate any underspends in the next 12 months. [197922]

Mr. Bradshaw: Surpluses generated by national health service organisations in any year are carried forward, and are available to spend in future years. In each financial year, resource adjustments are applied at strategic health authority (SHA) level equal to the value of the net resource carry forward for the overall SHA economy. SHAs are then responsible for managing the distribution of these adjustments to their individual NHS organisations according to local priorities. From 2007-08, following a change to the resource accounting and budgeting rules, this adjustment excludes under or over spends generated by NHS trusts.

The NHS operating framework for 2008-09 states that the aggregate surplus delivered by SHAs and primary care trusts in 2007-08 will be carried forward to the next financial year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS budgets will be amended in the years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 to take into account changes in planned expenditure in those years. [198261]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service budgets for 2008-09 are currently being finalised. The level of NHS budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be informed by decisions on the composition and growth to primary care trust allocations for these years.

NHS: Fraud

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were (*a*) found guilty and (*b*) acquitted of charges relating to fraud against the NHS in each of the last five years; [197945]

(2) how many cases were referred by the NHS Counter Fraud Squad to the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last five years; [197947]

(3) how many cases were investigated by the NHS Counter Fraud Squad in each of the last five years. [197948]

Ann Keen: The NHS Counter Fraud Service (CFS) pursues a multi track approach in all cases investigated. This includes the option of criminal prosecution. The CFS also seek civil recovery of losses to the national health service and investigation costs as well as a disciplinary sanction before the appropriate regulatory or disciplinary body. Of criminal prosecution cases, 95 per cent. have resulted in a guilty verdict.

The NHS CFS does not refer cases to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Information on investigation cases and prosecution outcomes is shown in the following table.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Prosecution undertaken and defendant found guilty	51	70	56	68	82
Prosecuted undertaken and defendant acquitted	2	4	4	3	3
Investigations opened	339	429	305	272	409

NHS: Manpower

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (*a*) front line and (*b*) other staff were employed by the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [197335]

Ann Keen: The number of front line staff is not collected centrally as the Department does not identify them as a separate group within the national workforce census staff groups.

Frontline staff breaks down to comprise professionally qualified clinical staff, support clinical staff and staff in general practitioner's (GP) practices. Other staff comprises national health service infrastructure support and those staff with unknown qualifications.

The following table shows the numbers of staff within the two categories for each of the last 10 years.

NHS Hospital Community Health Services and general practice workforce as at 30 September each specified year—England

Full-time equivalent

	Frontline[1]	Other[2]	Total
1997	702,271	144,027	846,298
1998	714,172	140,958	855,129
1999	729,982	143,565	873,547
2000	747,917	144,704	892,620
2001	780,616	150,432	931,048
2002	819,855	158,521	978,376

NHS Hospital Community Health Services and general practice work force as at 30 September each specified year—England

	Full-time equivalent		
	Frontline[1]	*Other*[2]	*Total*
2003	858,855	168,429	1,027,284
2004	892,932	178,530	1,071,462
2005	917,498	186,510	1,104,008
2006	917,197	178,230	1,095,427
2007	912,226	177,209	1,089,436
Change 1997-2007	209,955	33,183	243,138
Annual percentage change 1997-2007	2.7	2.1	2.6
Change 2006-07	-4,970	-1,020	-5,991
Percentage change 2006-07	-1	-1	-0.5

[1] Frontline staff comprises the following staff groups:
Consultants (including Directors of public health);
Registrars;
Other doctors in training;
Other medical and dental staff;
GPs (excluding retainers);
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, including Practice Nurses;
Qualified Allied Health Professions;
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff;
Support to clinical staff; and
Other GP practice staff.
[2] Other staff comprises the following staff groups:
Central functions;
Hotel, property and estates;
Manager and senior manager; and
Other non-medical staff or those with unknown classification.

Source:
The Information Centre. All rights reserved

NHS: Radiography

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* radiologists and *(b)* radiographers are employed by the NHS. [196669]

Ann Keen: The latest published workforce census showed there were 3,137 qualified radiology staff working in the national health service in England in September 2007, an increase of 1,130 (56 per cent.) since September 1997.

The latest published workforce census showed there were 15,066 qualified therapeutic and diagnostic radiographers working in the NHS in England in September 2007, an increase of 3,295 (28 per cent.) since September 1997.

Non-British EU Nationals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* non-British EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU nationals worked in the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority (i) at the latest date for which figures are available and (ii) in each of the last five years; [197126]

(2) how many *(a)* non-British EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU nationals worked for the (i) London, (ii) North East, (iii) North West, (iv) South Central, (v) South East, (vi) South West, (vii) West Midlands, (viii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (ix) East of England Strategic Health Authority (A) at the latest date for which figures are available, and (B) in each of the last five years; [197180]

(3) how many foreign nationals from *(a)* the European Union and *(b)* outside the European Union are employed or contracted by the (i) East Midlands, (ii) East of England, (iii) London, (iv) North East, (v) North West, (vi) South Central, (vii) South East, (viii) South West, (ix) West Midlands and (x) Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority; and how many were employed or contracted by each in each of the last five years. [197269]

Ann Keen: The nationality of national health service staff is not collected. The NHS Workforce Census does record the country of qualification for medical staff, including general practitioners (GPs). This is not the same as the nationality as it is possible United Kingdom (UK) nationals to qualify outside of the UK and vice versa.

The following table shows country of qualification for medical staff and GPs, this is broken by UK, European Economic Area (EEA) and those qualified elsewhere.

No information is provided for the majority of NHS staff, as country of qualification data for non-medical staff is not collected.

All GP Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers)[1] and Hospital and Community Health Services, medical and dental staff[2] by country of qualification and SHA—England as at 30 September 2006

numbers (headcount)

	England	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and The Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South east Coast*	*South Central*	*South West*	*Special health authorities and other statutory bodies*
		Q30	*Q31*	*Q32*	*Q33*	*Q34*	*Q35*	*Q36*	*Q37*	*Q38*	*Q39*	
2601												
All countries of qualification	106,758	5,941	14,699	11,010	7,614	10,780	9,939	20,665	7,502	8,111	10,336	161
Qualified within the UK	71,597	3,998	9,356	7,324	5,396	6,584	6,323	13,416	4,972	6,041	8,077	110

All GP Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) [1] and Hospital and Community Health Services: medical and dental staff [2] by country of qualification and SHA—England as at 30 September 2006

numbers (headcount)

	England	*North East Q30*	*North West Q31*	*Yorkshire and The Humber Q32*	*East Midlands Q33*	*West Midlands Q34*	*East of England Q35*	*London Q36*	*South east Coast Q37*	*South Central Q38*	*South West Q39*	*Special health authorities and other statutory bodies*
Qualified within the remainder of the EEA	5,849	335	740	502	328	526	637	1,468	436	398	469	10
Qualified elsewhere in the world	25,549	1,372	3,978	2,759	1,679	3,289	2,702	5,107	1,847	1,415	1,360	41
Unknown country of qualification	3,763	236	625	425	211	391	277	674	247	257	430	0
2004												
All countries of qualification	114,474	6,377	15,720	11,616	8,197	11,634	10,415	22,522	8,132	8,539	11,170	152
Qualified within the UK	75,106	4,192	9,811	7,589	5,603	6,901	6,479	14,224	5,272	6,237	8,694	104
Qualified within the remainder of the EEA	6,353	364	775	522	369	533	679	1,715	472	431	482	11
Qualified elsewhere in the world	29,163	1,577	4,475	3,096	2,002	3,828	2,978	5,843	2,128	1,605	1,594	37
Unknown country of qualification	3,852	244	659	409	223	372	279	740	260	266	400	0
2005												
All countries of qualification	119,781	6,490	16,391	12,183	8,568	12,158	10,967	23,710	8,500	8,818	11,840	156
Qualified within the UK	77,084	4,215	9,987	7,832	5,690	7,142	6,616	14,716	5,390	6,306	9,087	103
Qualified within the remainder of the EEA	6,897	390	841	550	398	563	765	1,875	494	474	535	12
Qualified elsewhere in the world	31,830	1,643	4,892	3,375	2,254	4,056	3,287	6,367	2,356	1,762	1,797	41
Unknown country of qualification	3,970	242	671	426	226	397	299	752	260	276	421	0
2006												
All countries of qualification	123,334	6,757	16,797	12,379	8,789	12,472	11,497	24,224	8,902	9,007	12,202	308
Qualified within the UK	79,212	4,343	10,287	7,928	5,772	7,310	6,853	15,003	5,664	6,446	9,397	209
Qualified within the remainder of the EEA	7,159	427	852	578	410	627	802	1,860	555	481	543	24
Qualified elsewhere in the world	33,054	1,753	5,035	3,469	2,368	4,130	3,563	6,599	2,415	1,831	1,816	75

All GP Practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers) [1] and Hospital and Community Health Services: medical and dental staff [2] by country of qualification and SHA—England as at 30 September 2006

numbers (headcount)

	England	*North East Q30*	*North West Q31*	*Yorkshire and The Humber Q32*	*East Midlands Q33*	*West Midlands Q34*	*East of England Q35*	*London Q36*	*South east Coast Q37*	*South Central Q38*	*South West Q39*	*Special health authorities and other statutory bodies*
Unknown country of qualification 2007	3,909	234	623	404	239	405	279	762	268	249	446	0
All countries of qualification	125,154	6,924	16,948	12,961	8,950	12,650	11,630	24,325	8,960	9,107	12,378	321
Qualified within the UK	81,175	4,479	10,467	8,349	5,933	7,436	6,938	15,249	5,835	6,639	9,639	211
Qualified within the remainder of the EEA	7,133	402	867	564	413	655	812	1,823	547	462	558	30
Qualified elsewhere in the world	32,906	1,784	5,012	3,596	2,382	4,143	3,588	6,497	2,293	1,768	1,763	80
Unknown country of qualification	3,940	259	602	452	222	416	292	756	285	238	418	0

[1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others

[2] All dental staff are shown as Unknown within the table. Information about country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. For staff in dental specialties, with a General Dental Council registration, the country of qualification is therefore unknown.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

Nurses: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to prevent someone from re-entering nursing in the NHS when they have previously been deemed unsatisfactory for the nursing profession. [195716]

Ann Keen: In order to work as a nurse, a person must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). If the NMC determines that a registrant is unfit to practise, they will be removed from the register and it would then be illegal for them to continue to practise as a nurse.

If a nurse who has been struck off wants to get back onto the register, they cannot apply for restoration before a period of five years has elapsed. Before restoring a person to the register, the Practice Committee must be satisfied the person holds an approved qualification and satisfies the registrar that they are capable of safe and effective practice as a nurse.

Nurses: Training

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the levels of bursaries for student nurses. [196087]

Ann Keen: The Department provides non-repayable national health service bursaries and pays the tuition fees in full for the majority of nursing students undertaking programmes leading to professional registration. The NHS Bursary rates are reviewed annually and since 1998 the NHS Bursary has been increased each year, in September 2007 the uplift was 2.33 per cent.

The Department has worked in partnership with stakeholders to develop a package of changes to update and modernise the current NHS student Bursary Scheme.

Obesity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population of *(a)* England and *(b)* Romford constituency that is clinically obese. [196670]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the proportion of the population of England that are clinically obese is collected in the Health Survey for England.

"Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 1 Cardiovascular disease and risk factors in adults" pages 98-99 published on 31 January 2008 show that 24 per cent. of adults (aged 16 or over) in England were classified as obese. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Obesity rates in Romford are not available.

Neighbourhood statistics published in December 2007, provide estimated prevalence of obesity among adults aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals for Havering local authority are shown in the following table. These estimates are taken from Model-Based Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours, and are for combined years 2003 to 2005.

The proportion of people who are obese in Havering was not found to be statistically different to England.

Table 1: Model-based estimates of obesity prevalence, 2003 to 2005

	Percentages
Havering local authority	
Estimated prevalence of obesity	22.0
95% lower confidence interval	19.7
95% upper confidence interval	24.6
England[1]	
Estimated prevalence of obesity	23.6
95% lower confidence interval	23.0
95% upper confidence interval	24.2

[1] The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2003 to 2005 (with associated Confidence Intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.

Source:
Model-Based Estimates of Healthy Lifestyles Behaviours, 2003 to 2005.
Neighbourhood Statistics, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of general practitioner referrals to first consultant-led outpatient services were made through the choose and book system in each month since its inception; [195316]

(2) what are the latest available figures for the percentage of general practitioner referrals to first consultant-led outpatient services made through the choose and book system. [195317]

Mr. Bradshaw: April 2006 is officially when the national rollout of choose and book began. National rollout was the commencement of primary care trust trajectory plans. The following table gives the percentage of general practitioner referrals to first outpatient services made through choose and book each month since national roll-out started.

	Percentage
April 2006	9
May 2006	13
June 2006	18
July 2006	21
August 2006	25
September 2006	26
October 2006	26
November 2006	30
December 2006	30
January 2007	31
February 2007	37
March 2007	38
April 2007	36
May 2007	35
June 2007	36
July 2007	37
August 2007	37
September 2007	39
October 2007	40
November 2007	41
December 2007	41
January 2008	44

Physiotherapy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of physiotherapists qualifying in 2007 who have not been employed by the NHS. [197867]

Ann Keen: The number of physiotherapy graduates from 2006 and 2007, registered in the newly qualified health care professionals pools, as looking for their first post in the national health service has fallen from a peak of 771 on 10 September 2007 to its current figure of 430 on 18 March 2008.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were prosecuted for illegally claiming exemption from NHS prescription charges in each of the last five years; [197942]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of prescription fraud to the NHS in each of the last five years; [197943]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people illegally claiming exemption from NHS prescription charges in each of the last five years. [197944]

Ann Keen: Since August 2001, a penalty charge system has been in place in respect of those falsely claiming exemption to national health service prescription charges. Financial recoveries are made in the first instance through a cost effective civil process rather than by criminal prosecution. There is an option for repeat offenders to be dealt with through criminal proceedings and to date there has been one criminal prosecution, in 2004.

Information on the number of people falsely claiming exemption from NHS prescription charges and the cost of prescription fraud to the NHS is not available in the format requested.

The NHS Counter Fraud Service (CFS) undertakes fraud risk measurement exercises on a statistically valid number of prescription exemption claims. These exercises are repeated to capture reductions in losses due to anti-fraud work. The last such exercise in England took place in 2002-03. This showed the number of claims found to be fraudulent to be 1.6 per cent. and that the loss to the NHS through prescription fraud had been reduced from £117 million in 1998-99 to £47 million in 2002-03. A further risk measurement exercise will be undertaken in 2008-09.

Pressure Sores

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to introduce a preventative programme to reduce the incidence of leg ulcers; [196819]

(2) how many people were treated for leg ulcers in England in each of the last three years; and what the cost of such treatment was in each year. [196820]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally and there are no plans to introduce a national preventative programme.

Tissue viability is a vital component of nursing care for patients, and one in which there is a strong body of evidence about effective treatment. Nurses receive training in this during their preparation for registration, and as part of their continuing professional development. They have access to specialist tissue viability nurses who provide training as well as expert advice in the care of individual patients.

"Essence of Care", published in 2003, sets benchmarks for pressure ulcers in health and social care settings, and helps health care professionals to devise appropriate care plans. A copy of the publication is available in the Library. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published detailed clinical guidelines on pressure ulcer management in primary and secondary care. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that this guidance is implemented.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197504]

Mr. Bradshaw: Neither the Department nor its agencies have awarded contracts to Rackspace in the last nine years.

Radiography: Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many junior doctors trained as *(a)* radiologists and *(b)* radiographers in each of the last five years. [196671]

Ann Keen: The number of junior doctors who trained as radiologists in the last five years are shown in the following table. The number has increased by 25 per cent. from 831 in 2002-03 to 1,035 in 2006-07.

	Number of junior doctors training as radiologists
2002-03	831
2003-04	909
2004-05	945
2005-06	1,024
2006-07	1,035

The number of training places for radiographers in the last five years are shown in the following table. The number has increased by 64 per cent. from 948 in 2001-02 to 1,555 in 2005-06.

	Number of radiographers in training
2001-02	948
2002-03	1,227
2003-04	1,411
2004-05	1,461
2005-06	1,555

Radiographers are Allied Health Professionals rather than qualified medical staff, and as such are not classified as junior doctors.

Redcar and Cleveland NHS Primary Care Trust: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much from the public purse has been spent on the part financing of the development of New Skelton Health, in the Redcar and Cleveland NHS Primary Care Trust. [195677]

Ann Keen: Responsibility for local health services lies with the local national health service. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to plan, develop and improve services for local people.

Details of the financing of the new Hillside Medical Centre can be obtained from the Redcar and Cleveland PCT.

Sanitary Waste Disposal

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* other guidelines apply to the disposal of sanitary waste in private care homes; and which body is responsible for monitoring compliance; [197653]

(2) whether sanitary waste is included in his Department's definition of clinical waste. [197654]

Mr. Bradshaw: Statutory responsibility for environmental and waste legislation rests with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The management of waste, its storage, carriage, treatment and disposal and health and safety requirements are governed by legislation, including the Hazardous Waste Regulations and Lists of Waste Regulations 2005. The Environment Agency is the regulatory body for compliance.

The Department has produced guidance document Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 07-01 "Safe management of health care waste" that includes advice on the disposal of sanitary waste appropriate to private care homes. The term 'sanitary' waste is defined as 'offensive/hygiene waste' in HTM 07-01. The guidance is applicable to all producers of health care waste and not only the national health service. A copy of HTM 07-01 is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicy/AndGuidance/DH_063274.

'Offensive/hygiene' waste describes waste which is non-infectious and which does not require specialist treatment or disposal, but which may cause offence to those who come into contact with it, such as sanitary or 'sanpro' waste. The guidance provides advice based on assessment procedures to determine the medicinal, chemical, infectious and offensive properties of health care waste to ensure waste is disposed at appropriately licensed facilities.

Skin: Diseases

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to *(a)* raise public awareness and *(b)* provide information to health providers and general practitioners regarding the skin disease hidradenitis suppurativa; [196314]

(2) what steps his Department plans to take with regard to hidradenitis suppurativa; [196315]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who have hidradenitis suppurativa; [196316]

(4) what his estimate is of the cost to the public purse of NHS treatment and other support for individuals with hidradenitis suppurativa in the most recent period for which figures are available. [196318]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no estimate of the number of people living with hidradenitis suppurativa, or the cost of treatment and support provided.

The Department has not taken steps to raise public awareness of this condition. Information for health professionals has been made available on the Clinical Knowledge Summaries website at:

www.cks.library.nhs.uk.

It is the responsibility of health professionals, using their clinical judgment, to provide the most appropriate treatment for those diagnosed with hidradenitis suppurativa. This may include, for the most severely affected, referral to a specialist in dermatology.

Smoking: Telephone Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people called the NHS smoking helpline in 2007. [196556]

Dawn Primarolo: The national health service smoking helpline received a total of 234,709 calls in 2007. Of these calls, 82,442 are described as interactive calls. Interactive calls include calls that have a positive outcome where helpline advisers have either had a conversation with the caller or the caller has made a request for information.

Surgery: Disease Control

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures were carried out by NHS hospitals in each year since 2000; and how many of these were followed by an episode of *(a)* MRSA, *(b)* clostridium difficile and *(c)* norovirus. [195572]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures were carried out in GP surgeries or other non-hospital patient centres since 2000; and how many resulted in episodes of *(a)* MRSA, *(b)* clostridium difficile and *(c)* norovirus. [195832]

Ann Keen: Data on the number and outcome of surgical procedures carried out in general practitioners surgeries or other non-hospital settings are not available.

York NHS Hospital: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much capital funding was spent by York NHS Hospital in each year since 1996-97; what capital projects have been implemented at the hospital costing £1 million or more since this date; and on what date work on each project commenced; [197844]

(2) how much capital funding was spent at York NHS Hospital between 1986-87 and 1995-96. [197845]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, information for the York Hospitals Foundation Trust from 2000-01 onwards has been set out in the following table.

Capital expenditure for York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

£000

	Gross capital expenditure	*Buildings excluding dwellings*	*Assets under construction and payment on accounts*	*Plant and machinery*	*Information technology*	*Equipment*
2006-07	8,280	2,822	2,115	2,951	n/a	n/a
2005-06	14,887	11,085	1,311	2,014	n/a	n/a
2004-05	16,154	7,776	5,286	2,388	n/a	n/a
2003-04	11,344	2,581	3,199	3,040	2,009	n/a
2002-03	10,383	2,126	6,294	1,064	n/a	n/a
2001-02	4,351	1,065	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,570
2000-01	6,813	3,688	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,958

Notes:
1. Data is not available before 2000-01.
2. Total capital spend figures include expenditure over all categories of fixed assets.
3. Individual projects cannot be identified as expenditure; it is reported by category rather than by project. Start dates for projects are not held.
4. Where expenditure in a category exceeded £1 million, the figures have been included. N/a represents where expenditure is less than £1 million, or data collection was not applicable under that category.
5. In 2000-01 and 2001-02, the analysis of equipment was simpler than in later years.
6. York Hospitals NHS Trust became a foundation trust on 1 April 2007.

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules for York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust 2000-01 to 2006-07

Information relating to capital funding and expenditure for the York Hospitals Foundation Trust for the years prior to 2000-01 is not held centrally. This information might instead be available direct from the trust itself.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 3 April 2008

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Betting Shops

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many fixed-odds betting terminals were located in Tote betting shops at the latest date for which figures are available. [198765]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I understand from the Tote that there were 1,988 such terminals on 1 April 2008.

National Lottery: Play

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the funding available under the Big Lottery Fund Children's Play initiative has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent. [198335]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures reflect the proportion of money which has been committed and spent under the Big Lottery Fund's children's play initiative in England.

£

Programme name	*Current value (committed)*	*Total paid to date (spent)*
Play Infrastructure	14,494,368	5,972,696
Playful Ideas	8,706,612	1,610,325
Children's Play	113,889,266	9,135,853
Total	137,090,246	16,718,874

The total money available for the Children's Play initiative is £155 million. The Big Lottery Fund has committed 88 per cent. of the total available and expect to commit all funds under the play initiative by September 2008.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197508]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department uses the services of Rackspace via a framework agreement with its main IT suppliers, Atos Origin. My Department does not have a direct contract with Rackspace.

Charges made by Atos Origin for the Rackspace service are from January 2005 to date and amount to £52,782.

The Royal Parks Agency has never awarded a contract to Rackspace.

Sports: Voluntary Organisations

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of charities running local authority sports and leisure centres which provide access to spas or saunas for those who pay for access to swimming pools. [199293]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Specific information on the delivery of leisure services by local authorities and the number providing access to spas or saunas for those who pay for access to swimming pools is not centrally collated. However, the Audit Commission report of June 2006, "Public sports and recreation services: making them fit for the future", suggests that some 22 per cent. of public leisure facilities in England are provided through trusts.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Bone Diseases: Death

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people died from ankylosing spondylitis in each year since 1997 in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region. [198692]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from ankylosing spondylitis in each year since 1997 in (a) England and (b) each region. (198692)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where ankylosing spondylitis was the underlying cause of death in (a) England and (b) each government office region, from 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1 Number of deaths where ankylosing spondylitis was the underlying cause of death[1], Government Office Regions and England, 1997 to 2006[2,3]

Deaths (persons)

Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North East	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
North West	1	1	2	4	2	0	1	1	2	1
Yorkshire and The Humber	1	3	2	1	2	2	0	1	3	2
East Midlands	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
West Midlands	2	1	3	0	1	2	1	2	0	2
East of England	2	2	2	1	1	1	4	6	3	3
London	0	5	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	2
South East	3	4	6	2	1	1	2	2	5	2

Table 1: Number of deaths where ankylosing spondylitis was the underlying cause of death[1], Government Office Regions and England, 1997 to 2006[2,3]

									Deaths (persons)
Region	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
South West	3	4	4	1	2	1	3	0	1	4
England	16	23	20	12	10	8	13	15	15	18

[1] Cause of death for ankylosing spondylitis was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 720.0 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code M45. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Charities: Fraud

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of his Department's leaflets raising public awareness of the problem of bogus charity clothing collections have been distributed to date; and what plans he has for wider distribution. [198547]

Phil Hope: The Office of the Third Sector has teamed up with stakeholders including representatives from the charity sector to produce a leaflet for householders with top tips to help check clothing collection leaflets. We have printed 500,000 copies of this leaflet which was distributed by Clothes Aid to households in particular areas where problems have been reported across England and Wales.

This leaflet has been published on stakeholder websites to raise public awareness. Stakeholders are free to print and distribute further copies of this leaflet if they feel it is necessary. I am aware for example, that British Heart Foundation have printed at least 50,000 copies of this leaflet for door to door distribution.

Employment: Houghton and Washington East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were in employment in Houghton and Washington East constituency in each of the last 10 years. [198485]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people were in employment in Houghton and Washington East constituency in each of the last 10 years. (198485)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS), following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people aged 16 and over, resident in the Houghton and Washington East constituency, who were in employment in each of the last 10 years. Estimates are obtained from the annual LFS for each 12 month period from 1997 to 2004 ending in February. For time series comparisons, the APS estimates from 2005 to 2007 are provided covering the 12 month periods ending in March, but the most recently released estimate is also included, which covers the 12 month period ending in September 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, APS and annual LFS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. These are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas the regional and national estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures, so the two are not directly comparable.

Table 1: People aged 16+ in employment in Houghton and Washington East constituency

	Thousand
12 months ending	In employment
February 1997[1]	38
February 1998[1]	42
February 1999[1]	34
February 2000[1]	37
February 2001[1]	41
February 2002[1]	38
February 2003[1]	38
February 2004[1]	36
March 2005[2]	38
March 2006[2]	40
March 2007[2]	39
September 2007[2]	41

[1] Source: Annual Labour Force Survey
[2] Source: Annual Population Survey

Iraq: Documents

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) pursuant to the Answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2025W, on Iraq: documents, how the detailed comments passed on by Ann Taylor to John Scarlett on the draft dossier on Iraq on 19 September 2002 which were referred to in evidence to the Hutton inquiry (ISC/3/0003) were passed on; and whether John Scarlett or any other individual made a record of these comments; [193199]

(2) when he expects to answer Question 193199, on Iraqi documents, tabled on 5 March 2008. [197111]

Edward Miliband: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2025W.

Liverpool

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) if he will make a statement on his visit to Liverpool, West Derby constituency on 1 February 2008; at whose invitation he attended; where he visited; and whom he met; [193825]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 193825, on his visit to Liverpool, West Derby constituency, tabled on 10 March 2008. [198699]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 13 March 2008]*: The visit to Liverpool, West Derby on 1 February 2008 was not made in my ministerial capacity.

Non-profit Making Associations: Community Work

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to support the community work of social enterprises providing services for vulnerable user groups. [196851]

Phil Hope: Government are committed to creating an environment in which all social enterprises, including those providing services to vulnerable groups, can thrive. The social enterprise action plan, published in November 2006, sets out cross-departmental commitment to actions which aim to foster a culture of social enterprise; ensure the right information and advice is available to those running social enterprises; enable social enterprises to access appropriate finance; and enable social enterprise to work with government.

As part of this action plan, the Office of the Third Sector, within the Cabinet Office, provides core funding to umbrella organisations which support and represent social enterprise at a national level. Included among these is Social Firms UK which offers support to social enterprises which provide employment to disadvantaged groups.

The joint Cabinet Office and HM Treasury report on the Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration, published in July 2007 also sets out the commitments of the Cabinet Office in supporting the third sector as a whole.

Both of the social enterprise action plan and the report on the future role of the third sector are available in the Library of the house.

Non-profit Making Associations: Special Educational Needs

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the potential for third sector organisations to assist in the delivery of public services for those with learning difficulties. [196852]

Phil Hope: Third sector organisations working in partnership with the public sector play a valuable role in supporting people with learning difficulties. They bring an innovative, flexible approach tailored to people's needs. In particular, as part of the Government's wish to encourage independent living, we are keen to promote the role of user-led organisations of disabled people in supporting them to lead independent lives.

We expect third sector organisations to play an important role in the delivery of the new Socially Excluded Adults PSA (PSA 16). The PSA aims to increase the proportion of four socially excluded groups in employment and in settled accommodation; adults with learning disabilities known to councils are one of the target groups.

Public Participation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on public participation: incentives, what other public participation events have been organised since the deliberative forum on the draft legislative programme. [198203]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office has not organised any further public participation events since the deliberative forum on the draft legislative programme.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1146-8W, on departmental visits abroad, which of the flights listed were carbon offset. [198096]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that none of the flights listed were carbon offset.

Electoral Commission: Grants

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2241-2W, on Electoral Commission: grants, if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms and conditions of the scheme. [198093]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has done so.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Freedom of Information: Requests for Data Held

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 89W, on Freedom of Information to the hon. Member for Aberdeen North, what further steps the Members Estimate Committee plans to take regarding FoI requests for data held by the House. [199136]

Nick Harvey: The House has appealed to the High Court against the Information Tribunal decision that full details of the additional costs allowance for 14 Members should be disclosed, on the grounds that the tribunal had misdirected itself in law, in particular in ordering the disclosure of private addresses.

Further decisions by the Information Commissioner now need to be addressed. The Members Estimate Committee has taken the view that two such decisions,

which require that the House should disclose less detailed information about the allowances of seven Members should not be appealed. This information will be released to the requesters shortly.

The same principle will also be applied to requests for information on the claims of 14 Members about which the House has appealed to the High Court. Data on these 14 MPs will only be disclosed now to that lesser level of information (by category of expense but not down to receipt level). The appeal relates to more detailed information about addresses and receipts.

The same level of information (i.e. by category—not down to receipt level) will be released about the expenses of all Members in the autumn, for the years 2004-05 to 2007-08. For the future, information compiled on a similar basis will be released quarterly, starting with the information relating to the first quarter of 2008-09 (April to June). This release of information will also begin in the autumn.

The MEC remains committed to reviewing the allowance system and ensuring that there is probity and transparency

OLYMPICS

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what initiatives for which she is responsible have been advertised to the public; and at what cost. [192466]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2307-08W.

Legacy Action Plan

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she expects the Legacy Action Plan to be published. [198381]

Tessa Jowell: I intend to publish the Legacy Action Plan soon after purdah for the forthcoming local elections.

Olympic Delivery Authority

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) for how long a paper copy of the Olympic Delivery Authority's *(a)* register of interests and *(b)* register of gifts and hospitality has existed; and for what reason an electronic version has not yet been published; [198332]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 519W, on the Olympic Delivery Authority, when the Olympic Delivery Authority's *(a)* register of interests and *(b)* register of gifts and hospitality will be published; when they were (i) first commissioned and (ii) originally due for publication; and what the reasons are for the time taken for the registers to be published; [198333]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) register of gifts and hospitality was published on the London 2012 website on 14 March 2008. A copy has also been placed in the House Library. The register of gifts and hospitality covers registrations up to 31 December 2007 and includes the period prior to April 2006 when the ODA was an interim Authority. The registrations for the first quarter of 2008 will be published in the coming weeks.

The current register of ODA Board Members' interests is due to be published on the London 2012 website in the week beginning 31 March 2008 and a copy will also be placed in the House Library. Details of prospective ODA Board Members' interests were required as part of the DCMS recruitment process and all ODA Board Members have signed the necessary ODA declaration of interest forms.

Paper copies of the ODA's register of gifts and hospitality have existed for the period of the ODA's formal existence and its period as an interim Authority. The ODA's register of Board members interests has also existed since the ODA formally came into being.

The publication of both registers was foreshadowed in my answer to the hon. Member on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 519W, in which I stated that the ODA intended to publish *(a)* its register of Board members' interests, and *(b)* its gifts and hospitality register in the first quarter of 2008.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what guidance the Government has given to the Olympic Delivery Authority on openness, transparency and accountability in dealing with requests from members of the public for access to information it holds. [198331]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) was formally established on 30 March 2006 by the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006. It is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and is a public authority bound by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act"). The ODA is subject to a Management Statement and Financial Memorandum, approved by the Minister for the Olympics and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, which sets out the rules and guidelines relevant to the exercise of the ODA's functions, duties and powers.

The Management Statement makes clear the responsibility of the Chairman and Members of the ODA for ensuring that the ODA complies with its statutory duties, which would include its duties under the FOI Act. The ODA is committed to complying with its obligations under the FOI Act by fostering a culture of openness, transparency and accountability as appropriate.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many members of staff are employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority; and what teams they work in. [198330]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) appointed a delivery partner (CLM) to programme and project manage the delivery of the venues and infrastructure for the 2012 games. The ODA has oversight and control of the venues and infrastructure programme, and directly manages transport, property, planning, communications

and interaction with Government in addition to managing engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and partners.

As of 31 March 2008 the Olympic Delivery Authority employed 164 permanent employees and 13 fixed term employees. The breakdown of employees is:

Directorates	*Number*
Chief Executive's Office	3
Chairman's Office	3
Finance and Corporate Services (finance, human resources, legal, internal audit, equality and diversity, information technology, insurance and programme assurance	45
Design and Regeneration	27
Transport	26
Construction (includes employment, skills and employment, health and safety, procurement)	23
Communications (statutory consultation, public inquiries, community engagement, stakeholder relations, media, site visits, filming, internal communications, and marketing)	19
Planning Development Control	12
Infrastructure and Utilities	10
Property (Village, IBC/MPC)	7
Security	2
Total	177

The ODA also has 21 staff seconded into the ODA from other organisations supporting directorates including Security, Construction, and Design and Regeneration.

Olympic Games 2012: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Henley of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 47W, on Olympic Games 2012: training, what the *(a)* level and *(b)* course title is of each of the 13 training places offered above level one. [195899]

Tessa Jowell: Provisional figures show that a total of 12 training courses (as opposed to 13 previously stated) were above Level 1. These courses are plant operation related and directly based on the needs of contractors on site. The 12 courses, all of which are level 2, break down as follows:

Five courses for slinger/banksmen

Three courses for 360° excavators operation

One course for telescopic forklift operation

One course for chainsaw operators

Two CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) Level Two courses (Blue card)

This local investment is part of a bigger National Skills Academy for Construction initiative led by the ODA. This partnership is likely to deliver a much larger proportion of training above Level 1.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Henley of 10 December 2007, Official Report, column 47W, on Olympic Games 2012: training, how many training places had been offered for *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* level (i), one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four qualifications at the latest date for which figures are available. [195901]

Tessa Jowell: Since the launch of the Local Employment and Training Framework (LETF) in January 2007 until December 2007 (the latest period for which figures are available) 1,835 training places have been offered, the vast majority of which were at level 1, with 12 at level 2. Information on places offered since then is not yet available.

Olympic Games: China

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will hold discussions with *(a)* the International Olympics Committee and *(b)* the Chinese authorities to urge them not to include the Tibetan Autonomous Region and the Chinese provinces which, taken together, constituted Tibet prior to the Chinese invasion, in the route of the Olympic Torch before the Beijing Olympics. [198695]

Tessa Jowell: We are aware that the Olympic Torch Relay is due to pass through Tibet and up Mount Everest on its way to Beijing. The passage of the torch relay through any country is a matter for the authorities of the country concerned and the International Olympic Committee.

PRIME MINISTER

Advisory Committee on Business Appointments: Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Prime Minister if he will assess the effectiveness of the work of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. [196892]

The Prime Minister: The work of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has already been the subject of a review by the Public Administration Select Committee. Its report, "The Business Appointment Rules", published in June 2007, included consideration of an independent review carried out by Sir Patrick Brown. They concluded that

> "The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments has operated effectively, and we see little benefit in changing its composition, or its way of working".

Copies of the reports and the Government's response are in the Libraries of the House. The Public Administration Select Committee is also considering further the work of the advisory committee in relation to its current inquiry on lobbying.

The House will also wish to be aware that the chairman of the advisory committee, Lord Mayhew, has informed me that he wishes to step down from the chairmanship of the committee for reasons of ill health. I would like to place on record my thanks to him for the nine years of outstanding service and commitment he has given the committee and public life more generally. Sir John Blelloch, the vice chairman, will manage the committee's day-to-day business until a successor to Lord Mayhew is appointed.

Departmental internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Prime Minister whether the IT system of 10 Downing Street is able to provide a record of Wikipedia entries *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from within his Office. [195831]

The Prime Minister: I know of no instance where my Office has either created or amended any records on Wikipedia.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* total staffing cost and *(b)* average annual salary of members of the Number 10 policy unit was in each of the last five years. [195798]

The Prime Minister: The overall staffing costs for No. 10 are published on a regular basis following the end of the financial year.

WALES

Average Earnings

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average annual *(a)* earnings were and *(b)* household income was in Wales in each of the last three years. [197908]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Average earnings figures complied by the Office for National Statistics are published as a weekly figure. The data for 2007, 2006 and 2005 are as follows:

	Average gross weekly earnings (full-time) (£)
2007	472.1
2006	466.2
2005	[1]454.8

[1] Due to a change in Office for National Statistics methodology the 2005 figure is not directly comparable to 2006 and 2007.

The latest data on estimated gross disposable household income in Wales for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 were published in March 2007 and are as follows:

	Estimated gross disposable household income (GDHI) (£)
2005	11,851
2004	11,322
2003	10,932

Brofiscin Quarry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when Rhondda Cynon Taff Council were first advised by the Environment Agency to expect receipt of a list of appropriate persons in respect of the pollution in and around Brofiscin Quarry; when the Agency expects to provide the list; what the reasons are for the time taken; and if he will make a statement. [197423]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I am informed by the Environment Agency Wales that on the 7 March 2008 the Environment Agency apprised Rhondda Cynon Taff county borough council of the status of its investigation into potential 'Appropriate Persons'. The Environment Agency did not advise the local authority when it would receive a list of the 'Appropriate Persons'. The Environment Agency is still investigating who should be responsible for the cost of remediation in accordance with the provisions of Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Statutory Guidance.

Brofiscin Quarry: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2243W, on Brofiscin Quarry: hazardous substances, what the timetable is for the Environment Agency completing their investigation into responsibility for the cost of remediating the quarry. [193497]

Mr. Paul Murphy: This matter is within the devolved responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government. However, I understand the Environment Agency is still investigating who should be responsible for the cost of remediation. In doing so, it must ensure that it acts in accordance with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance. The contaminated land regime does not prescribe a timetable for completion of the investigation.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1300W, on hazardous substances: Brofiscin quarry, what the original planned date for publication of the remedial options was; and what the reason for the time taken to publish is. [197874]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Environment Agency had no original planned date for publication of its remediation option appraisal but it will place the information required by Regulation 15 and Schedule 3 of the Contaminated Land (Wales) Regulations 2001 on a public register.

The Environment Agency intends to place that information on the public register as soon as reasonably practicable after it is generated.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (HL) 2007-08

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will hold discussions with the Health Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government on the effects of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, if enacted, in Wales. [197819]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Public Health (Dawn Primarolo) has had regular discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government during the preparation and passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill and I fully expect those discussions to continue.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme: Fraud

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* amount and *(b)* number of cases of fraud in the access to work scheme in the last 12 months; and what sanctions there are against people who commit such fraud. [198255]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* The level of undetected fraud in Access to Work funding is not separately estimated.

From 1 April 2007 to 28 March 2008 Access to Work provided grants totalling £62 million to help around 40,000 people to keep or get work. In the same period 28 Access to Work cases were investigated because of potential fraudulent claims. The investigation identified a total loss of £190,573. Action taken resulted in savings of £123,605. Court proceedings were taken in three cases where fraudulent claims to Access to Work funds were identified.

Any cases of deliberate fraud will be prosecuted for theft, and courts may consider the imposition of a fine or custodial sentence as well as ordering recovery of amounts overpaid. The Department can cease to deal with an organisation if it is felt that by doing so it would eliminate an unacceptable risk to public funds.

Individuals may continue to receive support through the programme as long as they satisfy the eligibility criteria and comply with the terms under which their support was approved.

Consumer Goods: Nanotechnology

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many products containing free nanoparticles are available in the UK consumer market. [196964]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's aim is for the UK to derive maximum benefit from nanotechnologies and their products in a way that safeguards health, safety and the environment and addresses the aspirations and concerns of the public. The statement by the UK Government about nanotechnologies, announced in the written ministerial statement of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 86-7W, explains what the Government are doing to deliver these objectives.

The Government do not hold a list of products containing free nanoparticles although it has published a report on the manufacture and use of nanomaterials in the UK

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/nanotech/research/reports/index.htm#manufacture

To promote a standardised approach to labelling and ensure that products containing manufactured nanoparticles can be correctly identified, the British Standards Institute has recently published a good practice guidance document PAS 130:2007 "Guidance on the labelling of manufactured nanoparticles and products containing manufactured nanoparticles".

The Research Councils are undertaking public dialogue on nanotechnologies and the topic is likely to feature in work resulting from the recent programme of stakeholder engagement to identify the implications of new and emerging science and technology.

Government Departments and agencies are keeping under review the need for action to address regulatory gaps in the light of emerging evidence. The ministerial group on Nanotechnologies (which comprises the Ministers for Science and Innovation; the Environment; Public Health; Health and Safety; and Business and Competitiveness) will oversee the process and will also review progress on delivery of the Government's other commitments regarding nanotechnologies.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192223]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment and the Employment Service. Information on costs prior to 2002-03 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The following table details spend on advertising campaigns run by the Department in each of the last five complete financial years.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. But that also has to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

Departmental advertising costs	*£000*
2006-07[1]	
Age Partnership Group	9
Age Positive	40
Targeting benefit fraud	5,418
Reducing customer error	45
The Pension Service core benefit take up	881
Winter fuel payments	343
Child maintenance enforcement	107
Jobcentre Plus promotion to Black and Minority Ethnic audience	687
Job Done	765
Jobseeker's Allowance 50+ Pilot	83
Lone parent	171
2005-06[1]	
State pension deferral	300
Images of disability	2
Targeting benefit fraud	4,553
Pension credit	362
Winter fuel payments	918

Departmental advertising costs	£000
State second pension	675
Age Partnership group	19
National sector campaign	23
2004-05	
Age Positive	29
State pension deferral	115
Disability Discrimination Act	1,992
Targeting benefit fraud	6,017
Direct payment	8,379
Council tax benefit	674
Pension credit	4,388
Winter fuel payments	515
Lone parent leaflet promotion marketing	216
National vacancy campaign	390
IB reforms pilots	106
2003-04	
Age positive	70
Second state pension	216
Pension service awareness	906
New Deal	5,678
Disability Discrimination Act	40
Targeting benefit fraud	8,383
Direct payment	11,095
Council tax benefit	556
Pension credit	9,907
Winter fuel payments	625
Jobseekers direct	1,652
IB reforms pilot	113
Jobcentre Plus customer marketing	1,401
National employer campaign	1,158
2002-03	
Age positive	706
Future pensioners/informed choice	2,878
Second state pension	489
New Deal for Musicians	33
Disability Discrimination Act	50
Targeting benefit fraud	35
Direct payment	858
Winter fuel payments	627
Inherited serps	646

The tables do not include the following as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost:
spend by non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible;
details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing businesses;
recruitment or procurement advertising;
Jobcentre Plus publicity during 2002-03 as at that time allocations sat with individual policy teams and within regional budgets.

The information in the tables relates to media buying expenditure only, which forms the bulk of departmental publicity expenditure, but excludes direct mail, public relations, production and other costs. All figures are exclusive of VAT.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff his Department recruited in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these did not have their employment continued at the end of their probationary period in each year, broken down by reason for discontinuance. [194666]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department does not collect data in the format requested.

On 26 June 2006 DWP introduced a new probationary policy which applies to all staff. However while we do record the numbers of staff who leave, we do not record the reasons why they leave. Obtaining the data requested would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect on his Department's expenditure of using (*a*) UK Mail and (*b*) Royal Mail for its correspondence. [195685]

Mrs. McGuire: In 2007-08, it is expected that DWP will spend approximately £15 million with UK Mail to handle 60+ million items of second-class mail from our regional delivery centres. This arrangement saves the Department approximately £2 million per annum against previous provision with Royal Mail.

DWP continues to be a major user of Royal Mail's postal services, spending £37.5 million with them in 2007-08 to deliver 100+ million items.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192110]

Mrs. McGuire: The UK Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within government to carry out gender analysis, but that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

All policy needs to have been gender impact assessed if it affects the Department's customers or staff. Gender equality issues have been central to developing the Pensions Act 2007, and to the current Pension Reform Bill going through Parliament. DWP has produced and published two extensive gender impact assessments alongside this legislation which demonstrate how these pension reforms will contribute to achieving equality of outcome in state pension provision, and equality of opportunity in building up private pension rights.

Departmental Publications

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions where the "Risking It All—Targeting Benefit Thieves" newsletter has been distributed to; how it was decided where to deliver them; and what the cost was. [196931]

Mr. Plaskitt: The "Risking It All" door drop forms part of the wider Targeting Benefit Thieves campaign to reduce benefit fraud amongst DWP customers. Tackling benefit fraud is an ongoing priority for the Department—in all benefits, we currently estimate that benefit fraud costs the country a total of £0.8 billion each year.

The campaign is targeted at 50 local authority areas across England, Scotland and Wales with the highest numbers of working age benefit claimants. The newsletter was distributed in 27 of those local authority areas:

- Birmingham
- Bradford
- Brent
- Brighton and Hove
- Bristol
- Cardiff
- Coventry
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Greenwich
- Hackney
- Haringey
- Hull
- Lambeth
- Leicester
- Liverpool
- Newcastle
- Newham
- North Lanarkshire
- Nottingham
- Rhondda Cynon Taff
- Sefton
- Southwark
- Stoke on Trent
- Sunderland
- Wigan
- Wirral

The newsletter activity is part of the benefit fraud campaign and is still ongoing. Final spend figures for 2007-08 are not yet available—estimated costs for the newsletter are £235,000.

Employment: Learning Disability

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to support people with acute learning disabilities into sustainable work. [196854]

Mrs. McGuire: The specialist disability employment and advisory services help people with a range of disabilities, including those with a learning disability. Around one third of all those helped on the WORKSTEP programme of supported employment are people with a learning disability.

We work extensively with other Government Departments and agencies to secure better work outcomes for people with a learning disability. The "Getting A Life" demonstration project, which is jointly funded by this Department, the Department of Health, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and the Department for Children, Schools and Families, will be implemented in seven areas from April. The project will address the issues faced by young people with learning disabilities as they move from compulsory education to adult life. The aim is to help join up employment, education and local authority day services for people with a learning disability and smooth their transition from school, through college or training into employment or, where appropriate, other activities.

Housing Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households received housing benefit in each quarter since 1990, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [196686]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Income Support: Mortgages

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of extending the eligibility criteria to cover mortgage repayments in addition to eligible rents. [196687]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what salary each of his Department's Ministers drew *(a)* in 2006-07 and *(b)* since July 2007. [178955]

Mrs. McGuire: The information regarding the salary drawn by the Department's Ministers in 2006-07 is available in the DWP Resource Accounts published in September 2007.

Annual salaries since July 2007 are as shown in the following table.

Post and name	*Annual salary (£)*
Secretary of State	76,904
Minister of State for Pension Reform	39,893
Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform	39,893
Minister for Disabled People and Parliamentary Under Secretary (Commons)	30,280
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for the East of England[1]	30,280

Post and name	Annual salary (£)
Parliamentary Under Secretary (Commons)	30,280
Parliamentary Under Secretary (Lords)	Unpaid

[1] The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for the East of England has since moved to the Government Equalities Office.

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector open defined benefit occupational pension schemes there were in each year since 1997. [191149]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are committed to enhancing and protecting existing occupational pension provision, including good quality defined benefit schemes in both the public and private sector. The Pensions Bill includes a number of deregulation changes including the reduction in the revaluation cap on deferred pensions to 2.5 per cent. from 5 per cent. leading to average savings of £250 million a year.

The movement away from defined benefit to defined contribution schemes is well documented; the Government will continue to work with stakeholders as part of the rolling deregulatory review to encourage employers to keep existing schemes open, while balancing the needs of the employee.

Estimates of the number of public and private sector open defined benefit occupational pension schemes have only been available since 2000. This information is set out in the following table.

	Public	Private
2006	130	3,470
2005	—	6,230
2004	260	6,280
2000	250	18,350

Notes:
1. Figure for average annual savings (£250 million) is in 2007-08 prices.
2. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Occupational Pension Schemes Survey, years 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2000. Data for years 2000 to 2005 inclusive were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). Data from 2006 were produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). 2006 is the latest year published. The coverage of the survey is the UK.
3. Unlike other years, the 2005 survey, only covered private sector schemes.
4. Private sector estimates are for occupational pension schemes with one section only. These exclude schemes offering benefits on different bases to different groups of members.

Source:
Occupational Pension Schemes Survey.

Poverty: Disabled

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to tackle disability poverty. [196700]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government are committed to tackling all aspects of disability poverty and has made considerable progress. In terms of financial poverty the number of disabled individuals in households with an income below 60 per cent. of median on an after housing cost basis fell by 500,000 in Great Britain between 1998-99 and 2005-06.

The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review announced measures that would support the alleviation of disability poverty, including commitments to tackle the issues of aspirational poverty and poverty of opportunities. These include measures to narrow gaps in educational achievement, employment outcomes and to promote equality.

The Office for Disability Issues' annual report, in December 2007, published a set of measures of income poverty and material deprivation which will be used to track Government progress towards equality. These measures are based on consultation with disabled people.

Notes:
1. Data are taken from the households below average income series 2005-06.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.
3. The definition of disability used by HBAI changed in 2002-03. It is not possible to separate out definitional and real effects. For 1998-99, available data exclude Northern Ireland, therefore changes across Great Britain between 1998-99 and 2005-06 have been presented.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197499]

Mr. Timms: Since the Department for Work and Pensions was created in June 2001, no contracts have been awarded to Rackspace by the Department or its agencies.

Social Security Benefits: Spain

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 16, what information his Department holds on the benefits available to UK citizens living in Spain. [197717]

Mr. Plaskitt: UK citizens who move to live in Spain may be able to claim UK and Spanish benefits. The exact nature of the benefits they can receive depends on where they have worked, whether they meet the relevant entitlement conditions and how the benefits are covered under the European social security coordination rules.

People who move from the UK to live in Spain may continue to be covered by the UK for social security purposes, because for example they receive a UK contributory benefit. These rules cover old age, survivors, invalidity, unemployment, sickness, maternity, and family benefits. The UK is responsible for the healthcare costs of certain UK citizens, mostly pensioners, who are resident in Spain and who receive Spanish healthcare on the same basis as Spanish citizens.

There are a number of factors that determine which Spanish benefits a UK national resident in Spain can receive; including whether the benefit is covered by the coordination rules, and the entitlement conditions for

the benefits. The UK does not hold detailed information on the benefits systems of other states. However, if UK citizens had worked in Spain they could be entitled to Spanish contributory benefits.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the Government plans to enter reservations against when it ratifies the convention; [198734]

(2) what changes he plans to bring forward to UK legislation to enable the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be implemented once ratified. [198735]

Mrs. McGuire: Departments and the devolved Administrations have been scrutinising their legislation, policies, practices and procedures to check compatibility with the provisions of the convention. This phase of the work is now over and we are considering carefully the emerging findings. We will announce our conclusions as soon as practicable.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bees: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on his Department's bee health strategy. [197592]

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish his Department's strategy for bee health; and if he will make a statement. [197463]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 1 April 2008]*: DEFRA is developing a bee health strategy in conjunction with stakeholders which will set out the objectives and priorities for the bee health programme over the next 10 years and outline the roles and responsibilities of Government and the beekeeping industry. It is intended that the strategy will be published after public consultation in the summer of 2008.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to promote uptake of the bluetongue vaccination among farmers. [196436]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: The emergency bluetongue vaccination plan, developed in close collaboration with a core group of industry stakeholders, outlines how mass vaccination can be best achieved through a voluntary approach. The plan will be supported by a sustained, intensive and widespread campaign promoting the benefits of vaccination, led by the farming industry in partnership with the Government and veterinary organisations.

The campaign will include reports in farming, veterinary and national media, regional meetings and the distribution of information at livestock auction markets. Known infected premises will be targeted directly through promotional activity because experience from mainland Europe and advice from epidemiologists suggests that infected premises will be the most likely source of infection when the disease re-emerges later this year.

Carbon Emissions: International Cooperation

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken in pursuance of the statement of the UK/India summit on 21 January that long-term convergence of per capita emission rates is an important and equitable principle that should be seriously considered in the context of international climate change negotiations. [196804]

Mr. Woolas: Officials from the British high commission have had initial discussions with their counterparts in the Indian government with a view to developing collaborative work on the practical implications of this principle.

In May 2007 we published research, 'Factors Underpinning Future Action', which includes an assessment of long-term convergence of per capita emission rates. This is available on DEFRA's website.

We have also developed a model which uses existing work to explore the costs and financial flows associated with different methods of sharing out the global greenhouse gas mitigation effort, including convergence of per capita emissions. The UK described the model at a side-event at the United Nations climate change negotiations in Bali in December 2007. This is also published on the UNFCCC website. We hope to collaborate with other governments and institutions to improve the credibility and robustness of the results by exploring the implications of different data sets and other scenarios.

Cement: Pollution

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what monitoring systems are in place for assessing the levels of particles produced by cement works. [197837]

Jonathan Shaw: Operators of cement plants are required to install continuous emission monitors (CEMs) for specified key emissions including particulates. The CEMs undergo daily internal calibration checks and a mandatory independent quality assurance check in accordance with the relevant British standard. Operators provide the Environment Agency with records of each measured daily average for particulates.

Chemicals

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what circumstances the Environment Agency attributes aroclors to groups of polychlarinated biphenyl congeners. [197722]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency does not normally attribute polychlorinated biphenyl congeners to any specific manufacturer.

Climate Change

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the UK if the Wilkins Ice Shelf continues to melt at its current rate. [198234]

Mr. Woolas: The Antarctic Peninsula has experienced unprecedented warming over the last 50 years and the collapse of part of the Wilkins Ice Shelf is a further indication of climate change in this area. Several ice shelves have retreated in the past 30 years and six have collapsed completely, including the Larsen B Ice Shelf, which collapsed in 2002.

As the Wilkins Ice Shelf is already floating, the loss of this area of ice will not cause an increase in sea level. Sea level will only rise if the ice held back by the ice shelf flows more quickly into the sea. The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) are working with international colleagues to monitor the situation.

Although the loss of this piece of the Wilkins Ice Shelf is of concern, it is not expected to have any direct implications for the UK.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what analysis his Department has carried out of possible links between recent flooding incidents in the UK and global warming. [198235]

Mr. Woolas: Sir Michael Pitt's Interim Review of the summer 2007 floods considered climate change impacts and provided a definition of climate change as "the change in average conditions of the atmosphere near the earth's surface over a long period of time". Although the summer 2007 floods were extreme in their nature, it would need a more frequent series of extreme events over time to confirm that this event was wholly climate change-related.

However, there is already some evidence of an increase in more intense rainfall events, though not for any wide-ranging trend in flood peaks. The evidence for these trends featured recently in The Climate of the United Kingdom and Recent Trends' report from the from UK Climate Impacts programme and Met Office.

The UK 21st Century Climate Scenarios (UKCIP08) are due to be published in October 2008. These scenarios are expected to be the most comprehensive package of climate information ever launched in the UK and will help us to adapt to the future risks of climate change. Under our resilience and adaptation project, the Environment Agency and DEFRA will be exploring the latest work from UKCIP08, so that we can better understand and use the science to support future climate change projections, and trend analyses.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196584]

Jonathan Shaw: Information requested on the purpose and value of every consultancy assignment could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure by the core-Department with the five firms identified, for the first 10 months of financial year 2007-08, and the financial year 2006-07 is:

£

Vendor	*April 2007-January 2008*	*2006-07*
KPMG	150,557.58	934,652.07
PricewaterhouseCoopers	155,593.37	2,478,503.11
Ernst and Young	213,790.23	63,767.26
McKinsey	276,125.00	
Deloitte and Touche	48,521.63	138,269.29
Deloitte MCS	5,198,320.10	1,157,656.14

Departmental Intranet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2716W, on the departmental intranet, whether his Department's IT system is able to provide a record of Wikipedia entries *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from within his Department. [195855]

Jonathan Shaw: To collate information on who within DEFRA has accessed the Wikipedia site would incur a disproportionate cost to the Department. It would be necessary to manually sort through individual records of access to the internet. This is an extremely large amount of data which is not held online. For those who had accessed Wikipedia it would not be possible to discern whether they had created or amended an entry.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193529]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department's expenditure on overnight accommodation for civil servants in the period January to December 2007 inclusive was (i) £2,416,929 in mainland Great Britain (ii) £6,245 in Northern Ireland, (iii) £445 in the Republic of Ireland and (iv) £66,809 in other countries.

All ministerial travel, including overnight accommodation, complies with the terms of the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers". When travelling on official business Ministers make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. DEFRA's financial records for

ministerial travel do not separate out overnight accommodation and this information could be generated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196451]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on pot plants in each of the last five years. [192057]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the expenditure on pot plants for each of the last four financial years is as follows:

	£
2004-05	21,200
2005-06	17,300
2006-07	19,500
2007-08	25,400

Energy: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy that assessments of buildings systems energy performance are undertaken within the scope of the revised Energy Performance in Buildings Directive. [196191]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive sets out the general framework for the calculation of building energy performance and the assessment tools that have been developed for the UK (the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for dwellings and the Simplified Building Energy Method (SBEM) for non-dwellings) comply fully with those requirements. If a future revision of the directive amends this framework then we would aim to comply with those requirements.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the Energy-using Products Directive; and from whom. [196192]

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many representations he has received on the Energy-using Products Directive; and from whom. [196137]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has consulted extensively with industry. In addition, I have replied to 13 letters which I received on this issue. These were from individual businesses involved in the heating industry sent via their respective Members of Parliament. I have also responded to 45 parliamentary questions on this topic since January 2008.

Environment Protection: Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the (i) energy usage and (ii) environmental impact of plasma televisions compared to other types of television. [198184]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) has analysed the performances of a range of television types, including units with plasma screens. The annual energy consumption of televisions varies significantly with screen size and television type, with larger screen TVs using more energy, regardless of whether they are plasma, liquid crystal display (LCD) or cathode-ray tube (CRT).

There is no significant difference on average in the energy efficiency of the different TV technologies currently available. A 32 inch CRT, LCD or plasma screen will all consume much the same energy, around 300 kWh. However a 42 inch plasma TV (a typical size for this technology) will consume 500 kWh per year under typical usage patterns.

In the 2007 Energy White Paper, the Government announced that we will continue to work with the UK supply chain and seek commitments from manufacturers, retailers and service providers to deliver more efficient goods and services. To support this work, the Government consulted last year on our analysis of how the performance of consumer electronics products will need to improve over the next 10 to 20 years, including proposals for product standards and targets to phase out the least efficient products.

Following completion of the preparatory studies on consumer electronics: TV, the European Commission will bring forward proposals for mandatory minimum standards under the Eco-design for Energy-using Products Framework Directive (EuP) expected in 2010. The preparatory studies analyse the environmental impacts of TVs in light of the market, consumption, technologies and consumer behaviour for the European Union.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 among staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189509]

Jonathan Shaw: Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 was promoted across DEFRA through the intranet and staff restaurants.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, colum

400W, on what additional funding he is providing for the implementation of Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations beyond that allocated to the Environment Agency for flood defence work in 2008-09; [197750]

(2) how the figure of £34.5 million was decided upon as an initial provision needed to implement Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations; [197751]

(3) what budgetary provision has been made for financing the final recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt once they have been published; [197752]

(4) what steps his Department has taken to prepare to implement the final recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt in a timely manner once they have been published. [197753]

Mr. Woolas: As announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in his written ministerial statement of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 50WS, an initial provision of £34.5 million has been set aside to fund work arising from the Pitt Review. This decision was discussed at the EFRA Committee on 6 February 2008. Not all the recommendations from the review are expected to be for Government to address. The funding allocated so far will not necessarily cover all the recommendations, and is subject to further consideration. We will determine how this should be spent when we see Sir Michael's final report and the priorities it contains.

We look forward to Sir Michael's final report and recommendations. As always my Department stands ready to play its part in such actions as the Government subsequently decides.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with Natural England on opportunities for using land for water storage to prevent flooding elsewhere; and whether the single farm payment can be used for such purposes. [198106]

Mr. Woolas: In areas where flood risk needs to be managed, a range of options are always considered, including flood storage. Suggestions that farmers be paid to store flood water and other novel approaches to flood risk management can be considered within Environment Agency Catchment Flood Management Plans. Such an approach would be welcome if it secured the necessary flood management benefits.

Floods: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to improve the resilience of local authorities to surface water flooding in light of the Pitt recommendations following the floods in summer 2007. [197970]

Mr. Woolas: We are currently consulting on how to improve surface water management as part of the Government's Water Strategy, 'Future Water'. This provides a vehicle to take forward some of the key recommendations outlined in Sir Michael Pitt's interim report on the summer 2007 floods.

The consultation looks at the role of local authorities both in relation to co-ordinating the production of Surface Water Management Plans and in promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems.

Floods: Housing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of *(a)* proposed new and *(b)* existing homes in the Thames Gateway Interim plan area are within areas vulnerable to flooding. [197242]

Mr. Woolas: There are currently 130,000 homes in the defended tidal and fluvial floodplain, representing approximately 25 per cent. of the total homes within the Gateway.

The Thames Gateway Delivery Plan proposes 160,000 new homes for the Thames Gateway by 2016. The plan sets out the broad areas of development for new homes and the Environment Agency estimates that more than 50 per cent. will be in the defended tidal and fluvial floodplains.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to cut carbon dioxide emissions across Whitehall. [198541]

Mr. Woolas: On 18 March, the Government published their response to the Sustainable Development Commission's latest assessment of Sustainable Development in Government 2007. This response reports on actions taken and planned, centrally and by individual departments, to achieve the sustainable operations targets for the government estate, which include targets to reduce carbon emissions.

The central actions taken include:

making financial support available to Departments through Salix Finance, a revolving loan fund that enables departments to invest in energy efficiency capital projects;

funding the Carbon Trust to provide advice to Government departments on reducing their carbon emissions;

strengthening the Sustainable Development Commission's watchdog function and ensuring Departments report annually on progress towards the targets;

announcing in the 2008 Budget, plans to establish a "centre of expertise in sustainable procurement". The objectives of this centre, which will be overseen by a new Director General Post of Chief Sustainability officer within the Office of Government Commerce, include providing guidance and support to help departments rapidly develop the capability and capacity to deliver our commitments.

The Government's response is available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/sustainable_development.aspx

Heating: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for a system of grading heating

controls according to their energy efficiency to meet the requirements of the Energy-using Products Directive. [196190]

Joan Ruddock: The Government encourage the use of heating controls and the installation of a minimum set of controls is a requirement of our Building Regulations. Nevertheless, the current consultation paper on improving the energy performance of domestic heating and hot water systems sets out indicative targets for better use of existing heating controls and advance controls.

In discussions on the Energy-using Products Directive, the Government have asked the Commission to consider a system whereby heating installers would be provided with information on the performance of individual system components, including controls, together with an indication of the performance of these components in a system.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedures are in place to ensure that work carried out by firms under the Warm Front scheme is of a satisfactory standard. [197040]

Mr. Woolas: Prior to registration as a Warm Front installer, interested parties must meet stringent selection criteria.

Eaga also use a vendor-rating system to assess contractors against, as well as operational, financial and health and safety audits carried out twice yearly. Contractors who irreversibly fall short of these standards can be removed from the Warm Front scheme.

In addition to these processes, my Department employs independent quality assessors to perform six-monthly audits of scheme delivery to assess standards of workmanship and customer service.

Horses: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential for cases of African horse sickness to arise in England. [197998]

Jonathan Shaw: African horse sickness is included in the Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) Order 1992, to implement the slaughter requirements of EU Council Directive 92/35/EEC, which lays down control rules and measures to combat the disease. Imported horses from at-risk countries outside the EU are routinely tested for African horse sickness which minimizes any likelihood of the disease arising in the UK.

A "Strategy for the control of an outbreak of African horse sickness" is being produced by a working group under the chairmanship of the Horse Trust. DEFRA is one of the main contributors and promoters of this strategy. Working group members included representatives from the equine industry, academia, research organisations and DEFRA.

Incinerators: Pollution

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to monitor particles derived from the incineration of waste; [197833]

(2) whether his Department plans to extend the monitoring of particles produced by incineration of waste to include smaller particles. [197836]

Jonathan Shaw: Operators of incineration plants are required to install continuous emission monitors (CEMs) for specified key emissions including particulates. The CEMs undergo daily internal calibration checks and a mandatory independent quality assurance check in accordance with the relevant British Standard. Operators provide the Environment Agency with records of each measured daily average for particulates. These monitors record emissions of all particles (PM_{10}) below 10 micrometres, which include those below 2.5 micrometres ($PM_{2.5}$) as a sub-set.

Concentrations of particles in ambient air are monitored by the national Automatic Urban and Rural Network. $PM_{2.5}$ is monitored in a small number of locations around the United Kingdom, although this number is increasing substantially. Data from these locations are publicly available from the UK Air Quality Archive website.

There is no credible evidence to suggest that modern incinerators—which must comply with stringent EU emission limits—cause health effects, beyond those which could be attributed to similarly sized "conventional" combustion plant. A survey carried out in 2005 for DEFRA, and peer-reviewed by the Royal Society, endorsed this view, with the Royal Society declaring that health risks associated with incineration were "small in relation to other known risks". This view is also reflected in a supportive statement by the Health Protection Agency.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what purposes. [193891]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department made no payments to Ipsos Mori in financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Financial systems record one invoice for £1,210.80 in July 2007 charged to the exhibits and exhibitions account. Additionally, between March and July 2007, Ipsos Mori undertook a survey commissioned from the Central Office of Information (CoI) by DEFRA on the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) and its communication to schools and local authorities. The cost of this work was £53,500, paid by DEFRA to the CoI.

Local Government: Climate Change

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to assist local authorities in tackling climate change. [198540]

Mr. Woolas: The new Local Government Performance Framework for England includes an appropriate focus on climate change, with Indicators on mitigation and adaptation.

DEFRA and Communities and Local Government jointly launched a new £4 million best practice programme to provide support to local authorities to allow them to provide effective delivery against the new climate change requirements of the performance framework. Delivery bodies such as the Carbon Trust, Salix Finance and the Energy Saving Trust also offer advice, support and Government funding on reducing emissions. To support private and public sector organisations in assessing the risks and opportunities of unavoidable climate change and planning their own adaptation strategies, the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) was set up in 1997, funded by DEFRA.

We are also working to ensure that other policies relevant to local authorities—such as planning policy statements and guidance—reflect the need to address the risks and impacts of climate change.

Northern Rock: Environment Protection

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Northern Rock bank is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations. [198222]

Joan Ruddock: Northern Rock bank is not subject to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 as it does not fall under Regulation 2 (2).

Article 18 of the Northern Rock plc Transfer Order 2008 SI No. 432 deems Northern Rock not to be a publicly-owned company for the purposes of section 3(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and nor is it performing a function of public administration.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 634-37.

Recycling: Batteries

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what support is available to local authorities who want to increase levels of battery recycling; [196338]

(2) what plans he has to increase levels of battery recycling; and if he will make a statement. [196344]

Joan Ruddock: We have recently consulted on the transposition of the EU Batteries Directive. When transposed, the directive will reduce the quantity of hazardous and non hazardous waste batteries going to landfill and increase the recovery of the materials they contain. Collection targets set by the directive for portable batteries are 25 per cent. by 2012, rising to 45 per cent. by 2016. The prohibition on incinerating or landfilling industrial and automotive batteries implies a 100 per cent. collection and recycling target for these batteries. The consultation closed on 13 March.

We are in the process of analysing the responses to the consultation. We will publish a summary prior to the second consultation later this year.

Research and trials to provide evidence for the consultation and to investigate the best ways of implementing the Batteries Directive have been carried out on portable batteries. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has been working in partnership with a range of local authorities and not-for-profit organisations that already run recycling collection services to pilot portable waste battery collection trials in the UK. Trials include establishing 'drop off' points at supermarkets, as well as other methods of collection such as at the kerbside.

Supported by funding from DEFRA and the devolved administrations, the trials form part of a wider effort to develop cost-effective ways for the UK to meet the targets of the Batteries Directive. The results of the various trials will be published later this month, and these will be used to help Government and batteries producers identify the best methods of collecting batteries to meet the directive's targets.

It is important to stress the fact that under the Batteries Directive, which is a Producer Responsibility Directive, responsibility for the collection, treatment and recycling of waste batteries will lie with the producers of batteries. In order to fulfil their obligations, they may need to engage with local authorities to improve their collection network. Therefore, when the directive is enforced, local authorities wishing to increase the level of the batteries recycled will need to make contractual agreements with the compliance scheme or schemes representing producers of batteries in the UK.

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of batteries were recycled in each (*a*) local authority area and (*b*) constituency in each of the last five years. [196339]

Joan Ruddock: There has been no legislative requirement for waste household batteries to be separately collected and detailed statistics have not therefore been collected.

Sewage: Morecambe Bay

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the application (ref. 017280252) from United Utilities to vary discharge consent from Fleetwood water treatment works if accepted on the quality of bathing water standards in Morecambe Bay. [194417]

Mr. Woolas: The application for variation of the discharge consent for the Fleetwood Waste Water Treatment Works is being considered by the Environment Agency and further information is required from United Utilities. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has received a request to call in the application for his own determination. Paragraph 5 of schedule 10 to the Water Resources Act 1991 requires my right hon. Friend to consider whether or not to call it in, and he will do so once he is satisfied that he has sufficient information. This will include any potential impact on bathing water standards in Morecambe Bay. My right hon. Friend is currently waiting for the Environment Agency and United Utilities to complete their assessments before proceeding with this case.

Solar Power

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many solar energy panels there were in the UK in 2003; and how many panels there were at the most recent date for which figures are available. [197469]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not hold information on the number of PV solar panels installed in the UK, as data on installations is usually collected in terms of installed capacity. The total PV solar installed capacity for 2003 was 5.9 MW. Installed capacity for 2008 is not yet available but based on an extrapolation from the installed capacity of 14.3 MW in 2006, it is estimated to be in the region of 19 MW.

More information is available on the International Energy Agency website at:

www.iea-pvpsuk.org.uk

The Department does not hold the information on the amount of solar heating technology installed in the UK. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Bereavement Counselling

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he will take into account *(a)* commitments made in the Department of Health's Action Plan in response to the National Audit of Epilepsy Related Death 2003 and *(b)* the recommended good practice of support to the suddenly bereaved in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline on the Epilepsies 2004 in providing a revised version of the Charter for the Bereaved. [198763]

Bridget Prentice: The draft Charter for Bereaved People for a reformed coroner system takes account of relevant Government commitments and the many helpful and constructive comments made in response to previous consultations. The draft charter describes the services the bereaved can expect to receive from the coroners' service, and contains guidance on how the availability of support and bereavement services should be brought to their attention. I will be issuing the draft charter for further consultation in the early summer.

The charter is an important way to ensure minimum national standards of service to bereaved families throughout England and Wales. The charter also expects coroners for a particular area to provide information to families on the main local voluntary groups which they are aware of, including those groups which offer support to those who have been bereaved as a result of sudden death in epilepsy or through other particular causes.

Courts: Security

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what security measures courts are required to put in place to deal with instances of disorder in the courtroom. [197044]

Maria Eagle: The security policy document of Her Majesty's Courts Service, 'Safe and Secure' contains detailed guidance on measures for courts to put in place to deal with disorder. It has been recently revised to include a range of specific scenarios setting out the kinds of disorder which might occur and the appropriate security reactions to them.

'Safe and Secure' is a restricted document and it is not available for general publication to preserve the confidentiality and effectiveness of our security response.

Criminal Proceedings: Retail Trade

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research to establish how many people are awaiting trial under weights and measures legislation for using imperial weights and measures. [197395]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

I have no plans to commission such research.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [197587]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was established on 9 May 2007. Information for the last 12 months is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Details of consultancy firms used by my Department in the period from April 2007 until September 2007 are provided in the following schedule.

Service Provider	*Brief service description*	*Expenditure April to September 2006-07 (£)*
2020 Delivery	12 weeks RDS help to increase capacity for statistical analysis and modelling	83,000
Mike Lock	Review IT system for collating management information for Parole Board	2,000
Alexander and Partners	Facilitated forums and groups discussing Witness Protection	15,000
Alexander and Partners	Facilitated forums and groups discussing Witness Protection	3,000
Alexander Cameron	Interview Programme for HR Senior Management Team	6,500
Alexander Cameron	Pay and Grading Project	600
Aon	Insurance Advice for new DCMF prisons	1,300
Atkins Asset Management	Framework Audit Commissions—Internal Audit.	54,544
Atkins Ltd	Pay and Grading Project	97,758
Ben Crowe	Citizenship insight Project and production of Family Justice Insight Paper	8,400
Bird and Bird	Caseflow—Case Management Legal Advice	66,000

Service Provider	Brief service description	Expenditure April to September 2006-07 £
BIT Critical	Caseflow Consultancy	35,000
BMG Research	Socio-legal research	3,955
Bovis Lend Lease	Provide scoping paper for taking forward refurbishment project on Giwydyr House	4,700
Bridley Consulting	Review of Judicial Training Administration	7,943
Centre for Public Innovation	CPI to produce a Strategic Mapping event for the ROM for SE England	12,750
CESG	Vulnerability analysis (IT Health Check) of a new IT system within the NOMS Directorate for the handling of UK Restricted data	6,816
CMAS - June Shurmer	Chartermark Consultation	300
CMG Logica	Management Information and Database Expertise	110,948
COI Communications	Pay and Grading Project	52,146
Collinson Grant Ltd	London Probation Service Review of Operations	189,050
David Mooney	Review of Judicial Appointments Procedures	4,800
Delia Coonan	Support on designing e-learning	1,174
Development Planning Partnership	Planning reports on existing estate and specific planning advice	65,329
Digits Industries Ltd	Consultancy connected with development of Computer-Based Training	1,761
Digits Industries Ltd	Consultancy connected with development of Computer Based Training	411
Drivers Jonas	Asset Management	27,749
Eclipse	Development of software to predict re-offending	10,000
Effortmark	Forms consultancy - providing expert advice on the revision of forms and user testing	2,820
Ernst and Young	Prison Performance Framework - Analyst	253,500
Ernst and Young	Workshop	17,500
Ernst and Young	Review of best practice for performance and capability assessment methodologies for IPPI and the selection of the first wave of Probation Trusts	35,000
Ernst and Young	Workshop consultancy	19,000
Ernst and Young	Initial assessment of strategic options	15,000
Exeter University	Report on influencing debtor behaviour in support of the HMCS PAN pilot	60,000
First Assist	Investigation Advice	2,322
Capgemini	Benefits realisation CJS IT development and application of best practice tools	171,000
Capgemini	Facilitated forums and groups discussing Witness Protection	6,300
GVA Grimleys	Challenging Rating Assessments	47,496
Hartley	Provided OR Analyst support for the CJS Modelling work to support CSR 07	12,000
Hazel Genn	Qualities and Abilities Framework	3,600
Heath Lambert	Risk assessment project for Probation Trusts	4,020
Hedra	Consultant to produce a business case for Re Connect Project	40,000
Hensby Communications	Press and PR handling of Annual Report	1,125
Higham Dunnett Shaw	Consultancy and upgrade of Judicial Pensions Database	3,525

Service Provider	Brief service description	Expenditure April to September 2006-07 £
HMSC Birmingham University	Updating Prison Website	7,400
Impact Plus	Review of the Probation Change Programme	20,000
Institute of Employment Studies	Independent review of the Job Simulation Assessment Centre (JSAC) with the Management Selection Unit (MSSU) in Wakefield	45,300
IPSOS MORI	Health and social care survey (research consultancy)	12,014
IPSOS MORI	Customer satisfaction survey (research consultancy)	8,270
Jo O Driscoll	Project Management of Annual Report	4,200
John Garnett	Specialist advice on claims issues	24,415
June Shurmer	Chartermark Consultancy	175
K M Research and Consultancy Ltd	Socio-legal research	8,343
KPMG	Policy Consultancy	49,500
KPMG	Development of an implementation snapshot document	49,000
KPMG	Work on the Change Strategy Review	44,800
KPMG	Report on the nature and type of regulatory frameworks	21,800
KPMG	Provision of management review and assessment for Communications Directorate	14,317
KPMG	Pensions/Appointments Law Commissioners	10,454
Law Absolute	Lawyer for Court Rules project supplementing in house legal	11,135
Leapting Public Relations	PR and communications - increase awareness of community justice in north Liverpool and increased confidence in CJS	13,500
London Economics	Research and analysis which formed part of our Consultation Paper on insurance contract law	7,450
M Bolcat Consulting	Advice on setting up and implementing Claims Management Regulation	10,800
Manchester University	Prison Health Research Network with the Mental Health in Reach Unit	260,000
Matrix	Evaluation of Dedicated Drugs Courts	50,000
Matrix	Socio-legal research	16,729
MBSM	Consultancy - interaction with police forces and systems	15,071
Melva Burton	Consultant	15,000
Mersey Care NHS Trust	Segregation Project with the Department of Health	21,860
Mitchelmores Solicitors	Legal advice on property matters and resolution of CLPHD Property Transfer Issues	659,525
Modis International Ltd	Development of computerised Case Management system	49,078
Morgan Hunt	Consultancy work to review the programme and project management reporting structures	7,191
Mott MacDonald with support from PwC	Business Process Re-engineering (Courts) Project	153,000
Nicholson McBride	Executive Coaching	18,345
Nick Sanderson	Investigation into holding of prisoners in court cells	9,555
Office of Government Commerce	Consultancy—advice for the Supreme Court Project	29,884

Service Provider	Brief service description	Expenditure April to September 2006-07 (£)
Office of Government Commerce	Review of C-NOMIS	24,913
Oliver Wyman	Carter Review	225,000
Oracle	Phoenix Sales and Investment Project	377,780
PA Consulting	Analysis of public perception of the CJS in order for the issue to be better covered in the 2008 CJS Strategic Plan. Facilitated a seminar on the issue	6,775
PA Consulting	Divisional Consultancy	99,000
PA Consulting	Courts Act - Post implementation Review	74,629
PA Consulting	Facilitated forums and groups discussing Witness Protection	10,500
PA Consulting	Cost benefit of rolling out the Re-Connect prisoner resettlement scheme nationally	5,340
Pates	Developed a Mental Health Effective Practice Audit Checklist	1,500
Pattis	Facilitated forums and groups discussing Witness Protection	10,000
Partnerships UK	Procurement advice for DCMI Persons	158,550
Pat Johnstone	Facilitated forums and groups discussing Witness Protection	6,400
Paul Reynolds Associates Ltd. Metis Psychological Consultants. Mirtad Solutions	Optimising potential with the Leadership and Talent Development	20,400
Petna Interim Executive	Executive coaching	9,957
Portchester Macro Tools Ltd	Evaluation plan for accredited offending behaviour programmes	28,200
PRMSTA	Executive Coaching	5,640
Price Waterhouse Cooper	Support to the finance team on all matters relating to the MoJ Finance Transition Project	120,000
Price Waterhouse Cooper	Carter Review	52,000
Price Waterhouse Cooper	Draw together existing analysis	24,675
Price Waterhouse Cooper	Diversity and Community relations consultancy	6,000
Prof Richard Lamming	Consultancy for preparation of a second seminar/workshop relating to the innovation and relationship management for a senior NOMS commissioning audience	5,000
QI	Provided support to the development of the cross CJS CSR Efficiency Plan	156,801
Richard Bailey Esq	Advice and operational/logistics management of Inquest	9,700
RM and BR Merkin	Research and analysis on insurance contract law	500
Robert Walters	Programme content design - future leaders scheme	11,797
Roy Walmsley	International Prison Population Statistics	6,315
Russell Reynolds Associates	Delivery of project support office for MoJ Change Project	52,485
Samantha Jones	Consultant to review, oversee and provide periodic updates	1,750
Sarah Cooke Ltd	Advice on human rights issue	11,500
Security and Standard Consultancy	Provision of quality assurance and technical support services of the electoral modernisation programme	109,366
Siemens Enterprise Commun	Pay and Grading Project	1,100
SJT Associates	Internal Estates Benchmarking System for Property	20,608
Snap Survey Shop	National Staff Survey with the HR Planning Team	13,300
STC Energy Management	Expert support on our energy monitoring system. Gathering and verification of half hourly data from our electricity supplier	20,328
Stephanie Grundy	Lawyer for Court Rules project, supplementing in house legal provision	12,371
Stopgap	Lawyer for Court Rules project, supplementing in house legal provision	11,467
Stopgap	Lawyer for Court Rules project, supplementing in house legal provision	17,371
The Rialto Consultancy Ltd	Consultancy Services	9,915
The Whitehall and Industry Group	Fees for the recruitment, placement and registration of two Non-Executive Directors to the ISB Executive Board	11,400
The Whitehall and Industry Group	Recruitment consultancy for non-executive member of Legal Services Reform Programme	2,350
Tower Perrin	Pay and Grading Project	103,971
Tower Perrin	Pay and Grading Project	36,909
Tower Perrin	Pay and Grading Project	2,400
Tribal	Supported the development an appraisal process to assist OCJR to better assess the projects within its portfolio	33,580
Tribal Consortium	Risk Management	27,454
Tribal Consortium	Skills Learning Training Materials for unpaid work supervisors	14,700
Turner and Townsend	Facilities Management Strategy Review	35,052
University of Portsmouth	Development of a redesigned qualifications framework	100,000
Vice Versa Projects	To run a Consensus Methodology	15,000
Vice Versa Projects	Consensus Methodology facilitator	10,000
Ville and Co	Executive coaching	1,144
Wheelers (Southampton)	Framework Audit Commissions IAD Requirement	86,278
Willis Ltd	Insurance consultancy services for the Supreme Court	8,402
Winstone	Developed a Mental Health Effective Practice Audit Checklist	2,500
Wrigglesworth Consultancy Ltd	Publicity services	3,187
		5,540,117

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196454]

Bridget Prentice: The breakdown of temporary civil servants along with permanent employees has been published as part of the Office for National Statistics Quarterly Public Sector Employment statistics as at 31 December 2007 for Ministry of Justice and it's agencies. A copy of this table is outlined as follows.

Ministry of Justice

	Number
Gender	
Male	
Full-time	970
Part-time	80
Total	1,050
Female	
Full-time	1,130
Part-time	220
Total	1,350
Headcount	
Total	2,400

Statistics on the number of contractors and agency staff employed by Departments are not published. The Civil Service Statistics represent those employees paid directly from the Department's payroll. Any contractors employed via agencies, and not paid directly by the Department's payroll are not included.

Information relating to workers employed through employment agencies and hourly rates of pay for all staff in the Ministry of Justice and its agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Drug Industry: Disclosure of Information

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pharmaceutical companies have been prosecuted for withholding information regarding their products since 1992. [196407]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) records show no prosecutions of this kind since 1992.

As a result of the recent investigation into GSK (the subject of a written ministerial statement on 6 March 2008), the MHRA plans further stringent regulations to place obligations on companies report safety issues timeously.

Firearms Act 1968: Convictions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1924-26W, on the Firearms Act 1968: convictions, what proportion of those convicted of offences under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 of *(a)* all ages and *(b)* aged 18 and over were sentenced to immediate custody in each year from 1997 to 2005. [191898]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows what proportion of those convicted of offences under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 of *(a)* all ages and *(b)* aged 18 and over, were sentenced to immediate custody in each year from 1997 to 2005.

The Courts Proceedings Database records five offences under section 5 of the Act. For two of the offences there is a mandatory minimum penalty:

'possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition' under section 5(1) (a), (b), (aba), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af) or (c) of the Firearms Act 1968, as amended by section 288 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

'possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object' under section 5(1A)(a) of the Firearms Act 1968, also as amended by section 288 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

The mandatory minimum is five years for those aged 18 and over, and three years for those aged 16-17. The mandatory minimum came into affect in January 2004, and does not apply to those persons who committed offences before this date. The maximum penalty for these offences is 10 years.

The following figures are taken from the Ministry of Justice (formerly Home Office) Court Proceedings Database and relate to sentences imposed (including life and indeterminate sentences) and the average sentence length of immediate custody (excluding life and indeterminate sentences) for those sentenced for such offences where the principal offence is the one for which they were found guilty. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. Where a person is convicted on the same occasion of a firearms offences, and one such as homicide, conspiracy, robbery or GBH with intent (218 of OPA 1861) where the maximum is higher, the data in respect of the firearms offence will not have been included in the following table.

The Lord Chief Justice and I have concerns about the quality of the data relating to mandatory minima. An earlier project was undertaken that looked at cases reported to the Court Proceedings Database during the first six months of 2006 where the mandatory sentence was not given to persons aged 18 and over. These cases were checked with the Crown courts concerned. Of 65 cases, 12 were found to have the offence incorrectly classified (although two were still subject to the five-year sentence). A further case had the custody duration recorded as five months instead of five years. Some 17 per cent. of Crown court cases checked, therefore, had the wrong offence classification. The majority correctly reflect the offence and court outcome although in few cases were the courts able to say whether exceptional circumstances, as allowed for in the Criminal Justice Act, had been the reason for the five-year sentence not being imposed. Among reasons quoted were 'gun incapable of being fired', 'defendant clinically depressed', 'technical breach only' and 'defendant too young for imprisonment'.

The Ministry of Justice is now looking to see if the situation has improved by looking at data from the first six months of 2007.

Offenders sentenced[1] under section 5 of the Firearms Act (1968)

	Section 5 of the Firearms Act (1968)		
	Sentenced (Number)	Immediate custody (Number)	Proportion (Percentage)
All ages			
1997	785	107	14
1998	1,040	171	16
1999	813	138	17
2000	738	143	19

Offenders sentenced[1] under section 5 of the Firearms Act (1968)

	Section 5 of the Firearms Act (1968)		
	Sentenced (Number)	*Immediate custody (Number)*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
2001	745	131	18
2002	789	176	22
2003	903	216	24
2004	1,055	283	27
2005	1,115	318	29
Age 18 and over			
1997	744	103	14
1998	995	169	17
1999	764	136	18
2000	694	139	20
2001	677	129	19
2002	718	166	23
2003	834	206	25
2004	975	270	28
2005	1,031	306	30

[1] Principal offence basis.

Offences under section 5 are:

Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition;

Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.;

Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object; and

Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1924W, on Firearms Act 1968: convictions, how many people over the age of 18 years were convicted under Section 1 of the Firearms Act 1968 in each of the last 12 months; and what proportion of those were sentenced to immediate custody. [196567]

Mr. Straw: The information requested on convictions and sentences under section 1 of the Firearms Act 1968 is provided in the table.

The mandatory minimum for firearms offences does not apply to offences under section 1 of the Act.

The figures in the table are taken from the Ministry of Justice (formerly Home Office) Court Proceedings Database and relate to sentences imposed (including life and indeterminate sentences) and the average sentence length of immediate custody (excluding life and indeterminate sentences) for those sentenced for such offences where the principal offence is the one for which they were found guilty. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. Where a person is convicted on the same occasion of a firearms offences, and one such as homicide, conspiracy, robbery or GBH with intent (218 of OPA 1861) where the maximum is higher, the data in respect of the firearms offence will not have been included in the following table.

Number of defendants aged 18 and over found guilty at all courts, sentenced and sentenced to immediate custody for offences under section 1 of the Firearms Act 1968, by month, England and Wales 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Found guilty[3]	*Sentenced[3]*	*Of those sentenced, Percentage sentenced to immediate custody*
January	17	18	50
February	14	15	53
March	21	22	23
April	23	19	42
May	15	17	18
June	17	16	25
July	22	23	26
August	12	12	33
September	11	11	18
October	19	16	25
November	29	28	36
December	19	14	29
Total	219	211	32

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Section 1 of the Firearms act 1968 covers offences of Non-compliance with conditions of a firearm certificate and possessing a firearm or ammunition without a firearm certificate.

[3] The number found guilty may differ from the number sentenced due to the inclusion of people found guilty in a magistrates court but sentenced in the Crown court. For such people, magistrates courts records were used to determine the numbers found guilty and Crown court records were used to determine the numbers sentenced. Hence the dates of the two events would differ.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

court proceedings database Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Firearms: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 received the mandatory sentence established by the Act in each of the last four years, broken down by age group; and what the average length of sentence of those convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 was in each of the last four years. [197743]

Mr. Straw: The table shows the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody of possession of an illegal firearm eligible for the mandatory minimum, and the proportion that received the mandatory minimum.

The mandatory minimum only applies to two offences;

'possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition' under s. 5(1) (a), (b), (aba), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af) or (c) of the

Firearms Act 1968, as amended by s. 288 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

'possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object' under s. 5(1A)(a) of the Firearms Act 1968; also as amended by s. 288 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

The mandatory minimum is five years for those aged 18 and over, and three years for those aged 16-17. The mandatory minimum came into affect in January 2004, and does not apply to those persons who committed offences before this date. The maximum penalty for these offences is 10 years.

The figures in the table are taken from the Ministry of Justice (formerly Home Office) Court Proceedings Database and relate to sentences imposed (including life and indeterminate sentences) and the average sentence length of immediate custody (excluding life and indeterminate sentences) for those sentenced for such offences where the principal offence is the one for which they were found guilty. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe. Where a person is convicted on the same occasion of one of these two firearms offences, and one such as homicide, conspiracy, robbery or GBH with intent (s18 of OAPA 1861) where the maximum is higher, the data in respect of the firearms offence will not have been included in the table.

Courts are required to impose the minimum sentence unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the offence or to the offender which justify not doing so. The purpose of the minimum sentence is to tackle gun crime and gun culture. It is not aimed at purely technical offences. Exceptional circumstances might therefore include where the holder of a firearms certificate inadvertently forgets to renew his authority or where a war trophy is discovered among a deceased person's effects.

The Lord Chief Justice and I have concerns about the quality of this data and that relating to knife crime. An earlier project was undertaken that looked at cases reported to the Court Proceedings Database during the first 6 months of 2006 where the mandatory sentence was not given to persons aged 18 and over. These cases were checked with the Crown courts concerned. Of 65 cases, 12 were found to have the offence incorrectly classified (although two were still subject to the 5-year sentence). A further case had the custody duration recorded as five months instead of five years. Some 17 per cent. of Crown court cases checked therefore had the wrong offence classification. The majority correctly reflect the offence and court outcome although in few cases were the courts able to say whether exceptional circumstances, as allowed for in the Criminal Justice Act, had been the reason for the five year sentence not being imposed. Among reasons quoted were 'gun incapable of being fired', 'defendant clinically depressed', 'technical breach only' and 'defendant too young for imprisonment'.

The Ministry of Justice is now looking to see if the situation has improved by looking at data from the first six months of 2007.

Persons[1] sentenced for firearms possession offences[2] involving mandatory custodial sentences, England and Wales

Age group	Total persons sentenced	Persons given immediate custody	Of which 5 years or over[3] Number	Percentage of total sentenced	Average custodial sentence length (months)
2004[4]					
16-17	49	10	5	10.2	25.0
18-20	122	35	13	10.7	39.5
21 +	565	206	63	11.2	35.3
Total	736	251	81	11.0	35.3
2005					
16-17	32	9	4	12.5	26.0
18-20	59	34	18	30.5	45.5
21 +	294	199	124	42.2	48.6
Total	385	242	146	37.9	47.3
2006					
16-17	15	8	5	33.3	29.8
18-20	46	31	10	21.7	43.6
21 +	220	173	126	57.3	54.0
Total	281	212	141	50.2	51.6

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition or firearm disguised as other object.
Firearms Act 1968 sections 5(1)(a), (ab), (aba), (ac), (ad), (ae), (af) or (c) and section 5(1A)(a) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 section 287.
[3] Three years in the case of persons aged 16-17.
[4] Many of the persons dealt with in 2004 will have committed their offences prior to the mandatory sentence being introduced in January 2004.

Note
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice
27 March 2008
PQ(RN)139-08

Law Centres

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community law centres there are; and how many closed in each of the last 10 years. [196791]

Maria Eagle: In 2000-01, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) contracted with 53 law centres and currently contracts with a total of 60 law centres. Contracted spend on law centres has increased from £6.7 million in 2000-01 to £11.6 million in 2006-07.

The LSC does not have figures for law centres other than those it contracts with.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community law centres have given notice to his Department and the Legal Services Commission of an inability to continue *(a)* to operate and *(b)* to operate at current levels of service provision as a consequence of restricted funding; what response he has made to such notifications; and what steps he

is taking to secure continued service provision to individual users of those community law centres which have given notice of an intention to close. [196790]

Maria Eagle: There is no expectation that any law centre will close because of Legal Services Commission (LSC) changes to the fee schemes. Out of the 60 law centres to which the LSC provides funding, four have indicated that they may cease to operate. These four providers have been affected by the withdrawal of non-LSC funding. Funding to law centres from the LSC has increased significantly over the last seven years from £6.7 million in 2000-01 to £11.6 million in 2006-07. It is not the only source of funding to Law Centres and the continuity of their operations depends on securing a range of flinders as well as on the general management of their business.

The LSC has introduced transitional provisions to minimise any short term impact from the new fee arrangements while law centres and other not for profit providers adapt to and take the opportunities provided by these arrangements. It is also working with local authorities and other funders to develop arrangements for community legal advice that will provide greater stability in total funding.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent through the Legal Services Commission on community law centres in each of the last 10 years. [196792]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) came into being April 2000 and figures are available from this period onwards. The Legal Aid Board provided funding to Law Centres prior to the creation of the LSC, however, data on this cannot be obtained except at disproportionate cost.

The LSC's total spend (help and representation) on Law Centres from 2000-01 to 2007-08 is detailed in the following table. The table also shows the LSC's legal help spend on not for profit organisations overall in the same period.

£ million

Financial year	*LSC funding to law centres*	*Total LSC NfP funding for sector (legal help only)*
2000-01	6.7	24.4
2001-02	8.4	39.8
2002-03	9.4	47.7
2003-04	10.6	51.1
2004-05	11.0	72.4
2005-06	12.0	76.7
2006-07	11.6	79.7
2007-08	[1]11.5	[1]87.2

[1] Figure to date—final figure calculated after the year end and not currently available.

National Offender Management Service: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* cost reductions and *(b)* efficiency gains have been achieved by the National Offender Management Service since its inception. [196145]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service was established in 2004. The cashable and non cashable efficiency savings achieved since April 2004 under the NOMS Value for Money Programme (comprising the Prison Service, Probation Service, Youth Justice Board and NOMS HQ) are as follows:

£ million

	Cashable savings (cumulative)	*Non cashable savings (cumulative)*
2004-05	66.37	72.069
2005-06	157.692	133.183
2006-07	182.912	205.656
2007-08	237.976	276.692

The savings for 2007-08 are provisional.

Prisoners

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* other prison staff to prisoners was in each (i) contracted-out and (ii) public prison in each of the last five years. [188346]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is in the following tables.

Public Sector Prisons

Information on the ratio of prisoners to each officer and prisoners to other staff for each public sector Prison Service establishment in each of the last five years is contained in the following tables. The ratios given are a snapshot at the end of each March and the latest available date.

Ratio of prisoners to each officer[1] in public sector establishments

	As at 31 March each year				
Establishment	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Acklington	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.5
Albany	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.5
Ashwell	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.1
Askham Grange	4.2	2.6	4.2	3.8	3.4
Aylesbury	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4
Bedford	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.3
Belmarsh	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Birmingham	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.8
Blakenhurst	4.0	3.6	4.1	4.2	4.2
Blantyre House	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.3
Blundeston	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.1
Brinsford	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9
Bristol	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.7
Brixton	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.7
Brockhill	1.5	1.2	1.3	2.2	2.3
Buckley Hall	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.5	3.5
Bullingdon	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.9	3.9
Bullwood Hall	1.9	1.9	1.9	[2]2.1	2.3
Camp Hill	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
Canterbury	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7
Cardiff	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.0
Castington	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.7
Channings Wood	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0
Chelmsford	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.0
Coldingley	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1

Ratio of prisoners to each officer[1] in public sector establishments

Establishment	As at 31 March each year				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cookham Wood	2.1	2.7	1.9	1.9	0.0
Dartmoor	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.6
Deerbolt	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.4
Dorchester	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0
Dover	2.6	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.5
Downview	2.0	1.7	2.5	2.7	2.9
Drake Hall	3.3	3.2	2.6	3.0	3.4
Durham	1.7	2.0	2.6	3.0	2.8
East Sutton Park	3.9	3.6	4.3	4.3	4.4
Eastwood Park	2.4	2.7	2.1	2.4	2.1
Edmunds Hill	2.2	1.3	2.8	2.8	2.7
Elmley	4.0	3.8	3.7	[3]	[3]
Erlestoke	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.2
Everthorpe	3.7	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.8
Exeter	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.5
Featherstone	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.3
Feltham	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4
Ford	8.7	8.1	8.4	7.1	8.1
Foston Hall	2.2	1.8	2.2	1.5	1.8
Frankland	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Full Sutton	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Garth	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.1	2.6
Gartree	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.7	2.8
Glen Parva	3.1	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.1
Gloucester	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.4
Grendon	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5
Guys Marsh	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.2
Haslar	2.4	2.7	3.0	2.2	2.5
Haverigg	4.4	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.1
Hewell Grange	5.2	5.7	5.1	6.2	5.4
High Down	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.8
Highpoint	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2
Hindley	2.0	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.2
Hollesley Bay	6.9	6.0	4.9	5.7	5.8
Holloway	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.8
Holme House	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.0
Hull	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.1
Huntercombe	2.3	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3
Kennet	[3]	[3]	[3]	0.0	2.2
Kingston	1.9	2.0	2.7	2.6	2.6
Kirkham	5.6	5.0	4.4	5.3	4.8
Kirklevington Grange	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.8
Lancaster	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.0
Lancaster Farms	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0
Latchmere House	5.2	6.4	4.7	6.1	5.8
Leeds	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6
Leicester	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.5
Lewes	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.0
Leyhill	7.5	7.0	4.6	5.6	5.1
Lincoln	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.4	3.2
Lindholme	3.4	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.3
Littlehey	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.4
Liverpool	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.3
Long Lartin	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
Low Newton	2.2	1.6	1.5	1.6	2.0
Maidstone	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.1
Manchester	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.4
Moorland	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3
Morton Hall	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	3.2
New Hall	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.8
North Sea Camp	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.9	4.9
Northallerton	3.4	2.6	3.8	3.8	3.6
Norwich	3.1	3.3	3.2	2.8	2.6
Nottingham	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.5
Onley	1.8	2.6	3.1	3.3	3.2
Parkhurst	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.7
Pentonville	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.1
Portland	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.9	2.6
Preston	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.7
Ranby	3.1	3.5	3.6	4.1	3.7
Reading	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.3	2.1
Risley	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.7
Rochester	2.1	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.2
Send	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.6
Sheppey Cluster	[2]	[2]	[2]	3.5	0.0
Shepton Mallet	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.9
Shrewsbury	3.2	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.9
Stafford	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.8
Standford Hill	4.7	5.2	5.7	[3]	[3]
Stocken	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.1
Stoke Heath	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.2
Styal	2.4	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.2
Sudbury	8.0	8.0	8.6	7.5	8.2
Swaleside	3.1	3.0	3.1	[3]	[3]
Swansea	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.7
Swinfen Hall	2.2	2.2	3.0	2.9	2.9
The Mount	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.3
The Verne	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.1	5.0
Thorn Cross	2.3	2.5	2.0	1.9	1.8
Usk/Prescoed	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6
Wakefield	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.7
Wandsworth	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.7
Warren Hill	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5
Wayland	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	3.4
Wealstun	3.0	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9
Weare	3.3	3.5	[4]	[4]	[4]
Wellingborough	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.7	3.6
Werrington	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.3
Wetherby	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9
Whatton	3.9	3.5	2.6	3.7	3.7
Whitemoor	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
Winchester	2.7	3.1	3.3	2.6	2.9
Woodhill	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9
Wormwood Scrubs	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9
Wymott	3.5	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.8

[1] Includes prison officers, senior officers and principal officers.
[2] Clustered.
[3] Not open.
[4] Closed.

Ratio of Prisoners to each non-officer member of staff in public sector establishments

Establishment	As at 31 March each year				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Acklington	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.0	3.9
Albany	3.0	3.3	2.8	3.0	2.6

Ratio of Prisoners to each non-officer member of staff in public sector establishments

Establishment	As at 31 March each year				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Ashwell	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.9
Askham Grange	2.5	1.5	2.0	1.8	1.9
Aylesbury	2.1	2.4	2.8	2.9	3.0
Bedford	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.3
Belmarsh	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.1
Birmingham	4.8	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.0
Blakenhurst	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.3	5.2
Blantyre House	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6
Blundeston	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.3
Brinsford	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.5
Bristol	2.6	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.6
Brixton	4.9	4.4	4.9	4.8	5.0
Brockhill	1.3	1.1	1.6	2.1	2.1
Buckley Hall	2.3	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.1
Bullingdon	5.1	4.3	4.5	4.0	3.8
Bullwood Hall	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.0
Camp Hill	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.2
Canterbury	3.7	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.9
Cardiff	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.5	4.0
Castington	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.4
Channings Wood	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5	3.4
Chelmsford	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.5
Coldingley	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5	2.9
Cookham Wood	2.6	2.5	3.0	3.0	0.0
Dartmoor	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.4	3.3
Deerbolt	2.8	2.9	2.4	2.2	2.5
Dorchester	2.5	2.8	3.1	2.6	2.2
Dover	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.2
Downview	2.0	2.3	3.3	3.3	3.4
Drake Hall	2.6	2.7	2.3	2.8	3.3
Durham	2.2	2.3	3.4	3.8	3.3
East Sutton Park	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.2
Eastwood Park	2.6	2.7	2.2	2.3	2.2
Edmunds Hill	2.5	1.4	2.9	3.1	3.3
Elmley	4.8	4.9	4.7	—	—
Erlestoke	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.3
Everthorpe	3.7	2.8	3.4	3.8	4.2
Exeter	3.6	3.4	2.9	3.1	3.0
Featherstone	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.4
Feltham	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.5
Ford	4.5	3.9	4.2	3.7	4.1
Foston Hall	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.7
Frankland	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9
Full Sutton	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.8
Garth	3.3	3.3	2.8	2.7	2.9
Gartree	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.5
Glen Parva	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.5	3.3
Gloucester	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.2	3.3
Grendon	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1
Guys Marsh	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.7	3.6
Haslar	2.1	2.5	2.7	2.1	2.3
Haverigg	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.8
Hewell Grange	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.6	2.4
High Down	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.8
Highpoint	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.5

Ratio of Prisoners to each non-officer member of staff in public sector establishments

Establishment	As at 31 March each year				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Hindley	2.6	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.4
Hollesley Bay	6.1	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.4
Holloway	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.9
Holme House	4.1	4.5	4.7	5.5	4.9
Hull	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.4	5.3
Huntercombe	2.6	2.7	2.4	3.0	2.6
Kennet	—	—	—	0.0	2.0
Kingston	1.7	1.8	2.6	2.8	2.5
Kirkham	3.1	2.9	2.6	3.3	2.9
Kirklevington Grange	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.2
Lancaster	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.4	1.6
Lancaster Farms	2.5	2.7	3.3	3.3	2.9
Latchmere House	5.0	5.3	3.9	4.8	4.5
Leeds	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.3	4.7
Leicester	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.4	3.2
Lewes	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.7	3.6
Leyhill	3.2	3.1	2.1	2.7	2.5
Lincoln	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.7	3.7
Lindholme	2.5	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.3
Littlehey	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2
Liverpool	5.5	5.1	4.5	5.2	5.4
Long Lartin	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.3
Low Newton	2.3	1.9	1.6	1.8	2.2
Maidstone	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.0
Manchester	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6
Moorland	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.6
Morton Hall	3.3	2.8	2.5	2.7	3.1
New Hall	2.1	1.7	1.6	2.0	2.3
North Sea Camp	3.3	3.4	2.4	2.9	2.7
Northallerton	2.9	2.1	2.6	2.7	3.1
Norwich	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.3	2.7
Nottingham	2.8	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.7
Onley	1.8	2.4	2.6	2.7	2.8
Parkhurst	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.6
Pentonville	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5
Portland	2.6	2.2	2.4	3.2	2.7
Preston	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.6	3.5
Ranby	3.2	3.3	3.8	4.0	3.6
Reading	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.3	2.2
Risley	4.3	4.7	5.1	5.1	4.9
Rochester	2.1	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.4
Send	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.7	2.7
Sheppey Cluster	—	—	—	18.0	0.0
Shepton Mallet	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.2
Shrewsbury	3.3	2.5	3.4	3.4	3.0
Stafford	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.2
Standford Hill	2.8	2.7	2.7	—	—
Stocken	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.5	3.5
Stoke Heath	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	2.6
Styal	2.6	1.9	2.4	2.3	3.0
Sudbury	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.5	3.8
Swaleside	4.7	4.8	4.8	—	—
Swansea	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.4
Swinfen Hall	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.9	2.9
The Mount	4.2	3.8	4.2	4.1	4.3
The Verne	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.3

Ratio of Prisoners to each non-officer member of staff in public sector establishments

	As at 31 March each year				
Establishment	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Thorn Cross	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.2	2.0
Usk/Prescoed	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1
Wakefield	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.3
Wandsworth	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.5	5.3
Warren Hill	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.0
Wayland	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.0
Wealstun	2.6	3.3	3.6	3.6	4.0
Weare	3.9	3.8	[1]	[1]	[1]
Wellingborough	3.8	3.3	3.0	3.4	3.7
Werrington	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.3
Wetherby	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.2
Whatton	3.6	3.0	2.1	3.2	3.2
Whitemoor	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5
Winchester	3.2	3.5	3.7	2.8	2.9
Woodhill	3.5	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8
Wormwood Scrubs	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.8	5.1
Wymott	3.4	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.1

[1] Clustered.
[2] Not open.
[3] Closed.

Contracted Prisons

Information on the ratio of prisoners to each officer and prisoners to other staff for each contracted establishment in each of the last five years is provided in the following tables. The ratios given are a snapshot at the end of each financial year and the latest available date as at the end of January 2008.

Ratio of prisoners to each officer equivalent[1] in contracted establishments

	As at 31 March each year				
Establishment	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Ashfield	1.8	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.0
Altcourse	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.7
Bronzefield[2]	[3]	2.5	2.3	2.4	2.5
Doncaster	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.2
Dovegate	5.8	5.2	6.8	4.6	4.9
Forest Bank	4.8	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.5
Lowdham Grange	n/a	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.9
Pare	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.7	4.0
Peterborough[3]	[3]	[3]	2.5	3.0	2.9
Rye Hill[4]	n/a	n/a	4.0	4.2	4.0
Wolds	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.8	3.3

Ratio of prisoners to non-officer staff in contracted establishments

	As at 31 March each year				
Establishment	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Ashfield	1.5	3.2	1.5	1.4	1.8
Altcourse	5.1	4.7	5.3	6.0	6.1
Bronzefield[2]	[3]	3.5	2.9	2.7	2.6
Doncaster	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.5	3.47
Dovegate	10.3	11.5	16.6	9.7	7.1
Forest Bank	6.7	7.0	6.3	6.7	6.2
Lowdham Grange	n/a	2.9	3.0	3.4	3.9
Pare	5.5	5.1	4.8	4.9	4
Peterborough[3]	[3]	[3]	6.1	6.8	6.7

Ratio of prisoners to non-officer staff in contracted establishments

	As at 31 March each year				
Establishment	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Rye Hill[4]	n/a	n/a	6.7	6.43	5.6
Wolds	6.5	5.7	3.7	4.6	3.7

[1] Data is provided for HMPS prison officer equivalents in the contracted prison sector, prison custody officers and senior prison custody officers.
[2] HMP Bronzefield did not open until June 2004.
[3] HMP Peterborough did not open until March 2005.
[4] Data for HMP Rye Hill prior to 2005 is not available due to archiving and could only be provided at a disproportionate cost. Information on staffing figures in the contracted estate is not collated centrally and has been requested from each contractor and is derived from their own HR database.
[5] Not Open.

Prisons

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* high and *(b)* medium security psychiatric beds exist in (i) prison facilities and (ii) health facilities used by the Prison Service; and how many (A) high and (B) medium security psychiatric beds were in use by prisoners in (1) prison facilities and (2) health facilities used by the Prison Service in each of the last five years. [193505]

Maria Eagle: Prisons are not designated for treatment under the Mental Health Act and there are no high or medium secure psychiatric beds in the prison estate.

In NHS units in England, for 2006-07, the latest period for which figures are available, there was an average daily number of 2,993 mental illness secure unit beds, and 516 learning disability secure unit beds[1].

Prisoners with mental disorder that meet the criteria for transfer under the Mental Health Act 1983 are transferred, as patients, to mental health facilities commissioned by the national health service.

The number of prisoners transferred in the last five years are shown in the following table.

[1] *Source:*
Department of Health KH03 return.

	Number
2003	786
2004	891
2005	900
2006	962
2007	926

Prisons: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received from Wrexham County Borough Council on the provision of a prison in North Wales in the last 12 months. [197345]

Mr. Hanson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor has received no formal representations from Wrexham county borough council on the provision of a prison in North Wales in the last 12 months. However, NOMS Custodial Estates has had discussions with Wrexham county borough council in conjunction with North Wales Criminal

Justice Board about the possibility of sites becoming a prison development in the Wrexham area.

Property Rights: Cohabitation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to respond to the Law Commission proposals to reform the property rights of cohabiting couples published in July 2007. [198691]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 123WS, announcing the Government's response to the Law Commission's paper, "Cohabitation: The Financial Consequences of Relationship Breakdown".

Sexual Offences: Rehabilitation

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the delivery of internet sex offender programmes in probation areas in Wales against delivery timetables in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08; [197809]

(2) what assessment he has made of the delivery of community sex offenders programmes in probation areas in Wales against delivery timetables in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [197866]

Maria Eagle: National guidance to probation areas states that offenders sentenced to a community order with a requirement to attend an accredited sex offender programme should commence the group work programme by the sixth week of the order. In some cases this timetable can be altered at the discretion of the offender manager. There is no timetable for offenders on licence.

Offenders waiting for a place on the group work component of the community sex offender treatment programme or the internet offender programme are under the supervision of their offender manager from the day of sentence. Before they commence either programme a full assessment is required in order to confirm their suitability for the programme; confirm the treatment plan; and identify the modules in which they should participate. During this initial period the offender manager will monitor the risk posed by the offender and manage it. Additionally the offender manager will normally prepare offenders for the programmes by carrying out set work.

The information requested is contained in the following table. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The waiting times may include time that has elapsed while the offender is prepared for the programme or because an offender has been recalled to custody.

		Community sex offender treatment programme		*Internet sex offender treatment programme*	
Area	*Data*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Dyfed-Powys	Average time to start in weeks	39	20	—	—
	Number of commencements	4	5	—	—
Gwent	Average time to start in weeks	33	34	—	43
	Number of commencements	11	13	—	5
North Wales	Average time to start in weeks	38	44	—	56
	Number of commencements	36	16	11	1
South Wales	Average time to start in weeks	55	49	63	66
	Number of commencements	20	13	1	4

Tribunals: Employment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will instruct employment tribunals to *(a)* award costs against and *(b)* reflect in the value of awards those bringing or defending a claim irresponsibly. [197247]

Bridget Prentice: Employment tribunals are independent judicial bodies therefore neither the Secretary of State nor any Government official has the power to instruct or direct employment tribunals on the amount, or circumstances in which an award of costs or compensatory award should be made.

The Employment Tribunals (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations 2004 give employment tribunals the power to consider an award of costs against a claimant or respondent in respect of costs incurred by the other party. This includes instances where a tribunal or chairman considers that a party or their representative has acted vexatiously, abusively, disruptively or otherwise unreasonably, in the bringing of proceedings. The amount of the award is determined by the tribunal in accordance with the guidance given in the rules.

Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his policy is on the use of restraints in establishments for young offenders; and if he will make a statement; [198343]

(2) on how many occasions restraints were used on young offenders in each of the last three years; [198344]

(3) how many injuries were recorded arising from the use of restraints on young offenders in each of the last three years. [198345]

Mr. Hanson: Young offenders are those prisoners aged 18 to 21 years old who are referred to as young adults. The Prison Service uses control and restraint (C and R) techniques to restrain prisoners, including young adults, as a last resort in order to bring a violent or refractory prisoner under control and only when all other de-escalation techniques have failed. An independent review into the techniques used to restrain young people, below the age of 18, in custodial settings is currently under way and will report to Ministers in June this year.

The information requested on number of restraints and injuries is not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* the Civil Aviation Authority and *(b)* her Department has commissioned research on the effect of oil leaks of engines on passengers and crew of Boeing 757s. [198164]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* The health and safety of passengers and crew is a priority for the Government, which is leading research into "fume events." This research is not exclusive to Boeing 757s.

In 2007 the Department for Transport began a world first research project to try to capture and analyse substances released during transient fume events. The first stage of this work was to identify and test equipment capable of sampling any potentially harmful substances in cabin air. The report into this first stage work was published by Cranfield University on 21 February after peer review. It is published on the Department's website (www.dft.gov.uk). The next phase of work is to use the equipment identified to capture real-time fume events; this work is being developed.

In addition, the Committee on Toxicity published their report into the cabin environment in September 2007. The report is available on the Committee's website:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/cotnonfood/index.htm

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received from the airline industry on illnesses caused by chemicals from oils and lubricants leaking into cabin air supplies. [198165]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* The British Air Transport Association (BATA) is an active member of the Aviation Health Working Group (AHWG), the stakeholder forum for aviation health. A number of airlines have volunteered to participate in the cabin air sampling study.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many representations she has received from *(a)* airline pilots, *(b)* passengers and *(c)* air crew on illnesses relating to cabin air contaminated by engine leakage. [198550]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We would not necessarily expect individual pilots or cabin crew to contact the Secretary of State as their main representative organisations, BALPA and the T and G, are members of the Aviation Health Working Group, the stakeholder forum for all aviation health issues. With regard to passengers, figures quoted by the Air Transport Users Council to the House of Lords inquiry into 'Air Travel and Health' in 2007 noted that "out of a total of 20,000 written complaints since January 2001, 58 were categorised as medical". Of those 58 the main issues raised were pregnancy; injuries, typically from skiing; and allergies, typically from peanuts.

Biofuels: Imports

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much bio-fuel has been imported in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [198816]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government do not hold precise data on imports of biofuels used in the UK. We will have more accurate data once the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) comes into effect on 15 April. Under the RTFO, transport fuel suppliers who wish to earn renewable transport fuel certificates in respect of their biofuels will have to report to the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) on matters such as the country of origin of and the wider sustainability of those fuels. Further detail on the reporting requirements is available via the RFA's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa

Boats: Licensing

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration she has given to making arrangements under the new boatmasters' licences to give dispensations to boatmasters operating in Category C tidal estuary waters proportionate to the relative risks encountered in their operating waters. [198825]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are considering an amendment to the Merchant Shipping (Inland Waterways and Coastal Operations) (Boatmasters' Qualifications and Hours of Work) Regulations 2006 which would introduce a new category of licence. This would allow masters to operate in a geographically limited area on tidal waters, without the comprehensive and rigorous qualification required by the existing Tier 1, Level 2 licence, subject to the agreement of the relevant navigation and port authorities.

The safety of those who use the UK's waterways has always been the focus of the BML, and it is this concern for safety that led to the current situation of onerous qualification requirements. Any amendment to the BML regulations will follow extensive consultation to ensure that public safety will not be compromised.

Bus Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* bus and *(b)* rail passenger journeys were made in each region in each year since 1997. [195928]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following extract from the Department's Public Transport Statistics Bulletin, a copy of which is in the House Library, shows the bus passenger journeys, in calendar years, since 1997-98.

Bus passenger journeys[1] by GO region 1997-98 to 2006-07

Million

Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	268	258	256	249	242	244	227	217	207	206
North West	551	554	512	506	516	512	518	506	501	498
Yorkshire and the Humber	419	394	398	397	387	388	376	358	362	376
East Midlands	215	218	215	216	212	212	211	200	201	210
West Midlands	471	454	457	459	455	439	422	414	403	402
East of England	167	169	176	183	178	173	169	167	164	183
London	1,28	1,26	1,29	1,34	1,42	1,52	1,69	1,80	1,88	1,99
South East	285	302	305	297	285	288	288	291	292	308
South West	202	193	190	188	185	182	184	185	184	195
England	3,85	3,80	3,80	3,84	3,88	3,96	4,08	4,14	4,19	4,37
Wales	122	118	117	119	108	115	116	118	118	119
Scotland	448	424	455	458	466	471	478	479	477	482
Great Britain	4,43	4,35	4,37	4,42	4,45	4,55	4,68	4,73	4,79	4,97

[1] Each boarding of the vehicle is counted as one journey.
[2] Wales includes Great Orme trams.

Note:
PTE data are from DfT's survey of operators. They might differ from PTE's own survey data.

Source:
DfT survey of PSV operators.

The Department for Transport does not hold information on the number of rail passenger journeys made in each region in each year since 1997. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) does, however, publish regional rail passenger flows in the National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Library or from their website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Bypasses: Construction

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many construction projects for trunk road bypasses have been authorised since May 2005. [198513]

Mr. Tom Harris: Five bypass schemes have been authorised since May 2005. These are:

A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass on 26 September 2006;

A38 Dobwalls Bypass on 24 August 2006;

A595 Parton to Lillyhall Improvement on 25 July 2006;

A3 Hindhead on 20 July 2006; and

A419 Blunsdon Bypass on 8 March 2006.

Details of these are published on the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/strategic/programme/decisionletters/

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what visits she made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events she attended at each. [197155]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State for Transport has visited the following conference centres in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007. These visits relate to official engagements only.

Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London

21 March 2006—Interspill conference

8 October 2006—Intelligent Transport Systems World congress

Business Design Centre, Islington, London

28 November 2005—Confederation of Business Industry conference

Queen Elizabeth Centre, London

9 March 2005—National Rail conference

15 March 2006—National Rail conference

17 July 2006—Ford conference

14 March 2007—National Rail conference

17 April 2007—British Chambers of Commerce Annual Transport/Roads conference

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended (i) by (A) special advisers, (B) Ministers and (C) communications officials and (ii) from IP addresses of (1) special advisers, (2) Ministers and (3) communications officials in (x) her Department and (y) its agencies since August 2005. [185523]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Current Ministers and special advisers have not created or amended any Wikipedia entries from .IP addresses of special advisers or Ministers.

Departmental officials have created or amended factual entries that explain the role of the Department and the Executive Agencies. This has been done in accordance with the civil service code which states that civil servants should use resources only for the authorised public purposes for which they are provided and that civil servants should make sure public money and other resources are used properly and efficiently.

These links can be viewed at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_for_Transport

http://en.wikipddia.org/wiki/Highways_Agency

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Driving_Standards_Agency

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Driver_and_Vehicle_Licensing_Agency

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Vehicle_and_Operator_Services_Agency

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime_and_Coastguard_Agency

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vehicle_Certification_Agency

Heathrow Airport: Environment Protection

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will commission an independent scientific report into the likely environmental impact of a third runway at Heathrow. [197543]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1385W.

Lorries: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it a requirement that left hand driven lorries operating in the UK be fitted with additional wing mirrors to improve safety of overtaking and visibility of cycles on the nearside; and if she will make a statement. [199236]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All new lorries, whether UK registered or visiting from another member state have, since 26 January 2007 been fitted with enhanced rear view mirrors that improve driver vision.

A European directive has recently been adopted which requires similar mirrors to be fitted to existing lorries, first registered from 1 January 2000. We will implement these requirements through our national legislation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Totnes of 21 February 2008 about the boatmasters' licences in relation to South Sands Ferry. [198824]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A response has been sent.

Motorcycles: Exhaust Emissions

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information her Department holds on carbon dioxide emissions from motorcycles, broken down by *(a)* engine size and *(b)* manufacturer. [198840]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not, at present, hold information on the carbon dioxide emissions of motorcycles broken down in this way. There is currently no statutory requirement placed upon manufacturers to measure the carbon dioxide emissions of new models of motorcycle when they are approved. However, a legislative proposal from the European Commission mandating this measurement has been awaited for some time and is currently expected to be published early in 2009.

A limited amount of data categorised against engine size have been gathered, in the past, in research projects conducted by the Department and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. The results of these are available on the Department's website and within the Passenger Transport Emissions Factors on DEFRA's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/research/cqvet/

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/envrp/pdf/passenger-transport.pdf

Public Transport: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding was provided to *(a)* regions and *(b)* local authorities to provide local public transport in each of the last five years; and how much has been allocated for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [195925]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is as follows:

(a) Regions advise central Government about priorities for major local authority schemes (including for local public transport) and certain Highways Agency projects. The total budgets for 2008-09 to 2010-11 for these types of project the regions work to are set out in the following table.

Planning assumptions for Transport

£ million

Region	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
North West	119	121	123
North East	44	45	45
Yorkshire and The Humber	88	90	92
East Midlands	76	77	79

Planning assumptions for Transport

Region	2008-09	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
West Midlands	93	95	97
South West	90	92	94
South East	144	147	150
East	98	100	103

(*b*) The local public transport elements of this funding are provided for local authorities. Detailed information on the funding allocated to local authorities in local transport capital settlements between 1997-08 and 2005-06 (inclusive) was deposited in the Libraries of the House on 18 January 2006. I also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 20 March, *Official Report*, column 1392W, where information about the funding in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was placed in the Libraries of the House.

Most Government funding support for local authorities for local public transport services is provided within the revenue support grant, administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). The revenue support grant is not service-specific and it is for local authorities to decide on its use. Transport for London receives a block grant for transport and has the discretion to decide on its use across different modes of transport.

In addition the Department has provided local authorities in rural areas with a specific rural bus subsidy grant and also provides specific grants to assist local authorities with bus projects. From 2008-09 the funding for the rural bus subsidy grant is being pooled in a broad area based grant, administered by CLG.

The Department also provides support for investment in integrated transport improvements as part of the local transport capital settlements. It is for local authorities to determine how much of this funding to allocate to projects related to local public transport, in the light of their local policies and priorities.

Information about the distribution of the specific grants for bus services and the support for local transport investment in 2006-07, 2007-08 and for 2008-09 was also placed in the Libraries of the House on 20 March.

I am placing information about the distribution of the specific bus grants for 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 in the Libraries of the House. Information about the distribution of local transport capital funding, including for integrated transport, was placed in the Libraries of the House on 18 January 2006.

Indicative allocations of rural bus subsidy funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have been published at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/specgrants/dft.xls

The local transport capital settlements for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have been published at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/ltpsettle07/

Some funding support for rail services has also been provided via passenger transport authorities, although these authorities do not, in most cases, provide or procure the services themselves.

Public Transport: Tickets

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to promote the integration of rail and bus ticketing systems. [195943]

Mr. Tom Harris: There is already integration of bus and rail ticketing with multi-modal Travelcard-style tickets products in the large urban areas and Plus Bus serving most major towns and stations in the rest of the country.

Railway Stations: Construction

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new railway stations were built with public funding in (*a*) South Tyneside, (*b*) Tyne and Wear, (*c*) the North East and (*d*) the UK in each year since 1997. [197657]

Mr. Tom Harris: There have been no new railway stations opened in South Tyneside, Tyne and Wear or the North East since 1997.

20 stations have been opened in England since 1997 with some public funding. These are listed as follows.

New stations that have been opened in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with public funding are a matter for the devolved Administrations.

Station	Opened
Euxton Balshaw Lane	15 December 1997
Brunswick	9 March 1998
Whitwell	24 May 1998
Creswell	24 May 1998
Langwith Whaley Thorns	24 May 1998
Shirebrook	24 May 1998
Conway Park	22 June 1998
Canning Town	14 May 1999
West Brompton	30 May 1999
West Ham	30 May 1999
Horwich Parkway	21 November 1999
Luton Airport Parkway	29 May 2000
Brighouse	13 August 2000
Wavertree Technology Park	17 September 2000
Lea Green	10 December 2003
Braintree Freeport	12 December 2004
Glasshoughton	12 December 2004
Chandlers Ford	11 June 2006
Liverpool South Parkway	14 November 2007
St Pancras International	

Railways: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train journeys originating in Yorkshire and the Humber in the last 12 months have been made in trains with no more than one carriage; what percentage of the total number of rail journeys in the region this represents; and if she will make a statement. [197433]

Mr. Tom Harris: The three franchised train operators running services that originate in Yorkshire and the Humber are Northern Rail, TransPennine Express and National Express East Coast. An estimate of the number of journeys made on different types of rolling stock would be a matter for the operators involved.

Northern Rail is the only train operator that runs a one carriage service in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the level of congestion on trunk roads and motorways on the afternoon of 8 February 2008; what figures she collates on such matters, including the cost to the economy; and if she will make a statement. [188470]

Mr. Tom Harris: Fully validated congestion data for 8 February 2008 will be available in May 2008. This is due to the time it takes to collect, validate and produce these figures.

Once produced, journey time and delay figures are available nationally, at individual route level, by day and by time of day.

Figures on the cost of congestion to the economy are not routinely calculated, although assessments of this have been made, most recently in the Eddington Study, published in 2006.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations her Department has received on the prioritisation of (*a*) the A1 Elkesley flyover and (*b*) improvements to the A57 in major capital road schemes in each of the last 10 years. [197471]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information is as follows:

(*a*) Representations on the prioritisation of the A1 Elkesley Junctions Improvement (locally known as Elkesley Bridge) were received from:

Correspondence	*Date*
PLaN Parkman, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire	12 March 1999
Elkesley Parish Council	1 July 2003
Elkesley Parish Council	7 October 2003
Patrick Mercer MP	10 December 2003
Dr. David Pell	23 January 2004
Elkesley Parish Council	1 June 2004
House of Commons re: Elkesley Parish Council	16 August 2004
Elkesley Parish Council	16 September 2004
Elkesley Parish Council	5 October 2004
Elkesley Parish Council	4 January 2005
Dr. David Pell	26 January 2005
Elkesley Parish Council	1 February 2005
Patrick Mercer MP	14 February 2005
Dr. David Pell	23 March 2005
Nottinghamshire county council	25 August 2005
Residents/Users of Coal Pit Lane	18 September 2005
Elkesley Parish Council	7 November 2005
Elkesley Parish Council	27 July 2006
Mr. Simpson on behalf of Elkesley Villagers	20 October 2006
Dr. David Pell	23 June 2007
Dr. David Pell	2 August 2007
Dr. David Pell	28 February 2008

(*b*) Representations received on the prioritisation of improvements to the A57 in major capital road schemes:

The Highways Agency detrunked the A57 in 2002 and 2003. Prior to detrunking, representations had been received from Rotherham metropolitan borough council (RMBC), local groups and Parish Councils for improvement of the A57 from Todwick crossroads west to the M1. Dunham Parish Council was also keen to see the village bypassed. Subsequent to detrunking, information about any improvement schemes on the A57 should be requested from the relevant local highway authority.

Transport: Capital Investment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much capital funding from the public purse was provided to transport infrastructure in (*a*) Jarrow constituency, (*b*) South Tyneside, (*c*) Tyne and Wear, (*d*) the North East and (*e*) the UK in each year since 1997. [197655]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table contains the transport capital expenditure identified by the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses as having been made in the North East region and the United Kingdom in each year from 2001-02 onwards. Figures for 1997 are not available and the figures that were produced for 1998-99, 1999 to 2000 and 2000-01 are not comparable with the later figures.

This information is not available for Tyne and Wear, South Tyneside or Jarrow constituency.

Table 1: Transport capital expenditure

£ million

	Expenditure North East Region	*Expenditure United Kingdom*
2001-02	188	4,594
2002-03	225	5,771
2003-04	260	7,657
2004-05	267	8,192
2005-06	272	8,543
2006-07	293	9,693

The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, including the definitions and assumptions used in them and the figures for 1998-99 to 2000-01, can be viewed at the HM Treasury website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Woodhead Tunnel and Cross-Pennine Rail Link

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the feasibility of maintaining Woodhead tunnel fit for future rail operations should the National Grid lay electricity cables along it; [182501]

(2) what assessment she has made of the most viable option for a new cross-Pennine rail link.[1] [182502]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The need for additional passenger capacity can best be met through the provision of longer carriages and faster journey times on the Manchester to Leeds via Huddersfield route.

Should additional capacity be required across the Pennines at some future date, capacity enhancements on the three existing Victorian tunnels on the Woodhead route would be considered first. This is because they are more likely to offer value for money than the re-opening of a fourth route.

I shall be meeting with National Grid to confirm that we would wish to explore the option of continued inspection and maintenance of the Woodhead tunnels once National Grid have vacated them.

I intend to meet key stakeholders for their views on transport challenges across the Pennines and how this might tie in with the development of a longer term strategy.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects to reply to Question 185523 tabled on 4 February 2008 by the hon. Member for Eddisbury on Wikipedia. [195273]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A reply was given to the hon. Member today.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office

10. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of progress on the Post Office network change programme; and if he will make a statement. [198420]

Mr. McFadden: To date, 26 out of the network change programme's 47 area plans have gone out to public consultation and final decisions announced for 15 of them. The programme is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year.

16. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the management of Post Office Ltd about the provision of Government services by post offices. [198428]

Mr. McFadden: I regularly meet and discuss a range of issues relating to the post office network with the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd. These include its contracts to provide Government services.

18. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on recent progress made by the Post Office network change programme. [198430]

Mr. McFadden: To date, 26 out of the network change programme's 47 area plans have gone out to public consultation and final decisions announced for 15 of them. The programme is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Renewable Energy

12. **John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of Article 5(2) of the proposed European directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources on the Government's consideration of the options for renewable energy in the Severn estuary. [198422]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's initial view is that this draft article is helpful for the UK as it gives partial credit to very large renewable projects with very long lead times and significant risks. It is not a reason for favouring one Severn estuary scheme over another. The Government intend to consider all potential technology and location options on a comparable basis.

Alcohol

14. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had on the possibility of making an order under the Competition Act 1998 to allow minimum pricing of alcohol for exceptional and compelling reasons of public policy. [198425]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are looking carefully at ways to reduce alcohol related harm. In this context, Ministers have been discussing a number of potential policy options, including the possibility of action relating to alcohol pricing. Making an exclusion order under the Competition Act remains one of the possible available measures for consideration.

Sub-Post Offices

15. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the future of sub-post offices. [198427]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are committed to a national network of post offices, has set access criteria to ensure reasonable access to post office services for all communities and is providing a network subsidy payment of up to £150 million a year to support the

1. *[Official Report, 21 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 8MC.]*

non-commercial part of the network. Under the access criteria, Post Office Ltd is required to ensure that nationally 99 per cent. of the UK population is within 3 miles of their nearest post office outlet and 90 per cent. within one mile.

Energy Prices

17. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of recent rises in the cost of energy for (*a*) domestic and (*b*) business consumers. [198429]

Malcolm Wicks: Recent increases in retail energy prices, while unwelcome, have been largely due to steadily rising producer prices for oil, coal and gas. The UK is not alone in experiencing these price rises, and the UK's competitive markets have ensured that prices are no higher than necessary. As of 1 January this year, UK energy prices for average domestic customers were significantly lower than in most EU15 states and prices for average industrial customers were around the EU15 median[1].

[1] Quarterly Energy Prices, March 2008, BERR

20. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with domestic energy supply companies on their pricing arrangements. [198432]

Malcolm Wicks: Although Ministers have not met companies to discuss pricing arrangements, we have met with them to discuss how to take forward the announcement in the Budget on increasing the level of assistance energy companies provide to vulnerable households.

Post Office Closures

19. **Mr. Carmichael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the impact of post office closures on local services. [198431]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd., in developing its post office closure proposals, continues to consider a range of factors, including the impact of closures on local economies. For example, under the Northern and Western Isles area plan proposals, currently subject to local public consultation, there will be no change to the office currently used by 83 per cent. of customers and in total 97 per cent. will see no change or be within one mile by road of an alternative branch.

Lending Practices

21. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to prevent unscrupulous lending practices. [198433]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are committed to tackling unscrupulous loan sharks who exploit vulnerable people in our poorest communities. In 2004, we established two pilot enforcement teams in Birmingham and Glasgow to track down and prosecute illegal moneylenders.

Following evaluation of the pilots, BERR announced £2.8 million in September for a national crack down on illegal lending. There's now a team in every region of Britain and we have committed to fund this work through the next spending period.

In addition, the Consumer Credit Act 2006, which represents the biggest overhaul of consumer credit legislation since 1974, has boosted consumer rights and redress by introducing a new unfair relationships test and alternative dispute resolution scheme. From 6 April this year, it strengthens the licensing regime for consumer credit businesses to enable more effective action against rogue traders and unacceptable practices.

Power Stations

22. **Steve Webb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on development of new coal-fired power stations. [198434]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's approach is to provide a regulatory framework which incentivises generating companies to deliver secure energy supplies within an overall cap on carbon emissions under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Within this framework, decisions on the nature and timing of investment in new generating capacity are a matter for generating companies.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of work days lost to UK industries each year through (*a*) alcohol and (*b*) drug misuse by employees. [197464]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the form requested. However, on alcohol misuse, research published by the Cabinet Office in 2003 estimated that between 11 million and 17 million working days were lost each year due to such misuse ("Alcohol Misuse: How much does it cost?" – Rannia Leontaridi, Cabinet Office, 2003 www.number10.gov.uk/files/pdf/econ.pdf.

Business: Regulation

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and the voluntary sector. [198424]

Mr. McFadden: Government undertook an exercise, supported by industry, to measure the administrative burdens that impact businesses, charities and voluntary organizations and third of all sizes as a result of complying with regulations. Upon the completion of this exercise, 25 per cent. net targets by 2010 were set to reduce this burden.

In December 2007, 19 Simplification Plans were published, showing more than 700 measures to reduce the burdens of complying with regulations. Over 280 of these measures have already been delivered saving businesses £800 million per year.

Consumer Goods: Health Hazards

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to ensure that UK consumers can identify products containing free nanoparticles. [196963]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's aim is for the UK to derive maximum benefit from nanotechnologies and their products in a way that safeguards health, safety and the environment and addresses the aspirations and concerns of the public. The statement by the UK Government about nanotechnologies, announced in the written ministerial statement of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 86-87W, explains what the Government are doing to deliver these objectives.

The Government do not hold a list of products containing free nanoparticles although it has published a report on the manufacture and use of nanomaterials in the UK at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/nanotech/research/reports/index.htm#manufacture

To promote a standardised approach to labelling and ensure that products containing manufactured nanoparticles can be correctly identified, the British Standards Institute has recently published a good practice guidance document PAS 130:2007 "Guidance on the labelling of manufactured nanoparticles and products containing manufactured nanoparticles".

The Research Councils are undertaking public dialogue on nanotechnologies and the topic is likely to feature in work resulting from the recent programme of stakeholder engagement to identify the implications of new and emerging science and technology.

Government Departments and agencies are keeping under review the need for action to address regulatory gaps in the light of emerging evidence. The ministerial group on nanotechnologies (which comprises the Ministers for Science and Innovation; the Environment; Public Health; Health and Safety; and Business and Competitiveness) will oversee the process and will also review progress on delivery of the Government's other commitments regarding nanotechnologies.

Minimum Wage: Females

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of women who are likely to be affected by the increase in the national minimum wage in October 2008. [198426]

Mr. McFadden: Of the just under a million employees BERR estimates stand to benefit from the October 2008 uprating of the national minimum wage in the UK, around two thirds are women.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the effect on costs has been of applying practices from Nuclear Decommissioning Authority sites to the discharge of British Energy's liabilities. [198435]

Malcolm Wicks: British Energy (BE) have so far not initiated any decommissioning work as their power stations are not due to close for several years, following the announcement of life extensions to Dungeness B, Hunterston B and Hinkley Point B.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) oversight of BE's liabilities has therefore focused on their production of lifetime decommissioning plans and near term work plans. BE submitted one set of plans in 2006 and submitted their second edition on 31 March this year. The NDA has applied both the processes used in the development of Site Licence Companies' lifetime plans, and lessons learned from its review of these plans to the BE equivalents.

The NDA is also working to develop a UK-wide strategy for management of intermediate level waste and this involves both BE as well as other Site Licence Companies.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197515]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that no contracts have been awarded by the Department and its predecessor to Rackspace in any of the last nine years.

I have asked chief executives of the Executive Agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances there were of equipment of the armed forces being lost in transit either *(a)* en route to and *(b)* in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq in each year since 2003. [190601]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Other than those attributed to theft, there are no reported instance of equipment of the armed forces being lost in transit between the UK and either Iraq or Afghanistan. In terms of theft, I have nothing to add to the answer I gave on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 62W.

Ammunition

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cluster munitions have been deployed in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; how many were deployed (i) during active hostilities and (ii) since such times; and what estimate he has made of the

number of people (1) killed and (2) seriously injured by cluster munitions in each such period and country, broken down by (A) UK, (B) other coalition and (C) insurgent forces; and how many civilian casualties there have been. [198157]

Des Browne: The UK employed 68 RBL755 and 2,100 M85 cluster munitions during the initial combat phase of operations in Iraq in 2003. The UK has not employed cluster munitions in Iraq since then, nor have we employed cluster munitions in Afghanistan.

One UK fatality in Iraq, which occurred in March 2003, can be attributed to non-UK cluster munitions. Further casualty and fatality information requested for other coalition forces, insurgents and civilians is not held by the MOD. We also do not hold the information for UK armed forces personnel casualties.

Armed Forces: Females

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many female members of the army who are considered combat effective use hormonal applications. [198204]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of the stockpile of A/H5N1 vaccine for use in the event of an influenza pandemic has been allocated for vaccination of *(a)* healthcare workers and *(b)* the armed forces; and if he will make a statement; [195255]

(2) for what reason his Department bid for a stockpile size of 54,000 courses of A/H5N1 vaccine, as referred to in paragraph 8 of the Defence Medical Services Department's policy letter of 20 January 2006, entitled "The use of influenza vaccines and anti-virals in the event of an influenza pandemic" by the Defence Medical Services, reference DMSD/13/1/4; and if he will make a statement. [195350]

Derek Twigg: The Department's stockpile was calculated on the need to have sufficient courses to vaccinate those personnel engaged on, or preparing for, deployed operations and other essential tasks, plus a specific allocation for Defence Medical Services (DMS) healthcare personnel. Around 10 per cent. has been allocated for vaccination of DMS personnel, and the remaining 90 per cent. for other members of the armed forces.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 24W, what quantity of anti-virals is held at Permanent Joint Headquarters; and if he will make a statement. [195260]

Derek Twigg: Around 17,500 courses of influenza anti-virals earmarked for future operational demands are held by the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) on behalf of the Defence Equipment and Support. PJHQ will authorise distribution of the appropriate quantities to operational theatres as required.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with NATO in the last 12 months on the creation of a joint stockpile of *(a)* pharmaceutical and *(b)* other clinical countermeasures to support the continuity of operations in Afghanistan in the event of an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [195311]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1447-48W.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many treatment courses of anti-virals are held at *(a)* role 2 and *(b)* role 3 medical units, as stated in paragraph 14 of the Defence Medical Services Department's policy letter of 20 January 2006, entitled The use of influenza vaccines and anti-virals in the event of an influenza pandemic by the Defence Medical Services, reference DMSD/13/1/4; and if he will make a statement. [195348]

Derek Twigg: In accordance with Defence Medical Services guidance, 10 anti-viral courses are held in Role 2(Enhanced) field hospitals overseas; five courses in the unit at Basra in Iraq and five in the one at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan. The majority of MOD's anti-viral stocks are held by the Defence Equipment and Support in the UK, from whence they can be transported at short notice to any overseas location as required.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many courses of anti-virals are now pre-positioned in Permanent joint overseas bases, as stated in paragraph 14 of the Defence Medical Services Department's policy letter of 20 January 2006, entitled The use of influenza vaccines and anti-virals in the event of an influenza pandemic by the Defence Medical Services, reference DMSD/13/1/4; and if he will make a statement. [195351]

Derek Twigg: Around 15,850 Tamiflu anti-viral courses were distributed to MOD overseas bases by the end of January 2006. In addition, just over 1,900 paediatric Tamiflu courses were subsequently distributed to be given to younger children.

Armed Forces: Transexuality

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many transgender sergeants in the process of transition serving in the Army in Germany are *(a)* receiving medication for their condition in country and *(b)* have been deployed on exercise in Poland. [198202]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I am unable to provide this information as its release would breach the provisions of the Data Protection Act, specifically in regard to medical-in-confidence issues.

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the downgrading of a transgender officer

to P7, (combat ineffective), can be determined solely on grounds of hormonal reasons; [198205]

(2) whether it is a requirement of army regulations that when an officer is downgraded to P7 (combat ineffective) they should be personally interviewed before a downgrading decision is reached. [198206]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Downgrading decisions are made by medical boards on a case by case basis taking into account all documentary evidence provided by medical staffs. As part of this process, it is normal practice for the individual to appear before the medical board unless they are either unable or decline to attend.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Manpower

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff were employed at Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston in each of the last five years. [198109]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) plc is split into two sites, Aldermaston and Burghfield. The number of full-time equivalent staff employed at both sites in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The figures are taken as at the end March in each year and are rounded to the nearest 10. Approximately 92 per cent. of these work at the Aldermaston site.

	Manpower level
2004	3,510
2005	3,640
2006	4,040
2007	4,390
2008 (as at end February 2008)	4,620

In addition, some 2,000 staff are employed by contractors at the AWE sites.

Contingencies Fund

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 12 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 18WS, on the Contingencies Fund, what the unforeseen pension pressures in 2007-08 are. [197102]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* The 2007-08 spring supplementary estimate for the armed forces pension scheme sought an increase in the net cash requirement of £150 million for the 2007-08 financial year due in the main to higher levels of terminal pension payments (lump sums and early departure) than had been anticipated at the time of production of the main estimate.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given in another place by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support on 31 March 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA128.

Defence Equipment: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will put in place mechanisms by which Defence Equipment and Support will be required to report on its annual expenditure and activities to the House. [197723]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We will report on the activities, expenditure and performance of DE&S in the Ministry of Defence Annual Report and Accounts.

Departmental Conflict of Interests

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* departmental officials and *(b)* officers of the armed services notified his Department that they intended to work for (i) British Aerospace, (ii) British Airways, (iii) BP, (iv) Shell, (v) Rolls Royce, (vi) HSBC, (vii) Standard Chartered, (viii) RBS, (ix) HBOS, (x) Barclays and (xi) another company on leaving their post in each of the last five years. [195560]

Derek Twigg: Applications to take up appointments with the named companies received in each of the years in question are set out in the table. Further information relating to other companies could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The figures provided relate specifically to those personnel who are required to notify the MOD of their intention to work for a specific company in accordance with departmental policy (The Business Appointment Rules).

	Category	*BAe*	*BA*	*BP*	*Shell*	*Rolls Royce*	*HSBC*	*Standard Chartered*	*RBS*	*HBOS*	*Barclays*
2003	Service	10	—	—	—	<5	—	—	—	—	—
2003	Civilian	<5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2004	Service	5	—	—	<5	<5	—	—	—	—	—
2004	Civilian	<5	—	—	—	<5	—	—	—	—	—
2005	Service	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2005	Civilian	5	—	—	—	<5	—	—	—	—	—
2006	Service	15	—	—	—	<5	—	—	—	—	—
2006	Civilian	10	—	—	—	<5	—	—	—	—	—
2007	Service	15	—	—	<5	5	—	—	—	—	—
2007	Civilian	10	—	—	—	<5	—	—	—	—	—

In each of the last five years the Department received no formal notifications of intention to join any of the following companies; British Airways, BP, HSBC, Standard Chartered, RBS, HBOS or Barclays.

All figures have been rounded to the nearest five to prevent unintended disclosure of personal information.

Diego Garcia: Deployment

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list by rank those members of the armed forces serving in Diego Garcia. [198018]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 42 UK military personnel based on Diego Garcia, broken down by rank as follows:

Rank	Number of personnel
Commander Royal Navy	1
Major Royal Marines	1
Lieutenant Royal Navy	1
Warrant Officer (2) Royal Marines	1
Master at Arms	1
Chief Marine Engineering Mechanic	1
Regulating Petty Officers	3
Sergeant Royal Marines	1
Sergeants (Army)	2
Leading Regulators	2
Leading Seaman	1
Leading Logistician	1
Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic	1
Leading Engineering Technician (Mechanical)	1
Leading Medical Assistants	2
Leading Logistician Catering Services	2
Corporal Royal Marines	5
Corporal Royal Military Police	1
Corporal Royal Air Force Police	1
Lance Corporal Royal Marines	4
Marines	9

Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 2710W, on drinking water, how much his Department spent on provision of bottled water to his Department's main building in the latest year for which figures are available. [196779]

Derek Twigg: As part of our commitment to the Sustainable Development agenda, since 1 October 2007, the PFI Contract for Main Building no longer supplies bottle water to the predominance of meetings, however bottled water may still be purchased for large conferences and private functions.

The following table outlines the consumption and highlights a reduction of 90 per cent. in the consumption of bottled water since the change in policy.

	Number of bottles	£ (approx.)
1 March 2007 to 30 September 2007	7,479	11,000
1 October 2007 to 29 February 2008	514	1,000
Total	7,993	12,000

Iraq: Security

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in al-Basra Province. [196609]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the development of the (*a*) security, (*b*) political and (*c*) economic situation in Basra province since December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [196917]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Members to the update I provided to the House on the security situation in Basra in my Statement on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 628-43. We continue to keep the security situation in Basra under close review following the transfer of Basra to Provincial Iraqi Control in December 2007 and in the light of recent developments. We and our coalition partners continue to provide support to the Iraqis in our overwatch role in accordance with our rules of engagement.

There has been encouraging political progress in Basra since December. For example, the supporting the Law Council, which represents all of Basra's political leaders, signed an agreement in December 2007 committing them to support the rule of law and recognise the ISF as the sole guardians of security in Basra. This demonstrated a willingness on the part of all of Basra's political parties to work together in a spirit of compromise and reconciliation. This commitment has been tested during recent events, but it is striking that Muqtada al-Sadr, in his statement of 30 March 2008, reaffirmed the importance of cooperation with the Government and the need to respect the rule of law.

The UK is also working with coalition partners and the Government of Iraq to promote private sector-led economic growth in Basra. Since December we have helped to launch a Basra Development Commission, which is bringing together Iraqi, regional and international business leaders to provide advice and guidance to the Provincial Council and promoting Basra as an investment location through a recent major investment conference in Kuwait. We are leading on an initiative to help set up the Basra Development Fund, to provide finance to small and medium sized enterprises, and to make progress on key projects such as the redevelopment of Basra International Airport and Umm Qasr port.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the (*a*) target and (*b*) actual percentage serviceability rate is of each (i) helicopter and (ii) air transport aircraft in the Armed Forces. [196620]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The target and actual serviceability rates shown in the following table are the average for the month of February 2008:

Aircraft	Target percentage serviceability rate	Actual percentage serviceability rate
Hercules C130K	75	72
Hercules C130J	80	78
VC10	70	54
Tristar	75	77
C17	88	91
Apache	62	49
A109A	66	79
Gazelle (5 Regiment)	75	76
Gazelle (Other)	70	79
Chinook	70	67
Puma	70	63
Merlin Mk1	70	41
Merlin Mk3	70	50
Sea King Mk3	74	72
Sea King Mk4/6	65	45
Sea King Mk5/7	65	63
Lynx Mk3/8	66	60
Lynx Mk7/9	63	55

These figures do not include aircraft in the depth fleets or the eight RAF Chinook Mark 3 helicopters that are being converted to a battlefield support role. Two of the six ex-Danish Merlin helicopters have now entered squadron service and are included in the above figures.

The figures do not reflect the fact that unserviceable aircraft can often, if required, be made serviceable at very short notice to meet the operational need.

Royal Irish Regiment: Manpower

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ratio of female to male soldiers was in the Home Service *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time Royal Irish Regiment on 1 July 2000. [198731]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A breakdown of the number of male and female soldiers in the Home Service element of the Royal Irish Regiment (HS R IRISH) is not available for 1 July 2000.

However, figures are held as at 1 January 2000 which show that the ratio of female to male within the part-time element of the HS R IRISH was approximately 1:9. The female to male ratio within the full-time element of the HS R IRISH was approximately 1:10.

Sea King Helicopters

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which marks of Sea King helicopters have been fitted with high intensity strobe lights; and when this equipment was installed; [196367]

(2) when high intensity strobe lighting was *(a)* removed and *(b)* refitted to the second Sea King marks trials aircraft; and under whose authority this action was taken; [196368]

(3) whether the retro fitting of his Department's Sea King helicopters with high intensity strobe lighting was approved at all stages of planning and installation by the helicopters' manufacturers. [196369]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* High Intensity Strobe Lighting (HISL) was progressively fitted to all Marks of the UK MOD Sea King fleet between 1983 and 2001:

Mark 3—Rear Light introduced in 1983; Forward Light introduced in 1985.

Mark 3a—1996 (fitted when the aircraft was introduced to service).

Mark 2—1997 (all Mark 2 aircraft have subsequently been converted to the Mark 7 standard).

Mark 4—2001

Mark 5—1998

Mark 6—1998

Mark 7—2000

The Mark 2 to Mark 7 conversion programme that was undertaken between 1999 and 2002 was conducted in two phases, giving rise to two different build-standards of trials aircraft. The trial installation of HISL was undertaken during the first phase before the equipment was transferred to the second phase trials aircraft and re-tested, prior to release to service. This approach was agreed jointly between the MOD and the helicopter Design Organisation (Westland Helicopters, now AgustaWestland).

The retro-fitting capability was introduced as a Service Modification—either a Service Engineering Modification (SEM) or Naval Service Modification (NSM)—where design, test and installation is undertaken by MOD personnel. In all cases, the Department is required to seek independent airworthiness advice before the modification is released to service. Additionally, MOD personnel are required to seek advice from the helicopter Design Organisation, as was the case for all Marks of HISL modification. For all Marks except Mark 5 and Mark 6 aircraft, the HISL modification has retrospectively been formally accepted onto the aircraft drawings by the helicopter manufacturer through a process called Cover Modification.

Uniforms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what orders for bearskin caps for the Guards Regiments are *(a)* outstanding and *(b)* planned. [197731]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no outstanding orders for the procurement of bearskin caps. Future requirements are kept under review.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are being taken by his Department to identify an alternative material to bearskin for Guards Regiments caps. [197767]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD has been actively seeking an acceptable alternative to real fur for some years and continues to invest in samples and treatments of imitation bearskin. Although successful in identifying fur alternatives for other aspects of ceremonial dress, replicating the complex structure of bear's fur has proven to be a significant challenge and no suitable fur alternative to the Guards bearskin cap has yet been identified. A number of trials have taken place but unfortunately proved unsuccessful. Further trials will take place once suitable products have been identified.

Wind Power

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to object for operational flying reasons to the proposed erection of six wind turbines at Guestwick in Norfolk. [198733]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) raised objections to the planning application for the erection of wind turbines at Guestwick in January 2005, given the anticipated effect of the turbines on the operation of air traffic radars at RAF Coltishall and RAF Marham. Our concerns were considered in conjunction with the applicant and Broadland district council. It was agreed that our main concerns would be addressed if the development of the turbines was deferred until flying operations had ceased at RAF Coltishall.

In fact, the local planning authority refused planning consent in March 2005. Since then we have not been consulted further on this proposal. However, should the development referred to be brought forward we would need to review our position using current assessment process.

MOD fully supports the Government's policy on renewable energy. We operate a free planning consultation service for wind farm developers and consider every proposal on a case-by-case basis.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the UK has spent on the Afghan Drug Programme in each year since 2003; what drug programmes his Department has funded in Afghanistan since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [197784]

David Miliband: In 2004-05 the UK spent £6.1 million on a counter narcotics programme in Afghanistan. In 2005 the Afghan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit was created to manage the UK's increased counter narcotics effort in Afghanistan. Since that time, the Government have developed a single, integrated counter narcotics programme for Afghanistan and spent the following sums:

	£ million
2005-06	46.8
2006-07	46.8
2007-08	43.8

UK spend has been directed towards supporting the Afghan National Drugs Control Strategy, which has eight pillars of activity: (1) raising public awareness, (2) promoting international and regional co-operation, (3) promoting alternative livelihoods, (4) reducing demand for drugs, (5) law enforcement, (6) establishing an effective criminal justice system, (7) targeted eradication of opium and (8) building effective Afghan government institutions.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government spent on programmes to reduce opium production in Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [198016]

David Miliband: Before 2004, the UK did not have a dedicated counter narcotics programme in Afghanistan. In 2004-05, the UK spent £6.1 million on counter narcotics work in Afghanistan.

In 2005 the Afghan Drugs Inter-Departmental Unit was created to manage the UK's increased counter narcotics effort. Since that time, the Government has directly spent the following on counter narcotics programmes in Afghanistan:

	£ million
2005-06	46.8
2006-07	46.8
2007-08	43.8

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to regulate the activities of UK private security firms operating in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* elsewhere overseas; and if he will make a statement. [196221]

Dr. Howells: In late 2004, my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) requested a review by officials of the options for the regulation of the overseas operations of private military and security companies (PMSCs) registered in or operating from the UK. This applies to PMSCs operating both in Afghanistan and elsewhere overseas. This was to follow up on the Green Paper of 2002, 'Private Military Companies: Options for Regulation' and to respond to the increase in activities of PMSCs in areas of conflict overseas.

The review was completed in mid-2005 and suggested a number of options for ways in which the industry could be regulated. The review also highlighted complex issues, particularly around the definition of what activities should be regulated and how any regulations would be enforced. These issues, along with the options for regulation, continue to be the subject of Ministerial correspondence and official consultation. The Government have undertaken to keep Parliament fully informed of its proposals in this area. If it is agreed that regulation is appropriate, the Government will put the proposals to public consultation.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the legal status is of the US facilities at RAF Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales; and on what international treaties their status is based. [197911]

Des Browne: I have been asked to reply.

RAF Fylingdales is under the direct command of RAF Air Command. RAF Menwith Hill is made available to the United States Visiting Force (USVF) under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces

Agreement (SOFA) 1951, and other arrangements which are appropriate to the relationship that exists between the UK and the US for the purpose of our common defence. The Secretary of State for Defence retains legal possession and control over all Ministry of Defence sites, including those made available to the USVF. The bases operate with the full knowledge and consent of the Secretary of State and in full accordance with UK law.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment was made of the relative effectiveness of Commonwealth Scholarships and Chevening Scholarships for Commonwealth countries prior to the decision to terminate these scholarships. [196632]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The purpose of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) scholarship schemes is to build personal relationships with international leaders of the future. Following a recent review of all scholarship funding, in accordance with the FCO's global strategy and priorities, it was concluded that the Chevening scholarship scheme achieved this purpose more effectively than the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on UK military assistance to the High Mountain Battalions of the Colombian Army from the recent delegation of Colombian trades unionists hosted by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [197297]

Dr. Howells: The issue of UK assistance to specific parts of the Colombian army did not arise during my meeting with the delegation of Colombian trades unionists, whose visit was co-organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Trades Union Congress (TUC), nor did it in their subsequent meetings with FCO officials.

The delegation welcomed the efforts of the international community including the UK to help generate lasting peace in Colombia. However, they also outlined their concerns on the difficult environment for their members, concerns that we share. This is why we will continue to discuss with the Colombian TUC and their UK counterparts how this Government can offer their practical support to Colombian trade unionists.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Colombian government on the recent murders of trades unionists *(a)* Carlos Burbano and *(b)* Leonidas Gomez Rozo; and if he will make a statement. [197298]

Dr. Howells: We regard human rights defenders and trade unionists as a fundamental part of Colombian civil society. We have repeatedly urged the Colombian government to do their utmost to ensure that these brave people can take forward their essential work safely and with adequate protection. I did so when visiting Colombia in November 2007 and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did so with the Colombian Vice President in March. I also reiterated the Government's strong support to a delegation of Colombian trade unionists who visited the UK in early March, a visit co-organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Trades Union Congress (TUC).

I have urged the Colombian government to continue with its programme of expanding protection to trade unions and other human rights defenders, including when I spoke to Vice President Santos and the new Colombian ambassador to London in March 2008. We will continue to discuss with the Colombian TUC, and their UK counterparts, how this Government can offer their practical support to Colombian trade unionists.

Officials from our embassy in Bogota visited the offices of the National Union of Bank Employees on 27 March to show the Government's support, following the murder of Leonidas Gomez Rozo and the attempted murder of Rafael Boada.

We make regular and numerous representations to the Colombian government on specific cases of abuse of trade unionists. Our embassy in Bogota has made representations to the Colombian government on the case of Leonidas Gomez Rozo and will do so on Carlos Burbano. I will write to the hon. Member with the outcome of those representations once the embassy receives a response. I will also arrange for copies of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Commonwealth: Overseas Students

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultations took place with *(a)* the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission and *(b)* other external interests before the announcement to end his Department's funding for new awards from 2009-10; and if he will publish the review associated with this decision. [196634]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) had no prior consultations with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission on the specific issue of the ending of FCO funding for new Commonwealth scholars from 2009-10. Officials have regular, close contact with the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission. The 2006 review of FCO scholarships was based on broad consultations with a range of stakeholders. A copy of the 2006 review has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Contacts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196583]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) on 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 150-52W.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke) on 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 2308W.

I can confirm that no contracts have been awarded to McKinsey in the last 12 months.

Diplomatic Service: Resignations

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of the diplomatic service notified his Department that they intended to work in any capacity for *(a)* British Aerospace, *(b)* British Airways, *(c)* BP, *(d)* Shell, *(e)* Rolls Royce, *(f)* HSBC, *(g)* Standard Chartered, *(h)* RBS, *(i)* HBOS, *(j)* Barclays and *(k)* another company on leaving the service in each of the last five years. [195559]

Meg Munn: Civil servants are required to comply with the Business Appointment Rules as set out in the civil service management code. The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EC Countries: Eastern Europe

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to work closely with *(a)* Poland and *(b)* the Czech Republic on EU matters; and if he will make a statement. [197246]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It is our policy to work closely with all the EU member states. The Government have frequent discussions on a wide range of EU matters with Ministers and officials from both Poland and the Czech Republic. In 2007 there were several ministerial exchanges with the Czechs and Poles, including a guest of Government visit by President Klaus of the Czech Republic and a 'European Dialogue' which was launched between the UK and Poland.

EU Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will be able to represent the UK's interests when representing the EU. [195289]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The high representative for foreign affairs and security policy will be responsible for implementing the Common Foreign and Security Policy, as mandated by the member states in the Council. He or she will represent the EU on matters on which there is an agreed policy; the president of the European Council will represent the EU at his or her level. As is the case now, it will be for member states to decide by unanimity the matters to be addressed through the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. Where we do not agree, the UK will still act independently.

European Union: Public Relations

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ensure that the criteria for the distribution of the UK's portion of the fund to be allocated to public communication under the provisions of the documents Communicating Europe (COM (07) 568) and Proposal for an Interinstitutional Agreement on Communicating European Partnership (COM (07) 569) will include making the monies available in equal proportions to those for and those against European integration. [198698]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government's position on Communicating Europe in Partnership was set out in our explanatory memorandum of 26 October 2007 and my subsequent letters to the European Scrutiny Committee of 6 December 2007 and 17 March 2008.

As these documents made clear, the purpose of Communicating Europe in Partnership is to improve the coherence, integration and effectiveness of the EU's communications efforts. EU funds will be disbursed in support of these objectives. The Government welcomes the concept of openness underlying the Commission's proposals on Communicating Europe in Partnership. We also welcome the Commission's confirmation that proposals under Communicating Europe in Partnership will be developed through existing Commission funding.

As set out in my letter of 17 March to the chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee, I can confirm that the European Commission's proposal for an Inter-Institutional Agreement under Communicating Europe in Partnership (Commission Document COM 569 2007) has been abandoned, following member state discussions at the Information Working Group in Brussels.

France: Industrial Disputes

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the French government on that government's duty under EU rules to *(a)* keep open French ports during industrial action in France and *(b)* to compensate UK businesses for the disruption caused during the current Sea France strike. [193325]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this issue with Mr. Bernard Kouchner, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, during a meeting at the UK-France summit on 27 March 2008.

During the industrial action taken by Sea France officers in February and March we maintained constant contact with the relevant French authorities through our embassy in Paris and consul-general in Lille. During this time, the French Government fulfilled their obligations to ensure that the industrial action did not lead to closure of ports and ports were closed only due to adverse weather conditions.

Any UK business which suffered financial loss as a result of the strikes could seek to bring legal action through the French courts. Any claim for compensation would depend on the facts of the individual case, on which independent legal advice should be sought.

Gaza: Borders

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions (*a*) he and (*b*) his officials have had with (i) the Government of Israel, (ii) the Government of Egypt and (iii) the European Commission on moves to open the Rafah border crossing to cargo; and if he will make a statement. [197037]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK wholly supports opening of the Rafah crossing and the restoration of the EU border assistance mission as soon as conditions allow. At the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 28 January, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary (David Miliband) and his EU colleagues supported the Egyptian efforts to find a compromise between the parties in order to open the crossing and made clear that

"the EU is ready to consider resuming its monitoring mission at Rafah under the provisions of the relevant international agreements related to Access and Movement concluded in November 2005".

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to Israeli Foreign Minister Livni and Egyptian Foreign Minister Abu Gheit on this issue. Our embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv are also in regular contact with their host governments.

International Cooperation: Bombs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with (*a*) EU partners and (*b*) the wider international community on the eradication of cluster munitions; and if he will make a statement. [197249]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK has had regular discussions with EU partners and the wider international community on cluster munitions at a number of levels. We are working hard with these partners to ensure we secure legally binding instruments on the production, transfer and stockpiling of those cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

In his speech on the publication of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2007 Human Rights Report on 25 March my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment to achieving a good result on cluster munitions.

Israel: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions (*a*) he, (*b*) Ministers and (*c*) officials in his Department have had with (i) Arab states and (ii) the Government of Israel on the reported storage of (A) rockets and (B) arms by Hamas in civilian areas in Gaza; what response was received from each; and if he will make a statement. [196142]

Dr. Howells: We regularly have discussions with Arab states on the issue of Israeli security. However, we have not discussed this particular matter with Arab states. Israel has made clear to us that it condemns the use of civilians as human shields. The UK condemns the storage of arms and rockets by Hamas in civilian areas. The UK urges all parties to adopt a peaceful, political resolution to the conflict.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions (*a*) he, (*b*) members of his Department and (*c*) UK representatives have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the Governments of (A) Russia and (B) Serbia on developments in Kosovo (1) since the referendum on 17 February 2007 and (2) with regard to the civil unrest in Mitrovica on 18 March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [197086]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since Kosovo's declaration of independence on 17 February 2008, the UK has continued its engagement with the Governments of Russia and Serbia, including on the issue of Kosovo. The UK also continues to work with Russia in multilateral fora, discussing Kosovo in the UN Security Council on 17 and 18 February and on 11 March, and at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)-Russia Council on 27 February.

We strongly condemn the violent disturbances in Mitrovica on 17 March which saw sustained mob violence directed against UN and NATO personnel and which led to the death of a UN police officer.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to assist democratic reform in Nigeria. [198125]

Meg Munn *[holding answer of 2 April 2008]:* The UK regularly stresses the importance of transparency and democratic reform to the Nigerian Government. Following widespread concerns about the conduct of the Nigerian elections in April 2007, we have continued to pursue a range of programmes designed to promote democratisation.

Over the past three years, the Department for International Development (DFID) has committed up to £7 million to support Nigerian electoral processes, including support to non-governmental organisations involved in voter education and media and conflict monitoring. DFID also works to strengthen the capacity of the Nigerian National Assembly through technical assistance to key parliamentary committees. Its programme 'Coalitions for Change' supports groups from civil society, the private sector, the media and government to work together to change the formal and informal rules that have entrenched poor accountability and poor resource management in Nigeria.

The British Council has commissioned a report investigating the impact of demographics on electoral inclusion in Nigeria. It has helped develop a number of Youth Assemblies in Nigeria, which provide access to democratic processes to young people. It also supports a youth newspaper and radio broadcasts on governance related issues.

This year, our High Commission in Abuja initiated a Public Diplomacy programme on Supporting Democratic Development. Other programmes include those to support freedom of expression and association, which also contribute to democratic reform.

Palestinians: Economic Situation

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of (*a*) progress on implementation of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan and (*b*) the effect of Hamas' control of Gaza on the overall development of the Palestinian economy. [196849]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is shortly due to finalise its budget for 2008 and the list of Palestinian Reform and Development Plan (PROP) projects and recurrent costs for donor support. Progress in implementing the PROP will be reported at the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) meeting in London on 2 May. The World Bank and European Commission have established funding mechanisms to co-ordinate donor financial support for the PROP.

The takeover of Gaza by Hamas in June 2007 led to severe Israeli restrictions on imports into Gaza and a near complete-ban on exports. This has had a profound impact on the Gazan economy. The Palestinian Trade Centre (PalTrade) states that 95 per cent. of industrial working establishments in Gaza closed between July 2007 and February 2008, with the construction, export agriculture, furniture and garment sectors hardest hit. PalTrade estimates that in the construction sector alone, 42,000 workers have been laid off since January 2007.

The impact of the Hamas takeover and closure of Gaza by Israel on the whole Palestinian economy is more difficult to assess. The Occupied Palestinian Territories' economy was stagnant in 2007 despite large donor inflows. It is likely that without the closure of Gaza, GDP would have grown slightly. According to the World Bank, real GDP per head in the OPTs is now 40 per cent. lower than in 1999.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that UK funding to the Palestinian Authority is spent on frontline services to help the Palestinian people. [197621]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

UK aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) is subject to the high levels of scrutiny to ensure it reaches those most in need. Funding is provided through the European Commission's PEGASE mechanism (the replacement for the Temporary International Mechanism) and the new World Bank fund. These mechanisms conduct rigorous checks against each payment, independent auditing, tracking and monitoring.

The UK is also working with the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the IMF to improve the PA's own financial management systems, which is essential if they are to deliver their frontline services effectively.

Poland: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Polish Government on ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [198729]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with his EU counterparts on a variety of issues, including the Lisbon Treaty. It is up to all 27 member states to ratify the Lisbon Treaty in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

Both Houses of Parliament in Poland have approved the Lisbon Treaty. The final stage of ratification is the President's signature.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has awarded any contracts to PricewaterhouseCoopers since 2000. [181509]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has awarded the following contracts to PricewaterhouseCoopers since 2004-05:

provision of accounting services to FCO Resource Accounts Department; and

provision of auditing services to FCO Internal Audit Department.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) on 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 150-152W.

We only have access to this information dating back to 2004-05, following the introduction of Prism, our financial and management information system.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outcome was of the recent meeting in Geneva between Abdul Wahid al-Nur of the Sudanese Liberation Movement and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. [197250]

Meg Munn: On 18 March in Geneva, the African Union (AU) and UN envoys for the Darfur political process and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council agreed with Abdul Wahid al-Nur, president of the Sudan Liberation Movement, on the need to strengthen security in Darfur, notably through the deployment of the UN and AU mission and on the importance of normalising regional relations to build a sustainable political solution to the Darfur crisis.

The participants made clear to Abdul Wahid al-Nur that he needed to commit fully to the AU/UN-led process including agreeing to a cessation of hostilities and talks through the AU-UN with the Government of Sudan.

Terrorism

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the European Parliament on taking steps to combat and prevent terrorism. [196359]

Dr. Howells: We work closely with the Council and the Commission of the EU, including through working groups and the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council, to ensure that the EU plays a full and active role in countering the threat of international terrorism. We currently have no plans to make representations to the European Parliament regarding the combating and prevention of terrorism.

Tibet: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of China on the right of cultural expression in Tibet. [195571]

Meg Munn: We have expressed our concern to Chinese authorities both in Beijing and London about recent events in Tibet and the surrounding region. We have urged them to respect freedom of expression and religion in Tibet; to avoid the use of excessive force in dealing with riots; and to respect fully the human rights of those detained. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to Chinese Premier Wen on 19 March 2008 urging the Chinese government to address the underlying issues by re-engaging in dialogue without preconditions with the Dalai Lama and his representatives. We discussed the rights of ethnic minorities with Chinese officials at the most recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, held on 28 January 2008 in Beijing.

Treaty of Lisbon

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in ratifying the Lisbon treaty in other EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [196370]

Mr. Jim Murphy: All 27 member states must ratify the Lisbon treaty according to their respective constitutional requirements. As of 31 March, Hungary, Malta, Slovenia, Romania, France and Bulgaria have ratified the treaty through Parliament.

UN World Conference Against Racism

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his officials have had with counterparts in *(a)* the United States and *(b)* the United Nations on the decision of the United States Congress on Durban 2. [197332]

Meg Munn: We are aware of the Resolution of the House of Representatives on 23 January 2008. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have been in discussions with their US counterparts and colleagues from the UN on the Durban Review Conference, keeping them informed of our current position.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Famine

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* the World Food Programme and *(b)* other UN bodies on a potential famine in Chin state, western Burma. [198368]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell) on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 34W.

CDC

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1273, on CDC, what the 79 CDC subsidiary companies are; in which countries they are registered; and with what regulatory authorities with which their accounts of each are filed. [197972]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Contrary to the answer I gave on 20 March 2008, *Official Report* column 1272W we have now been advised by CDC that the list of subsidiary companies at 31 December 2007 now totals 78. CDC Haina (UK) Ltd has been dormant for some time and was dissolved in February 2007. This information has been registered at Companies House. CDC has confirmed that there is no requirement for the company to hold the information on the regulatory authorities with which their accounts are filed. However, they do require subsidiary companies themselves to comply with their respective local country requirements on regulatory norms for filing and submission of accounting information.

The list of CDC's subsidiary companies is as follows:

Country of incorporation and operation	*Subsidiary company*
Egypt	Middle East Food and Trade Company (S.A.E.) (held by North Africa Foods Limited)
Mauritius	CDC Agribusiness Management Limited
Mauritius	CDC Fennec Limited
Mauritius	CDC Financial Services (Mauritius) Limited
Mauritius	CDC Haina (Mauritius) Limited
Mauritius	CDC Investment Holdings Limited
Mauritius	CDC South Asia Limited
Mauritius	Globeleq Holdings (Songas) Limited (held by Globeleq Africa Holdings Limited)
Mauritius	Globeleq Holdings Kondapalli Limited (held by Globeleq Asia Holdings Limited)
Mauritius	North Africa Foods Limited (held by Pan Africa Holdings Limited)
Mauritius	Pan African Holdings Limited

Country of incorporation and operation	Subsidiary company
Mauritius	Afriforest Investments Limited
Mauritius	Equitoria Teak Holdings Limited(held by Afriforest Investments Limited)
Mauritius	Actis Afica Agrifinance Limited
Mauritius	CAC Holdings (Mauritius) Limited
Mauritius	CAC Holdings (Latin America) Limited (held by CAC Holdings (Mauritius) Limited
South Africa	Globeleq Services South Africa (Pty) Limited (held by Globeleq Africa Holdings Limited)
Sudan	Equatoria Teak Company Limited(held by Equitoria Teak Holdings Limited)
Sudan	African Forest Group Limited(held by Afriforest Investments Limited)
Tanzania	Forest Technical Services Limited (held by Pan African Holdings Limited)
Tanzania	Freshfields Investments Limited (held by Pan African Holdings Limited)
Tanzania	Globeleq Tanzania Services Limited (held by Globeleq Services Limited)
Tanzania	Songas Limited (held by Globeleq Tanzania Limited and Globeleq Somanga Limited)
Tanzania	Kilombero Valley Teak Company Limited
Tanzania	Tata Tea Limited (held by Fresh fields Limited)
Tanzania	Wakulima Tea Company Ltd (held by Tata Tea)
Tanzania	Kabana Tea Ltd (held by Tata Tea)
Tanzania	Chain Bora Ltd (held by Tata Tea)
Uganda	Development Finance Company of Uganda
Uganda	DFCO Bank Limited (held by Development Finance Company of Uganda)
Uganda	DFCO Leasing Company Limited (held by Development Finance Company of Uganda)
Uganda	Rwenzori Properties Limited (held by Development Finance Company of Uganda)
Uganda	Housing Finance Company of Uganda Limited (held by Development Finance Company of Uganda)
Uganda	Rwenzori Courts Limited
Uganda	Umeme Limited (held by Globeleq Holdings Concho Limited)
Uganda	Equatoria Teak Services Limited (held by Equatoria Teak Holdings Limited)
Zambia	Mpongwe Development Company Limited
Zambia	Mpongwe Milling Limited (held by Mpongwe Development Company Limited)
Zambia	Munkumpu Farms Limited (held by Mpongwe Development Company Limited)
Zambia	Nanga Farms Limited
Zimbabwe	Kohler Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd(held by Lenco Holdings Limited)
Barbados	CDC Airport Investment (Barbados) Limited (held by CDC Holdings (Barbados) Limited)
Barbados	CDC (Euro) Limited
Barbados	CDC Holdings (Barbados) Limited
Bermuda	CDC Globeleq Holdings Limited (held by CDC Financial Services (Mauritius) Limited)
Bermuda	Globeleq Africa Holdings Limited (held by Globeleq Africa Limited)
Bermuda	Globeleq Africa Limited (held by CDC Globeleq International Limited)
Bermuda	Globeleq Holdings Azito Limited (held by Globeleq Africa Holdings Limited)
Bermuda	Globeleq Holdings Concho Limited (held by Globeleq Africa Holdings Limited)
Bermuda	Globeleq Holdings Tsavo Limited (Globeleq Africa Holdings Limited)

Country of incorporation and operation	Subsidiary company
Bermuda	Globeleq Maghreb Limited (held by Globeleq Africa Holdings Limited)
Bermuda	Globeleq Tanzania Limited (held by Globeleq Holdings (Songas) Limited)
British Virgin Islands	Tradewinds Investments Holdings Corp
Cayman Islands	CDC Digicel Holdings Limited (held by CDC Holdings (Barbados) Limited)
Cuba	CDC Equipment Leasing Limited
Guyana	Guyana Housing and Development Company Limited
Guyana	Guyana Mortgage Finance Company Limited
Netherlands Antilles	CDC Capital Partners Netherlands Antilles NV
United States	Globeleq Inc (held by Globeleq Advisers Limited)
Indonesia	PT CDC Land
Malaysia	CDC Holdings Sdn Bhd
Malaysia	Kulai Oil Palm Estate Sdn Bhd
Singapore	CDC Veracruz Pte Limited
Singapore	CDC Guadalajara Pte Limited
Singapore	CDC Monterrey Pte Limited
Singapore	Pacific Rim Palm Oil PTE Limited
Mauritius and India	Nandi Investments Ltd (held by CDC Financial Services (Mauritius) Limited)
Jersey	Globeleq Somanga Limited (held by Globeleq Holdings (Songas) Limited)
United Kingdom	Globeleq Advisers Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Asset Management Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Capital Partners Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Capital for Development Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Emerging Markets Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Equity Partners Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Funds Management Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Overseas Holdings Limited
United Kingdom	CDC Venture Capital Limited

Departmental Coordination: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had on the Delivery Agreement for Public Service Agreement 29 with *(a)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *(b)* the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(c)* HM Treasury; and what his Department's specific respc·nsibility is for each of the eight indicators associated with this target. [197776]

Mr. Malik: The Delivery Board for the PSA on International Poverty Reduction (PSA 29) met for the first time in February. The Department for International Development's (DFID) permanent secretary chaired the meeting and the permanent secretaries from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Her Majesty's Treasury

and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs attended, as did a representative from the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU). The delivery board are scheduled to meet in April to finalise the performance framework.

Under the framework, DFID will lead on each of the eight indicators, including establishing the baseline position and targets, and the monitoring of progress against the targets set.

Departmental Public Expenditure

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the reasons were for his Department's £91 million use of end year flexibility. [197778]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development's (DFID) £91 million end of year flexibility (EYF) consists of £75.5 million resource and £15.1 million capital.

Of the £75.5 million resource, £63.5 million is near cash and £12 million non-cash. We keep a small non-cash EYF stock to manage fluctuations in International Finance Institutions' (IFI) capital charges.

The £63.5 million near cash resource EYF stock represents about 1.5 per cent. of DFID resource outturn in 2006-07 and represents a prudent end-year operating margin.

The £15.1 million capital EYF has been drawn down and utilised during 2007-08.

Departmental Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of his Department's contribution to Public Service Agreements *(a)* 3, *(b)* 25, *(c)* 27 and *(d)* 30. [197773]

Mr. Malik: The 30 new public service agreements (PSA) set out the key priority outcomes the Government want to achieve in the 2008-11 spending period. The Department for International Development (DFID) is a formal delivery partner for the PSAs on climate change (PSA 27) and conflict prevention (PSA 30). In addition, through our work on poverty reduction, the Department will contribute to delivery of the PSAs on migration (PSA 3) and counter-terrorism (PSA 26).

PSA 27

In consultation with others, we are helping to design a suite of multi-donor climate investment funds to reduce poverty through action on climate change. These will be launched in 2008 and will be capitalised by funds from the £800 million in the international window of the UK's Environmental Transformation Fund. In addition, we are supporting the Global Environment Facility (GEF), multilateral development banks' Clean Energy Investment Framework and UN Special Adaptation Funds, and working to address the information and knowledge gaps relating to climate change impacts in Africa. We will also be looking to address climate change through our bilateral programmes, such as in China and Bangladesh.

PSA 30

Many of the countries and regions which are the focus of the new conflict prevention PSA are priorities for DFID. Reducing poverty in these fragile and conflict-affected states is essential to tackle the conditions in which conflict emerges and to achieve the MDGs. DFID is increasing levels of funding to fragile and conflict affected countries. In addition to these efforts, DFID is working with FCO and MOD to help prevent, manage and resolve conflict through the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP) and the Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF). The total value of these funds is set to rise from £139m (2007-08) to £229 million (2010-11). The PSA also focuses on building more effective international institutions. DFID has been working with FCO and MOD to strengthen the UN's capacity to prevent conflict and build peace, and has committed funds of more than £50 million over three years to the Peacebuilding Fund, the Peacebuilding Support Office and UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

PSA 3

DFID is contributing £35 million to a new cross-government Returns and Reintegration Fund led by the FCO. The Fund will be headed by a DFID staff member and DFID country teams will be contributing their expertise to make sure fund projects are as effective as they can be.

PSA 26

Within the parameters of the International Development Act, our programme will make a positive contribution to the Government's counter-radicalisation effort. In November, the Prime Minister publicly committed DFID, FCO and the British Council to spending

"around £400 million over the next three years...to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas".

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the likely date for the next update of progress on indicators *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3, *(d)* 4 and *(e)* 7 associated with Public Service Agreement 29. [197774]

Mr. Malik: The first planned reporting round relevant to the reporting of Public Service Agreement (PSA) 29 is the 2008 Autumn Performance Report, which is usually published in November or December.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made towards his Department's April deadline for establishing the baseline data for the eight indicators associated with Public Service Agreement 29. [197775]

Mr. Malik: Official international data showing progress towards the millennium development goals (MDG) indicators, which are published by the United Nations, will be used to set the baseline position for the eight indicators associated with public service agreement 29. These data were last published in July 2007. We expect an update of the data in June or July.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195879]

Mr. Malik: There are no plans to set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing with the specific aim of reducing travel. The Department for International Development (DFID) does however have a target to reduce air miles flown by 5 per cent. per annum and video-conferencing is one tool helping to achieve this.

Meetings are arranged around the needs of the business but before any travel is authorised in DFID staff must confirm that they have considered using video-conference.

DFID currently use a total of 119 video-conference units, in the UK and overseas. In the last year DFID held 7,169 managed video conferences. A recent study showed that video-conferencing in DFID avoids more than two million miles of air travel a year.

Gaza: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza; and what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* at risk of starvation, *(b)* without access to basic medical treatment and *(c)* without access to safe drinking water; and if he will make a statement. [197974]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Currently there is no danger of starvation but an estimated 1.1 million Gazans—80 per cent. of Gaza's population—is at least partly dependent on food aid. Food aid provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) covers 60 per cent. to 80 per cent. of calorific need of those that receive it, with people left to buy the remainder.

Palestinians currently have access to basic medical treatment and medicines continue to enter Gaza. However, the health care system is under strain as infrastructure and equipment deteriorates. The World Health Organization reports that 85 essential items are nearly or completely depleted, largely because of procurement problems.

The water and sanitation sector throughout Gaza is facing severe difficulties. Gaza has traditionally had problems with the purity of its drinking water but the current situation is exacerbated by power cuts affecting pumping stations; 90 per cent. of mains water is polluted and up to 60 million litres of raw or poorly treated sewage are being discharged into the Mediterranean sea each day. Figures are unavailable for the number of people affected by the polluted water.

This situation has not been caused by a lack of response or support from the international community, rather the continued restrictions on access to Gaza.

To help ease the situation the UK provided £15.45 million in March 2008 through the European Commission's PEGASE mechanism, supporting essential services and providing allowances to 77,000 key workers. To support the work of UNRWA DFID provided £15.6 million in 2007-08.

Overseas Aid

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was allocated by his Department to non-governmental organisations providing international relief or development aid in each year between 2005 and 2007. [197611]

Mr. Malik: Total UK Bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) channelled through non-governmental organisations (NGO's) between 2005 and 2007 is set out in the following table below:

UK Bilateral ODA channelled through NGO's between 2005 and 2007

	£ million
Calendar year	*Total*
2005	339.02
2006	343.00
2007	335.87

Pakistan: Asylum

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of *(a)* refugees and *(b)* internally displaced people resident in (i) Pakistan and (ii) Tanzania in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [197104]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is as follows:

Pakistan

Estimate of refugee numbers in Pakistan for each year since 2000 are as follows (figures collected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees):

	Number of refugees (million)
2000	1.2
2001	2.2
2002	1.9
2003	1.1
2004	1
2005	1.08
2006	1.04
2007	2.03

There are no comprehensive figures on internally displaced people in Pakistan during this period.

However, two recent humanitarian disasters in Pakistan led to the creation of IDPs over a short-term period. Approximately 250,000 were internally displaced following floods in the provinces of Balochistan and Sindh in June 2007 and as a result of the October 2005 earthquake, the estimates of IDPs were: 350,000 (2005); 297,000 (2006); 38,000 (2007) and 4.933 (as at 1 February 2008).

Tanzania

Estimate of refugee numbers in camps in Tanzania for each year since 2000 are as follows (figures collected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees):

	Number of refugees (thousand)
2000	510.9
2001	498.1
2002	519.4
2003	479.8
2004	403.9
2005	350.6
2006	287.1
2007	217.4
2008 (as at 29 February)	209.4

In addition to the numbers above, a further 218,000 Burundian refugees are also living outside camps in Tanzania.

Tanzania has no identified internally displaced people.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by his Department in each of the last nine years. [197502]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no record of current or previous contracts with Rackspace for the period requested.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to improve the lives of children in care. [198544]

Kevin Brennan: The Government published the "Care Matters" White Paper in June 2007 setting out reforms needed to transform the life chances of children and young people in care, to ensure good parenting from everyone in the system and the centrality of the voice of the child. It built on responses to the Green Paper "Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care", and the conclusions of four working groups established to investigate best practice in supporting those in care.

Since 2000-01 local authority expenditure on these services has increased from £1.3 billion to just under £2.1 billion in 2005-06, an increase of 57 per cent. In addition, the White Paper announced around £300 million extra funding over four years to support the further improvements needed. A range of legislative changes to support the "Care Matters" reforms are also currently being debated in Parliament as part of the Children and Young Persons Bill.

On 26 March 2008 the Government, Association of Directors of Children's Services, and Local Government Association published an implementation plan "Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care". It encourages systematic planning for service improvement and lists tools, resources and support available to assist local improvement. The implementation plan can be found at:

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/childrenincare

The process of improvement will be taken forward through a series of regional conferences for those involved in working with looked after looked after children over the spring and summer.

Curriculum

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* average and *(b)* recommended number of hours per week spent on (i) mathematics, (ii) English, (iii) science, (iv) modern languages and (v) history and geography was for school children in each school year in each of the last 10 years. [196648]

Jim Knight: The statutory National Curriculum Programmes of Study set out what is to be taught in each subject, not how it is to be taught, nor for how many hours each week. The Department does not recommend, nor does it collect data on, the average number of hours spent each week teaching mathematics, English, science, modern foreign languages, history and geography.

However, through the Secondary Schools' Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS), we have data available for 1996 and for 2002 on the average number of standardised periods studied by pupils in year groups 7 to 11 in named subjects. The results are set out in the annex and are taken from the 'Statistical First Release 25/2003, Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey: November 2002 (Provisional)'. The SSCSS is an occasional sample survey carried out every four to six years and it does not provide comprehensive time series data.

Table 4: Average number of standardised periods[1] studied by pupils[2] in year groups 7 to 11 in named subjects (revised)—England

Standardised periods[1]

	Year group									
	7					8				
	1996		2002			1996		2002		
Subject	Average	±	Average	±	Change[3]	Average	±	Average	±	Change[3]
Mathematics	5	0.1	5	0.1	0	5	0.1	5	0.1	0
English	5	0.1	5	0.2	0	5	0.1	5	0.1	0
Combined/ General Science	5	0.1	5	0.1	0	5	0.1	5	0.1	0

Table 4: Average number of standardised periods[1] studied by pupils[2] in year groups 7 to 11 in named subjects (revised)—England

Standardised periods[1]

	Year group 7					8				
	1996		2002			1996		2002		
Subject	*Average*	*±*	*Average*	*±*	*Change[3]*	*Average*	*±*	*Average*	*±*	*Change[3]*
Biology	2	0.1	2	0.0	-1	2	0.1	2	0.0	0
Chemistry	2	0.0	2	0.0	0	2	0.0	2	0.0	0
Physics	2	0.0	2	0.0	0	2	0.0	2	0.0	0
Other Sciences	3	0.2	5	0.0	1	4	0.2	5	0.0	1
French	4	0.1	4	0.1	0	4	0.1	3	0.1	0
German	4	0.6	3	0.1	0	3	0.6	3	0.1	0
Spanish	4	0.6	3	0.1	0	3	0.6	3	0.1	0
Other Modern Languages	4	0.4	3	0.1	-1	4	0.4	3	0.1	0
Design and Technology	3	0.1	3	0.1	0	3	0.1	3	0.1	0
Information & Communication Technology	1	0.1	1	0.0	0	1	0.1	1	0.0	0
Other/Combined Technology	4	0.4	3	0.1	0	3	0.4	3	0.1	0
Home Economics[2]	2	0.4	..	..	..	2	0.4	..	..	..
Business Studies	1	0.0	1	0.0	0	1	0.0	1	0.0	0
Classics	1	0.0	2	0.0	1	2	0.0	2	0.0	0
History	3	0.1	2	0.1	0	3	0.1	3	0.1	0
Religious Education	2	0.1	2	0.1	0	2	0.1	2	0.1	0
Geography	3	0.1	2	0.1	0	3	0.1	3	0.1	0
Other Social Studies	1	0.0	2	0.0	1	2	0.0	1	0.0	-1
Combined Arts/Humanities/ Social Studies	4	0.5	6	1.2	0	4	0.5	6	0.4	1
Music	2	0.1	2	0.1	0	2	0.1	2	0.0	0
Drama	2	0.1	1	0.1	0	2	0.1	1	0.0	0
Art and Design	2	0.1	2	0.1	0	2	0.1	2	0.0	0
Physical Education	3	0.1	3	0.1	0	3	0.1	3	0.1	0
Careers Education	1	0.0	1	0.0	0	2	0.0	1	0.0	0
Personal, Social and Health Education	2	0.1	1	0.2	0	2	0.1	1	0.2	0
General Studies	2	0.1	2	0.0	0	2	0.1	2	0.0	0
Citizenship	—	—	2	0.6	—	—	—	2	0.5	..
Other Subjects Not Covered Above[5]	3	0.7	2	2.7	0	3	0.7	2	3.2	0

Standardised periods[1]

	Year group 9					10				
	1996		2002			1996		2002		
Subject	*Average*	*±*	*Average*	*±*	*Change[3]*	*Average*	*±*	*Average*	*±*	*Change[3]*
Mathematics	5	0.1	5	0.1	0	5	0.1	5	0.1	0
English	5	0.1	5	0.1	0	5	0.1	5	0.1	0
Combined/ General Science	5	0.1	5	0.1	0	7	0.1	7	0.3	0
Biology	2	0.1	2	0.0	0	3	0.1	3	0.2	0
Chemistry	2	0.0	2	0.0	0	3	0.0	3	0.2	0
Physics	2	0.0	2	0.0	0	3	0.0	3	0.2	0
Other Sciences	4	0.3	5	0.0	1	5	0.3	7	0.1	1
French	4	0.1	3	0.1	0	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
German	3	0.6	3	0.1	0	4	0.6	4	0.0	0
Spanish	3	0.6	3	0.1	0	4	0.6	4	0.0	0
Other Modern Languages	4	0.4	3	0.1	0	4	0.4	4	0.1	0

Standardised periods[1]

	Year group 9					*Year group 10*				
	1996		*2002*			*1996*		*2002*		
Subject	*Average*	*±*	*Average*	*±*	*Change*[3]	*Average*	*±*	*Average*	*±*	*Change*[3]
Design and Technology	3	0.1	3	0.1	0	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Information & Communication Technology	1	0.1	1	0.1	0	3	0.1	3	0.6	0
Other/Combined Technology	3	0.4	3	0.1	0	4	0.4	3	0.0	0
Home Economics[2]	2	0.4	—	—	—	4	0.4	—	—	—
Business Studies	1	0.0	3	0.0	2	4	0.0	4	0.3	0
Classics	2	0.0	2	0.0	0	4	0.0	3	0.0	-1
History	3	0.1	3	0.1	0	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Religious Education	2	0.1	2	0.2	0	2	0.1	2	0.2	0
Geography	3	0.1	3	0.1	0	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Other Social Studies	2	0.0	1	0.0	-1	3	0.0	4	0.0	0
Combined Arts/Humanities/ Social Studies	4	0.5	5	0.3	0	4	0.6	5	0.6	0
Music	2	0.1	2	0.0	0	4	0.1	3	0.1	0
Drama	2	0.1	2	0.1	0	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Art and Design	2	0.1	2	0.0	0	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Physical Education	3	0.1	3	0.1	0	3	0.1	3	0.2	0
Careers Education	1	0.0	1	0.0	0	1	0.0	1	0.3	0
Personal, Social and Health Education	2	0.1	1	0.2	0	2	0.1	2	0.9	0
General Studies	1	0.0	1	0.0	0	2	0.0	2	0.4	0
Citizenship	—	—	2	0.6	—	—	—	2	0.6	—
Other Subjects Not Covered Above[5]	3	0.7	2	3.3	0	4	0.8	6	4.8	0

Standardised periods[1]

	Year group 11				
	1996		*2002*		
Subject	*Average*	*±*	*Average*	*±*	*Change*[3]
Mathematics	5	0.1	5	0.1	0
English	5	0.1	5	0.1	0
Combined/General Science	7	0.1	7	0.3	0
Biology	3	0.1	3	0.2	-1
Chemistry	3	0.0	3	0.2	-1
Physics	3	0.0	3	0.2	0
Other Sciences	5	0.3	7	0.2	1
French	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
German	4	0.6	4	0.0	0
Spanish	4	0.6	3	0.1	0
Other Modern Languages	4	0.4	3	0.1	0
Design and Technology	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Information & Communication Technology	3	0.1	3	0.3	0
Other/Combined Technology	4	0.4	4	0.1	0
Home Economics[1]	4	0.4	—	—	—
Business Studies	4	0.0	4	0.2	0
Classics	4	0.0	3	0.0	-1
History	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Religious Education	2	0.1	2	0.2	0
Geography	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Other Social Studies	4	0.0	4	0.0	0

Standardised periods[1]

Subject	*Year group 11* 1996 Average	±	2002 Average	±	Change[3]
Combined Arts/Humanities/Social Studies	4	0.6	5	0.3	0
Music	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Drama	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Art and Design	4	0.1	4	0.1	0
Physical Education	3	0.1	3	0.2	0
Careers Education	1	0.0	1	0.1	0
Personal, Social and Health Education	2	0.1	2	0.2	0
General Studies	2	0.0	3	0.7	0
Citizenship			2	0.6	
Other Subjects Not Covered Above[2]	4	0.8	5	2.5	0

[1] Periods have been standardised to a 40 period week.
[2] Restricted to pupils that study the subject.
[3] Changes since 1996 have been calculated taking the 95 per cent. confidence intervals into consideration and rounded.
[4] Home Economics was classified as an individual subject in 1996. In 2002 it was classified with Design and Technology.
[5] Includes Special Educational Needs for both 1996 and 2002 subject classifications.

Departmental Correspondence

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* referrals and *(b)* letters of notification were received by the Department in each of the last five years from (i) state maintained and (ii) independent schools; [188765]

(2) how many *(a)* referrals and *(b)* letters of notification on child protection received by the Department in each of the last five years from (i) state maintained and (ii) independent schools were subsequently reported to the police with a copy sent to the Department; [189250]

(3) when he plans to answer question *(a)* 188765 tabled on 20 February and *(b)* 189250 tabled on 21 February, on child protection. [198551]

Kevin Brennan: Where employers (including independent schools) in the education sector have ceased to use the services of a person because they consider that person is unsuitable to work with children, or they would have ceased to use the person's services where the person has left their employment, they are required to refer information to the Department. In addition, the police refer to the Department cautions and convictions for those who have been working in educational establishments in accordance with Home Office Circular 6/2006 (The Notifiable Occupations Scheme). Identifying how many referrals and letters of notification were received from (i) state maintained and (ii) independent schools and how many were subsequently reported to the police with a copy sent to the Department would require detailed checks to be made of individual case records and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list each of his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies, setting out in each case their (i) function, (ii) latest estimated annual running costs and (iii) number of staff; and if he will make a statement. [194842]

Kevin Brennan: The information is as follows.

(a) The Department is not responsible for any Executive agencies.

(b) The Department is responsible for eight Executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and three advisory NDPBs. The names of these NDPBs are listed on the Department's website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/ndpb/.

(i) Details of the budget and function of each NDPB is published in the Department's Annual Report 2007 and in Public Bodies 2007, which are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/pdfs/deptreport2007.pdf.

The following NDPBs are the responsibility of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and their (i) function, (ii) latest estimated annual running costs and (iii) number of staff are set out as follows:

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA)

(i) Becta is the Government's lead partner in the strategic development and delivery of the e-strategy;

(ii) £10.460 million;

(iii) 201 staff.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)

(i) CAFCASS is involved in family law proceedings under the Children Act 1989 and its role is to advice the courts on what is in the best interests of a child;

(ii) £104.818 million;

(iii) 1,701 staff.

Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy

(i) The Advisory Group's function is to provide advice to the Government and monitor the overall success of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy towards achieving the goals of reducing the rate of teenage conceptions and reaching a 60 per cent. target of teenage parent participation in education, training or employment, to reduce the risk of their long-term exclusion;

(ii) £0.04 million;

(iii) The body does not employ staff.

National College for School Leadership (NCSL)

(i) NCSL's function is to develop excellent school leadership to transform children's achievement and well-being; to develop leadership within and beyond the school; to identify and grow tomorrow's leaders; and create a fit-for-purpose, national college;

(ii) £8.928 million;

(iii) 265 staff.

Office of the Children's Commissioner, known as 11 MILLION

(i) The function of the Children's Commissioner is to promote awareness of the views and interests of children as set out in the Children Act 2004;

(ii) The Commissioner's Office, 11 MILLION, has a budget of £3 million;

(iii) 20 staff.

Partnerships for Schools (PfS)

(i) PfS supports the local delivery of the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme (including academies);

(ii) £12.5 million (of which the Department funds 50 per cent.);

(iii) 106 staff.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)

(i) QCA maintains and develops the national curriculum and associated assessments, tests and examinations, as well as accrediting qualifications in colleges and at work. QCA also regulates awarding bodies and exams to ensure they are fit for purpose;

(ii) £47.6 million;

(iii) 490 staff.

School Food Trust (SFT)

(i) SFT's function is to promote the education and health of children and young people by increasing the quality of food supplied and consumed in school;

(ii) £7.5 million;

(iii) 43 staff funded by grant-in-aid by the Department.

(The SFT also receives lottery funding to employ additional staff to take forward it Let's Get Cooking Programme).

School Teachers Review Body (STRB)

(i) The STRB's function is to consider matters referred to it by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in relation to the remuneration, professional duties or working time of school teachers; and to report to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State;

(ii) The Office of Manpower Economics provide the secretariat for the STRB and recover the associated cost from their sponsoring Department—BERR;

(iii) The body does not employ staff.

Teachers' TV board of governors

(i) The Teachers' TV board of governors' function is to upholding the editorial independence of the Teachers' TV channel; to advise the Secretary of State on the performance of the supplier; and to ensure that Teachers' TV meets the needs of its audiences and fulfils its strategic aims;

(ii) £0.2 million;

(iii) The body does not employ staff.

Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA)

(i) TDA's function is to secure the supply of the school work force through promotion of the teaching profession and quality assurance for initial teacher training (ITT); to support the development of the school work force through creation and promotion of professional and occupational standards, support of performance management arrangements and stimulation of a sufficient supply of high quality in-service training; to support the ongoing modernisation of the school work force, the wider education sector and children's and young people's services;

(ii) £25.103 million;

(iii) 303 staff.

Intimidation: Internet

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to tackle online bullying. [198543]

Kevin Brennan: The Government have taken a range of steps to tackle online bullying. We have enacted legislation giving school staff clear statutory power to confiscate mobile phones and discipline pupils for bad behaviour off school premises. We have made practical guidance on tackling cyberbullying available to all schools; and we will soon be making a curriculum resource pack dealing with cyberbullying available to teachers. We have also asked the Department's Cyberbullying Task Force, which brings together teacher unions and internet service providers, to consider what more can be done to prevent cyberbullying of school staff.

In addition, the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Byron Review of children and new technology. These include the establishment of a UK Council for Child Internet Safety, to provide strategic leadership for all work to protect children on the internet, as well as a major social marketing campaign and initiatives to support parents, schools and children services to help children manage online risks, including those from cyberbullying.

Teachers: Educational Broadcasting

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department of the Teachers TV channel was in each of the last five years. [196196]

Kevin Brennan: Teachers' TV was launched in February 2005 and aims to help raise standards in classrooms by sharing good practice, supporting continuing professional development, offering classroom resources, and providing education news and information. In the channel's first operating year the Department provided funding of £19.9 million, in the second £16 million and £16.7 million in its third year.

Truancy

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the rate of unauthorised absence was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [191967]

Kevin Brennan: Information on absence rates for the latest available year, 2006/07, is shown in the table. Data on pupil absence were not collected prior to 1993/94; however comparable data for 1993/94 to 2005/06 are not readily available on a consistent basis at local and regional levels.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2], pupil absence by type of school, 2006/07, for Cornwall local authority area and South West Government office region

		Maintained primary and secondary schools, all special schools, city technology colleges and academies					
				Percentage of half days missed[3]			
		Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[4]	*Number of enrolments[5]*	*Authorised absence*	*Unauthorised absence*	*Overall absence*	*Percentage of persistent absentees[6]*
	England	6,332,070	6,582,430	5.49	1.00	6.49	4.1
	South West	608,520	633,080	5.66	0.86	6.52	3.8
908	Cornwall	62,585	65,044	5.84	0.79	6.64	3.5

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] The number of sessions missed due to authorised/unauthorised/overall absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[4] Pupil numbers are as at January 2007. Includes pupils aged five to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
[5] Number of enrolments in schools between from start of the school year until 25 May 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).
[6] Number of persistent absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.

Note:
National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Young People: Disadvantaged

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to assist disadvantaged young people in the West Midlands since 1997. [194174]

Beverley Hughes: Effective help for disadvantaged young people depend on a partnership approach. Young People are generally facing more than one issue that usually involves the expertise of more than one agency. The Government's approach has been to encourage partnership working and sharing of information, while ensuring young people have a single point of contact. Since 1997 the creation of Youth Offending Teams, Drugs Action Teams, Connexions Partnerships, local Teenage Pregnancy Boards, and Children's Trusts have changed the way disadvantaged groups are supported.

This has been supported by the creation of a new profession of personal advisers (PAs) to act as lead professionals in helping young people sort out their problems and get back on the path to success. PAs have been recruited and trained by Connexions Partnerships and there are now approximately 1,000 operating in the West Midlands.

The introduction of the Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund (YOF/YCF) during the last year has given young people the opportunity to participate in a range of positive activities. It has actively encouraged participation and engagement of disadvantaged young people and those who are hard to reach. The funds are worth £6.5 million in the West Midlands, with young people as the applicants, decision makers and beneficiaries. YOF/YCF will continue for the next three years.

The West Midlands Healthy Care Programme and Healthy Care Grant is supporting vulnerable young people in the West Midlands. This is mainly through targeted support through individual local authorities and support through key networks, including Education Protects, West Midlands Leaving Care Managers Network and Healthy Care Network.

Extended schools are a key mechanism through which Government provide support to children and young people and their families. The Government's aim is that at least half of all primary schools and a third of all secondary schools should be providing access to the full core offer by the end of September 2008. In the West Midlands Coventry has already exceeded this figure, and is delivering the offer in over 70 per cent of schools in the area (compared to a national average of 45 per cent.).

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department, its predecessor and its agencies spent on staff working on *(a)* marketing and *(b)* branding in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [167303]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007. Since that date the Department has spent an estimated total of £9,000 on staff involved in branding and £191,788.04 on marketing staff.

The National Weights and Measures Laboratory in the last 12 months has spent an estimated £3,750 on marketing activities. Much of this, but not all, is devoted to marketing specific services to business such as type approval and certification.

There has not been any staff effort on branding.

In the 12 months to 29 February 2008 the UK-IPO spent no staff time on branding. While the office does not use staff to directly market its services it did spend £636,600 on raising awareness, education and informing groups about the IP system which touch on the services offered by the UK-IPO and other national and international bodies.

Kelvin Business School

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) prior to its removal from the Register of Education and Training Providers on 19 July 2007, on what dates official visits or checks were carried out on Kelvin Business School; [163992]

(2) on what date his Department first received representations on the legitimacy of Kelvin Business School as an education provider; [163993]

(3) on what dates Ministers attended meetings to discuss Kelvin Business School's removal from the Register of Education and Training Providers. [163994]

Bill Rammell: Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) officers were first tasked to carry out intelligence-led investigation of Kelvin Business School on 14 March 2007 and the inspection took place on 29 March 2007. The nature of the visit was to seek compliance with the immigration rules and all reasonable steps were taken to ensure the principal had an opportunity to demonstrate the college was bona-fide. Since the initial visit to the college the Home Office wrote to the principal seeking additional documentation on 6 June 2007 and subsequently on the 26 June 2007. The principal replied to the both Home Office letters within the 14 day deadline, but on both occasions submitting documentation which did not meet the criteria set out by the Home Office. After the second deadline for submission of documents had passed on the 10 July the Home Office wrote to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on 12 July informing DIUS that Kelvin Business School was in breach of the Immigration Rules and should be removed from the Register. This was done on 19 July 2007.

The registration process is one of continual assessment. BIA staff will recommend the removal of colleges found to be in breach of registration criteria. The final decision to remove is one for DIUS to make. The decision to remove Kelvin Business School was clear cut and did not require ministerial discussion.

Nanotechnology: Public Participation and Regulation

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what plans he has to take forward public engagement on nanotechnologies; and how his plans for public engagement will feed into policy in 2008-09; [196966]

(2) when he will implement the recommendations of each Government-commissioned review on the regulatory framework for nanotechnology; [196967]

(3) if he will set out a *(a)* timescale and *(b)* process for evaluating progress on the Government's commitments regarding nanotechnologies. [196995]

Ian Pearson: The Government's aim is for the UK to derive maximum benefit from nanotechnologies and their products in a way that safeguards health, safety and the environment and addresses the aspirations and concerns of the public. The statement by the UK Government about nanotechnologies, announced in the written ministerial statement of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 86-7W, explains what the Government are doing to deliver these objectives.

The Government do not hold a list of products containing free nanoparticles although it has published a report on the manufacture and use of nanomaterials in the UK:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/nanotech/research/reports/index.htm#manufacture

To promote a standardised approach to labelling and ensure that products containing manufactured nanoparticles can be correctly identified, the British Standards Institute has recently published a good practice guidance document PAS 130:2007 'Guidance on the labelling of manufactured nanoparticles and products containing manufactured nanoparticles'.

The Research Councils are undertaking public dialogue on nanotechnologies and the topic is likely to feature in work resulting from the recent programme of stakeholder engagement to identify the implications of new and emerging science and technology.

Government Departments and agencies are keeping under review the need for action to address regulatory gaps in the light of emerging evidence. The ministerial group on Nanotechnologies (which comprises the Ministers Science and Innovation; the Environment; Public Health; Health and Safety; and Business and Competitiveness) will oversee the process and will also review progress on delivery of the Government's other commitments regarding nanotechnologies.

Performing Right Society: Licences

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much the Performing Right Society collected from the issuing of music licences in each of the last five years for which data is available; [197564]

(2) how many Performing Right Society hairdresser and beauty salon licences were issued in each of the last five years for which data is available; [197565]

(3) how many Performing Right Society small premises licences were issued in each of the last five years for which data is available; [197566]

(4) how much was collected in higher royalty rate Performing Right Society licences in each of the last five years for which data is available; [197567]

(5) how much was collected by the Performing Right Society in licence fees from the hairdressing and beauty salons tariff in each of the last five years for which data is available; [197568]

(6) how much was collected by the Performing Right Society in small premises licence tariffs in each of the last five years for which data is available. [197569]

Ian Pearson: This is a matter for the Performing Rights Society and any inquiries should be directed to them.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aggregates: South East

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how the amounts set out in the regional guidelines for land-won sand and gravel production for the South East set out in the National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2001 to 2016 are allocated between each local authority in the region; and if she will make a statement: [196456]

(2) what estimate she has made of the proportion of demand for aggregates in London which will be met from sources within London in the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 20 years. [196457]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 31-2W, on gravel, what steps she plans to take to increase the proportion of aggregates extracted from marine sources in the South East region. [196513]

Mr. Iain Wright: The regional guidelines for provision of land-won sand and gravel in south east England for 2001 to 2016 are set out in the National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England, published in 2003. The regional guidelines are apportioned to mineral planning authorities in the region by the Regional Planning Body, taking into account advice from the mineral planning authorities and the South East of England Regional Aggregates Working Party. The guidelines make provision for the very limited available sources in London to supply 19 million tonnes of land-won sand and gravel over the guidelines period, (8 per cent. of forecast demand).

Minerals Policy Statement 1 "Planning and Minerals" encourages the environmentally acceptable supply of marine-dredged sand and gravel. The proportion of the supply of aggregates in the south east region which comes from this source is largely determined by the market and the capacity of the marine aggregates dredging industry.

Allotments

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will *(a)* collate information on allotment provision held at a local level, *(b)* encourage local authorities to devote more resources to providing and maintaining allotments and *(c)* increase funding for allotment sites. [198682]

Mr. Iain Wright: Government recognise the significant benefits that allotments provide. The Government do not hold information on allotment provision in local authorities, although we do collate information on the disposal of allotments. To improve information available on green spaces, including allotments, we have commissioned the development of a green space database. This will be an interactive mapping tool which will bring together several datasets and provide the opportunity for local authorities, and other users, to access and input information on quality and provision of green space, including allotments. The newly revised good practice guide, Growing in the community, published by the Local Government Association in March 2008, includes information on how local authorities can better maintain allotment sites and provide extra resources to do so. Local authorities have the freedom to manage their own resources. It is up to them to determine their spending priorities within the resources available to them.

Audit Commission: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the rate of employer contributions is to the pension scheme of which employees at the Audit Commission for England and Wales are members. [198493]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 3 April 2008:

Parliamentary Question on what the rate of employer contributions is to the pension scheme of which employees at the Audit Commission for England and Wales are members.

Your Parliamentary Question on what the rate of employer contributions is to the pension scheme of which employees at the Audit Commission for England and Wales are members has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission Pension Scheme (ACPS) is a funded, self-administered defined benefit pension scheme which was established with the inception of the Audit Commission in 1983. The ACPS is subject to the requirements of Scheme Specific Funding as introduced in the Pensions Act 2004.

The current employers' contribution rate to the Audit Commission Pension Scheme is 17% whilst employees contribute 6% of their salary.

From 1 April 2005 the Wales Audit Office (WAO) took over responsibility for auditing and inspecting Welsh public services. Employees of the WAO are now members of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.'

The text of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition her Department uses of *(a)* zero-carbon and *(b)* carbon neutral. [198671]

Mr. Iain Wright: Zero carbon homes mean that over a year, the net carbon emissions from all energy use in the home are zero. This would include energy use from cooking, washing and electronic appliances as well as space heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and hot water. This was set out in the policy statement 'Building A Greener Future' published in July 2007 which confirmed the Government's commitment to zero carbon homes from 2016.

The term "carbon neutral" can be used to describe organisations, events, goods or services which act to prevent as much carbon emissions as they produce.

Casinos: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 545W, on casinos: planning permission, if she will place in the Library a copy of the document held by

the Planning Inspectorate and provided as part of the appeal statement by the appellant in the case of Blue Chip Casino against the decision of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, ref: APP/G4620/A/06/2007910. [194830]

Mr. Iain Wright: The appeal documents can be viewed on the local planning authority's website at:

www.sandwell.gov.uk

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192519]

Mr. Dhanda: The only appeal upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years for this Department occurred in 2006-07. In view of this, the Department considers it would be inappropriate to give further details which might allow the appellant to be identified.

Community Relations: Elderly

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* support and *(b)* guidance her Department gives to local projects to support the social interaction of elderly people living alone. [195621]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government contributes to local projects to support the social interaction of elderly people living alone in a variety of ways, including through housing and related support services. For example, the Supporting People Programme, created in 2003, which is a grant programme administered through top tier local authorities, helps over 840,000 older people through housing support services to live independently in their home and community. Together, local authorities spent over £300 million on housing support services for older people in 2006-07.

We recently published "Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods—A National Strategy? for Housing in an Ageing Society" which promotes improved social inclusion and participation of older people through better housing in age friendly communities. This includes the promotion of Lifetime Homes and Neighbourhoods, better home repairs and adaptations services. Additional funding of £33 million between 2008-10 will go to support local agencies, such as Home Improvement Agencies, to help older people with minor repairs and adaptations. Good practice examples included in this strategy show how these and other agencies can provide a vital link to help people to access other support services to increase participation in the community.

Council Tax

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 963-4W, on council tax, when the table will be deposited in the Library; what the reasons are for the time taken to do so; and if she will make a statement. [198772]

Mr. Dhanda: The table has now been deposited in the Library of the House.

Departmental Consultants

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many consultants were employed by her Department in each month since January 2007; and what the total cost of such employment was. [199120]

Mr. Dhanda: This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts were awarded by her Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196589]

Mr. Dhanda: Contracts awarded to the five named companies in the last 12 months are detailed as follows.

(a) KPMG

(i) Independent audit advice to the Supporting People Programme.

(ii) £67,000

(b) PricewaterhouseCoopers

(i) Consultancy support to Internal Audit Service

(ii) £600,000

(i) Economic support to Communities' Capability Review Commitments.

(ii) £28,630

(c) Ernst and Young

(i) No Contracts awarded

(ii) £0

(d) McKinsey

(i) Support for Communities' High Level Seminar.

(ii) £125,000

(e) Deloitte

(i) No Contracts awarded

(ii) £0

Costs exclude VAT. Details of contracts awarded to other consultancy firms could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what audits her Department and its agencies have carried out in relation to personal data and IT equipment in each of the last 10 years. [176483]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government's security team has a rolling programme of security checks and reviews that check that protectively marked material, including personal information, is handled and stored correctly, and that portable ICT equipment is adequately secured when not in use. They also verify that the department's Government offices and agencies meet the appropriate standards.

As part of the review of data handling carried out by the Cabinet Office in 2007, Communities and Local Government did go through an exercise of identifying major business systems which held personal data. This has confirmed that many areas of this Department already have appropriate processes and controls in place. Communities and Local Government will be implementing the recommendations of the report of this review. New systems involving the storage and processing of data have to be formally accredited by the departmental IT security officer regarding data safeguards, and regularly reaccredited thereafter.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what visits she made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events she attended at each. [197154]

Mr. Dhanda: Records are only held centrally back to June 2006. This list is therefore not comprehensive, as it would require a detailed audit of records held off site, which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Date	*Venue*	*Event*
19 June 2007	Harrogate International Conference Centre	Launch of the Cave Report
20 June 2006	Harrogate International Conference Centre	Chartered Institute of Housing Annual Conference
26 February 2007	Birmingham International Conference Centre	British Muslim Forum
19 September 2006	Birmingham International Conference Centre	Development Trust Association Conference
5 July 2006	Bournemouth International Conference Centre	Local Government Association Annual Conference
19 June 2006	QE2 Conference Centre	Communities and Local Government Staff Conference
22 November 2006	Excel Exhibition Centre, Docklands	Thames Gateway Forum
27 November 2006	QE2 Conference Centre	Commission for Racial Equality Race Convention
29 January 2007	QE2 Conference Centre	Speech on planning
16 May 2007	QE2 Conference Centre	Work Wise U.K. Conference
12 December 2007	QE2 Conference Centre	Local Government Association Conference

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, on departmental intranet, how many Wikipedia entries have been *(a)* created and *(b)* amended from departmental IP addresses. [195344]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Wikipedia is not a website which we monitor the usage of specifically.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [199023]

Mr. Dhanda: The final evaluation of the public information campaigns carried out by the Department in 2007-08 is currently being prepared and will be published in the Department's annual report, which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department has made to opinion research companies other than Ipsos MORI in the last 12 months; at what cost; and for what purposes. [199266]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 699W, given to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill).

Development: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 644W, on regional planning and development: standards, which local authorities have had their proposed core strategy rejected or found unsound by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* independent examination and *(c)* the relevant government office for the region; and what the reason was for such a finding in each case. [198652]

Mr. Iain Wright: Development Plan Documents are examined by an Independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

The Inspector will produce a report, the recommendations of which are binding on the local authority, and which the authority must publish. If there are serious problems with the plan the Inspector may find it to be unsound and require it to be redone and resubmitted. At present, eight local authorities have had their core strategies found unsound in this manner. These are:

Windsor and Maidenhead
Carrick
Teignbridge
Lichfield
Stafford
Ryedale
Chichester
Restormel

The reasons why a plan is unsound are set out in the published Inspector's report, details of which can be found on the web sites of the relevant local authorities.

Energy Performance Certificates

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy that input matrix information relating to an energy performance certificate be released to the householder commissioning the certificate. [193040]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The input matrix information is not currently available to the householder commissioning the energy performance certificate. We have no plans to make this information available.

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to those preparing energy performance certificates on the account to be taken of *(a)* window sizes and *(b)* multiple glazing in assessing energy performance. [193041]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* The competencies required of energy assessors when preparing energy performance certificates are set out in the National Occupational Standards (NOS) published by Asset Skills. They include requirements to make accurate observations and measurements and to carry out calculations using the Government's Standard Assessment Procedure for the Energy Rating of Dwellings, SAP 2005. SAP 2005 takes into account window area and the presence or otherwise of multiple glazing.

General guidance on the software used to prepare EPCs has been produced by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Energy: Conservation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the energy efficiency ratings of council-owned housing in the City of Newcastle; and what improvements in that rating she has required in the next phase of the Decent Homes programme. [196112]

Mr. Iain Wright: Newcastle city council have been required to report against Best Value Performance Indicator 63 entitled 'Average Standards Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating for all HRA (local authority) dwellings' using SAP 2001 methodology. Their returns are shown as follows.

	SAP
2002-03	50.1
2003-04	Not known
2004-05	58.16
2005-06	59
2006-07	61

The Government have not taken any decisions about work following on from the Decent Homes programme. On December 12 the then Housing Minister my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford announced a review of the financing of council housing. The purpose of the review of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy System is to ensure that we have a sustainable, long term system for financing council housing. One of the work streams of the review is considering the issue of costs and standards for council housing. This work will help to inform any decision about a capital investment programme that will follow the decent homes programme.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Public Appointments

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will appoint a commissioner to the Equality and Human Rights Commission with responsibilities for the non-religious element of the religion or belief equality strand covering beliefs such as humanism. [195654]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Board currently consists of 16 Commissioners (including three Transition' Commissioners) with a range of different perspectives and expertise in the field of equality and human rights.

All Commissioners are appointed on the basis of their experience or knowledge of discrimination and human rights and collectively represent the wide range of views present in our society.

There are currently no plans to appoint any further Commissioners to the Board.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents on or near water were attended by the Fire Service in each year since 1994; and how many people were rescued by the Fire Service on or near water in each year. [197957]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many lift rescues were carried out by the fire and rescue service in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [198057]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of lift release incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England is set out as follows:

	Number of incidents
1994-95	23,005
1995-96	24,446
1996-97	23,070
1997-98	24,013
1998-99	23,689
1999-2000	24,124
2000-02	24,477
2001-02	25,709
2002-03	25,326
2003-04	26,001
2004-05	24,105
2005-06	24,473

Source:
Annual returns to CLG

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* chemical and *(b)* fuel (i) spills and (ii) suspected spills the fire and rescue service in each fire authority area attended in each year since 1994. [198064]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many special service incidents were attended by the fire service in each fire authority area in each year since 1994. [198360]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, for the period 1995 to 2006, has been placed in the Library

Fire Services: Buildings

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1220W, on fire services: buildings, what method of calculation was used to determine the size of regional control centres. [198803]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1220W, 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2776W and 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2887W. All of these factors combine to determine the size of the Regional Control Centres.

Fire Services: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire authorities have converted their fleets, in whole or in part, to run on *(a)* compressed natural gas, *(b)* liquid petroleum gas and *(c)* electricity. [198511]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fires: Death

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deaths in accidental dwelling fires there were in each fire and rescue service area in each year since 1997. [198357]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the number of fatal casualties from accidental dwelling fires, for each Fire and Rescue Service in England, in each year since 1997. Please note that the figures for 2006 are provisional and subject to change.

Table 1: Fatal casualties in accidental dwelling[1, 2] fires, by fire and rescue service, 1997-2006

FRS Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002[3]*	*2003[3]*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006[4]*
England	376	339	281	303	321	265	302	228	232	228
England (non Met Counties)	210	176	144	164	167	154	157	121	113	131
Avon	1	3	6	4	4	6	6	2	7	5
Bedfordshire	2	3	1	5	3	4	3	2	3	3
Berkshire	4	6	3	7	4	1	4	1	1	2
Buckinghamshire	6	1	3	5	3	4	4	1	1	2
Cambridgeshire	4	1	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	3
Cheshire	9	6	7	6	7	5	4	1	6	2
Cleveland	7	2	2	1	5	2	5	2	4	1
Cornwall	6	2	3	4	2	3	3	3	4	1
Cumbria	4	5	3	3	5	2	3	3	2	2
Derbyshire	6	7	4	9	5	5	8	5	0	1
Devon	3	5	3	5	3	3	6	1	2	6
Dorset	5	1	8	1	8	3	1	3	1	1
Durham	8	4	5	4	3	3	8	1	3	4
East Sussex	5	6	4	2	3	2	6	4	1	4
Essex	9	4	6	8	5	7	6	5	12	4
Gloucestershire	4	2	0	2	0	2	4	1	1	2
Hampshire	5	6	9	7	5	4	5	7	6	10

Table 1: Fatal casualties in accidental dwelling[1, 2] fires, by fire and rescue service, 1997-2006

FRS Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002[3]*	*2003[3]*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006[4]*
Hereford and Worcester	3	4	2	2	2	4	4	1	1	2
Hertfordshire	10	5	4	6	5	6	0	0	4	4
Humbersade	6	8	4	7	6	7	7	7	2	1
Isle of Wight	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
Kent	7	5	5	9	10	6	6	5	6	4
Lancashire	22	15	13	15	14	19	12	15	8	10
Leicestershire	4	9	3	1	4	5	4	8	3	3
Lincolnshire	2	7	3	3	4	5	4	4	2	4
Norfolk	5	1	5	6	5	2	4	3	5	5
North Yorkshire	6	8	4	2	4	5	5	2	2	4
Northamptonshire	4	5	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	4
Northumberland	3	1	1	1	6	0	3	0	1	1
Nottinghamshire	15	9	7	3	6	5	3	5	5	7
Oxfordshire	2	8	5	1	3	6	4	2	2	3
Shropshire	1	0	1	5	2	3	1	1	1	4
Somerset	4	1	0	1	4	1	4	2	2	3
Staffordshire	9	8	6	6	5	4	2	4	2	3
Suffolk	4	6	1	3	5	4	4	2	3	5
Surrey	5	5	3	7	2	4	7	2	4	4
Warwickshire	2	3	1	5	6	0	1	2	3	0
West Sussex	4	3	4	3	2	4	3	9	0	4
Wiltshire	3	0	1	0	2	6	1	0	0	2
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England - Met Counties	166	163	137	139	154	111	145	107	119	97
Greater Manchester	26	23	27	21	27	16	21	17	26	17
Merseyside	10	20	7	20	13	10	8	11	12	3
South Yorkshire	6	12	11	10	17	4	10	11	10	7
Tyne and Wear	5	10	5	5	7	4	6	3	4	6
West Midlands	15	17	16	27	17	15	17	11	15	16
West Yorkshire	20	20	17	18	11	12	22	15	7	15
Greater London	84	61	54	38	62	50	61	39	45	33

[1] Includes caravans, houseboats and other non-building structures used as a permanent dwelling - see explanatory note 8.
[2] Includes "late" calls and heat and smoke damage incidents.
[3] Includes fatalities reported during periods of industrial action.
[4] Provisional.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deaths there were in dwelling fires in each fire and rescue services area in England in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [198358]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the number of fatal casualties from dwelling fires, for each fire and rescue service in England, in each year since 1997.

Fatal casualties in dwelling fires[1,2] by FRS area and year, UK, 1997 to 2006

FRS area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006[3]*
England	432	383	334	351	358	309	345	269	369	287
England - non-Met counties	250	202	174	189	188	179	179	137	201	165
Avon	4	4	8	5	6	6	5	3	6	3
Bedfordshire	3	4	1	5	3	4	5	2	2	4
Berkshire	5	7	3	7	4	1	6	2	3	2
Buckinghamshire	7	2	4	6	3	6	4	1	3	1
Cambridgeshire	4	2	3	3	2	1	2	3	7	5
Cheshire	11	7	8	6	7	5	4	1	5	4
Cleveland	10	2	3	1	5	2	8	2	3	2
Cornwall	6	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	1
Cumbria	4	5	3	3	5	3	3	3	8	3
Derbyshire	7	8	7	10	5	10	11	6	7	1
Devon	4	6	4	7	3	4	6	1	2	6
Dorset	5	1	8	2	8	6	1	3	6	1
Durham	9	4	9	7	5	3	8	4	5	5

Fatal casualties in dwelling fires[1,2] by FRS area and year, UK, 1997 to 2006

FRS area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
East Sussex	7	8	5	3	3	4	6	4	8	5
Essex	14	6	6	10	6	7	8	6	10	8
Gloucestershire	4	2	1	2	1	2	5	1	1	2
Hampshire	5	8	9	8	7	5	5	7	7	11
Hereford and Worcester	6	4	3	2	2	4	4	2	4	3
Hertfordshire	10	7	4	6	5	5	0	0	1	4
Humberside	7	10	5	7	2	7	7	7	7	1
Isle of Wight	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	-	1
Kent	7	5	5	9	11	8	9	5	7	4
Lancashire	22	15	15	17	14	23	13	15	17	19
Leicestershire	4	9	3	1	5	7	4	9	12	6
Lincolnshire	2	7	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
Norfolk	5	1	5	9	6	2	4	3	3	6
North Yorkshire	7	8	4	2	4	5	5	2	2	4
Northamptonshire	8	8	5	3	3	3	2	3	6	5
Northumberland	3	1	2	1	6	0	3	0	1	1
Nottinghamshire	16	10	8	3	6	6	4	5	6	7
Oxfordshire	4	8	5	1	3	5	4	2	3	4
Shropshire	3	0	1	8	2	4	1	1	6	5
Somerset	4	1	0	1	5	1	4	2	4	3
Staffordshire	10	8	7	8	7	5	3	6	8	9
Suffolk	6	6	1	3	5	1	4	2	2	4
Surrey	5	6	3	7	2	4	7	2	5	4
Warwickshire	2	4	2	5	6	0	1	2	2	
West Sussex	5	4	7	3	2	4	4	12	13	4
Wiltshire	4	0	1	0	4	2	2	1	1	2
Isles of Scilly										
England – Met Counties	182	181	160	162	170	130	166	132	168	122
Greater Manchester	29	24	29	23	27	17	28	17	23	23
Merseyside	10	21	8	22	15	9	10	13	15	4
South Yorkshire	6	12	11	12	18	5	12	12	12	9
Tyne and Wear	5	16	9	5	7	4	7	4	5	7
West Midlands	16	19	22	30	23	18	17	17	24	24
West Yorkshire	24	23	20	22	12	21	25	23	32	18
Greater London	92	66	65	48	68	56	67	46	57	37

[1] Including late call and heat and smoke damage incidents.
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were killed in dwelling fires in each fire authority area in each year since 1994. [199073]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the number of fatal casualties from dwelling fires, for each Fire and Rescue Service in England, in each year since 1997.

Fatal casualties in dwelling fires[1,2] by FRS area and year, UK, 1994-2006

FRS area	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	366	428	428	432	383	334	351	358	309	345	269	369	287
England – Non-Met counties	189	236	238	250	202	174	189	188	179	179	137	201	165
Avon	6	2	3	4	4	8	5	6	6	5	3	6	3
Bedfordshire	4	4	6	3	4	1	5	3	4	5	2	2	4
Berkshire	5	3	12	5	7	3	7	4	1	6	2	3	2
Buckinghamshire	3	4	4	7	2	4	6	3	6	4	1	3	1
Cambridgeshire	5	3	9	4	2	3	3	2	1	2	3	7	5
Cheshire	6	6	8	11	7	8	6	7	5	4	1	5	4
Cleveland	1	7	5	10	2	3	1	5	2	8	2	3	2
Cornwall	0	6	3	6	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	1
Cumbria	4	10	3	4	5	3	3	5	3	3	3	8	3
Derbyshire	9	6	5	7	8	7	10	5	10	11	6	7	1

Fatal casualties in dwelling fires[1,2] by FRS area and year, UK, 1994-2006

FRS area	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Devon	8	5	6	4	6	4	7	3	4	6	1	2	6
Dorset	1	10	8	5	1	8	2	8	6	1	3	6	1
Durham	9	6	3	9	4	9	7	5	3	8	4	5	5
East Sussex	2	6	7	7	8	5	3	3	4	6	4	8	5
Essex	5	11	13	14	6	6	10	6	7	8	6	10	8
Gloucestershire	5	7	5	4	2	1	2	1	2	5	1	1	2
Hampshire	7	14	15	5	8	9	8	7	5	5	7	7	11
Hereford and Worcester	6	2	1	6	4	3	2	2	4	4	2	4	3
Hertfordshire	4	6	10	10	7	4	6	5	5	0	0	1	4
Humberside	9	18	8	7	10	5	7	7	7	7	7	7	1
Isle of Wight	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	—	1
Kent	10	12	12	7	5	5	9	11	8	9	5	7	4
Lancashire	9	21	19	22	15	15	17	14	23	13	15	17	19
Leicestershire	3	9	10	4	9	3	1	5	7	4	9	12	6
Lincolnshire	5	6	4	2	7	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
Norfolk	3	2	2	5	1	5	9	6	2	4	3	3	6
North Yorkshire	7	5	7	7	8	4	2	4	5	5	2	2	4
Northamptonshire	3	4	3	8	8	5	3	3	3	2	3	6	5
Northumberland	4	3	0	3	1	2	1	6	0	3	0	1	1
Nottinghamshire	5	4	11	16	10	8	3	6	6	4	5	6	7
Oxfordshire	3	4	10	4	8	5	1	3	5	4	2	3	4
Shropshire	7	1	1	3	0	1	8	2	4	1	1	6	5
Somerset	3	3	5	4	1	0	1	5	5	4	2	4	3
Staffordshire	6	8	7	10	8	7	8	7	9	3	6	8	9
Suffolk	2	9	0	6	6	1	3	5	4	4	2	2	4
Surrey	7	2	4	5	6	3	7	2	4	7	2	5	4
Warwickshire	1	1	1	2	4	2	5	6	0	1	2	2	—
West Sussex	3	1	2	5	4	7	3	2	4	4	12	13	4
Wiltshire	8	3	7	4	0	1	0	4	2	2	1	1	2
Isles of Scilly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England Met counties	177	192	190	182	181	160	162	170	130	166	132	168	122
Greater Manchester	35	27	24	29	24	29	23	27	17	28	17	23	23
Merseyside	16	15	19	10	21	8	22	15	9	10	13	15	4
South Yorkshire	3	8	11	6	12	11	12	18	5	12	12	12	9
Tyne and Wear	12	6	12	5	16	5	5	7	4	7	4	5	7
West Midlands	21	26	19	16	19	22	30	23	18	17	17	24	24
West Yorkshire	23	29	35	24	23	20	22	12	21	25	23	32	18
Greater London	67	81	70	92	66	65	48	68	56	67	46	57	37

[1] Including late call and heat and smoke damage incidents (except 1994)
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003

Floods: Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents involving flooding the Fire and Rescue Service attended in each year since 2000; and how many people were rescued from flooding by the service in each year. [197955]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Office for London: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government funding streams have been distributed through the Government Office for London since 1997; and how much has been distributed through each such stream in each year since 1997. [196287]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 296W.

I have placed in the Library a full breakdown of expenditure figures for 2005-06 and 2006-07 along with allocation details for 2007-08.

Home Information Packs: Standards

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when standard

assessment procedures for home information pack accreditation schemes will be operational in England. [193039]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 10 March 2008]:* Energy assessments for dwellings on construction are based on a single common methodology called the "Standard Assessment Procedure". Energy performance certificates for newly built homes are produced using this procedure, and will be required from 6 April under the regulations implementing the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

Homelessness: Leicestershire

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in *(a)* Charnwood and *(b)* Loughborough were (i) homeless, (ii) rough sleeping and (iii) in temporary accommodation in each of the last 10 years. [198085]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. This information includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

A table summarising homelessness figures for each local authority for the past 10 years, including the total number of households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, the total number of households in temporary accommodation and the mid-year estimates of the number of rough sleepers, is available in the Library of the House.

The local authority of Charnwood includes the city of Loughborough. An extract from the table is provided as follows and provides data for Charnwood for the past 10 years.

Table A: Number of households accepted[1] as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, 1997-98 to 2006-07.

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Charnwood	97	148	126	144	174	318	255	187	174	166

[1] Households eligible under homelessness legislation, found to be unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty.

Table B: Number of households in temporary accommodation[1], March 1998 to March 2007

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Charnwood	15	14	16	30	37	55	66	63	79	87

[1] Households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, those for which inquiries into whether they are owed the duty are pending, and those who were found to be intentionally homeless but are being accommodated for a reasonable period by the LA. It excludes households designated as 'homeless at home', that have remained in their existing accommodation and have the same rights to suitable accommodation as those in temporary accommodation arranged by the authority.

Table C: Number of rough sleepers (persons), 1998 to 2007, mid-year estimates[1]

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Charnwood	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Estimates based on a combination of recent street counts in those areas where there is a known or suspected rough sleeping problem and of estimates made by local authorities, as reported on their HSSA returns to CLG in June of each year.

Data are published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, which includes a supplementary table showing the breakdown of key data, including temporary accommodation for each local authority. The supplementary tables are published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 10 March 2008 and contains data for the period October to December 2007 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also published on our website, nationally and by local authority at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/publicationsabouthomelessness/roughsleepingstatistics/

Housing: Local Government Finance

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what value of subsidy was paid to each local authority from the Housing Revenue Account in the last year for which figures are available. [192793]

John Healey: A table showing housing revenue account subsidy entitlement for each local housing authority in 2006-07 has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy is a deficit subsidy paid to those local housing authorities where their assumed need to spend on their housing stock is greater than their assumed income to enable them to run their local authority housing. Where assumed income is greater than assumed need to spend, for 2006-07, this was recycled inside the HRA subsidy regime to help pay for the national HRA subsidy bill.

Housing: Low Incomes

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning appeals for affordable housing schemes were determined in each of the last three years; in how many of these cases the lead developer was a registered social landlord; and how many appeals were *(a)* allowed and *(b)* dismissed. [198145]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of planning appeals determined in 2005, 2006 and 2007 in England that involved an element of affordable housing and how many appeals were *(a)* allowed and *(b)* dismissed. It is not possible to identify in how many of these cases the lead developer was a registered social landlord.

	Number of appeals determined	*(a) Number allowed*	*(b) Number dismissed*
2005	60	15	45
2006	97	37	60
2007	93	38	55

Local Authorities: Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given to local authorities on their procurement of service delivery from social enterprises; what assessment she has made of local authorities' procurement practices; and if she will make a statement. [198800]

Mr. Dhanda: The "National Procurement Strategy for Local Government" (published by the then ODPM and Local Government Association in 2003) made clear that local authorities should embrace a positive approach to achieving a mixed economy of services, including through engagement with social enterprises and other suppliers. The Department will publish shortly a final report on progress with the strategy which will note that there is greater awareness of what the social enterprise sector can offer, for example by highlighting social enterprise in the Small Business Friendly Concordat.

The Department believes that local authorities should recognise and embrace diversity in the ways in which services are provided, with the focus on desired outcomes and not on whether the service is delivered by the public, private or third sectors. To this end, the Secretary of State announced at the Voice 08 Conference in Liverpool that Communities and Local Government is to set up a new Social Enterprise Unit whose remit will include working with social enterprises and local authorities on the provision of services.

Local Authorities: Pay

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on senior staff salary levels. [198656]

John Healey: Local authorities are responsible for pay and grading decisions, including those for senior officials.

The Joint Negotiating Committees for chief executives and chief officers produce guidance on national salary framework and conditions of service for local authority chief executives and chief officers. Details of how to obtain the relevant handbooks can be found on the Local Government Employers website.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority chief executives received annual pay packages of *(a)* £100,000 to £109,999, *(b)* £110,000 to £119,999, *(c)* £120,000 to £129,999, *(d)* £130,000 to £139,999, (e) £140,000 to £149,999 and *(f)* £150,000 and over in the last year for which figures are available. [198657]

John Healey: Central Government do not collect this information. However, the Local Government Employers conducts an annual survey on chief executive and chief officer salaries and workforce numbers. The results of this survey are available on their website at:

http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageId=119009

Local Government and Regeneration Division

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2775W, on divisions, what *(a)* working groups and *(b)* committees there are within her Department's Local Government and Regeneration division. [194839]

Mr. Dhanda: The formal governance of the Department is set out in the departmental annual report which is available in the Library of the House and on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/annualreport07

The Local Government and Regeneration Group monitors progress and performance through three programme boards: the Local Government Reform Programme Board; the Sub-National Review Implementation and Regeneration Programme Board; and the Community Empowerment Programme Board. The group also co-ordinates a number of smaller boards, working groups and committees which look at specific areas of policy.

Local Government Finance: Housing

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the housing revenue account subsidy entitlement for each local authority with housing was for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 in (i) percentage and (ii) cash terms; and for local authorities with negative subsidy what that negative subsidy was per property in each such year. [187327]

John Healey: A table showing the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy entitlement, both positive and negative, for each English local housing authority for 2006-2007 has been deposited in the Library of the House. No audited data is available for 2007-2008. Where HRA subsidy entitlement is positive, the table shows the percentage share each local housing authority got of the total positive HRA subsidy. Where HRA subsidy is negative, the table shows what the negative HRA subsidy is per dwelling.

Maps: Energy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the operation of the Ordnance Survey's Mapping for Energy service; and what funding has been allocated to it. [197410]

Mr. Dhanda: Ordnance Survey has operated a Mapping for Emergencies Service since 1988 following the Lockerbie Bomb disaster. The service provides a 24 x 7 help-line through which designated authorities dealing with responses to a wide range of civil contingencies can request mapping and geographical information to support early response. The information is delivered free of charge to the requester either directly, or through members of Ordnance Survey's High Street network of specialist Mapping and Data Centres and Licensed Partner community. The information may be in digital or hard copy form. Some pre-processing, analysis or combination with other data may be undertaken to provide the Emergency Responders with information best suited to the needs of the situation they face.

Recent examples of service provision include mapping to support management of exclusion zones for animal disease control, police operations in connection with the Ipswich murder cases, civil contingency operations connected with the beaching of the container vessel MSC Napoli, and in response to the summer flooding in the south-west midlands.

From 1999, the costs of the service were funded through the National Interest Mapping Services Agreement (NIMSA). Since NIMSA ended in December 2006, Ordnance Survey has received no direct funding for the service, which has been supported from its general trading revenue.

Ordnance Survey: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what account was taken of the cost-benefit analysis commissioned from Cambridge University on trading funds when formulating Ordnance Survey's new public sector task; [197764]

(2) what account was taken of *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance from (i) the Office of Public Sector Information and (ii) the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information in formulating Ordnance Survey's new public sector task; [197803]

(3) what Government agencies and offices were consulted on the formulation of Ordnance Survey's public sector task. [197804]

Mr. Iain Wright: In April 2007, Ministers asked Ordnance Survey and the Shareholder Executive to work together to prepare a more precise articulation of Ordnance Survey's Public Task as set out in the Ordnance Survey Framework Document 2004. This work was undertaken between April and June 2007.

Ministers approved the revised Public Task document in July 2007 before the Cambridge University study was commissioned. The Shareholder Executive conducted discussions with senior officials in Ordnance Survey and the Department for Communities and Local Government before submitting the Public Task document to Ministers. Neither the Office of Public Sector Information nor the Advisory Panel on Public Sector Information were consulted.

Planning Inspectorate: Appeals

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how long the Planning Inspectorate takes to *(a)* register and *(b)* process a planning appeal; and if she will make a statement. [197477]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspectorate receives about 2,000 appeals a month and aims to register these within three working days. As at 28 March 2008, some 1,530 new planning appeals had not been registered, the oldest of which were received on 29 February. The inspectorate is working hard to retrieve the situation and has introduced measures to allow it to direct more resources into eliminating the backlog. These have seen the number of appeals waiting to be registered fall from over 2000 in December 2007 to the present figure.

Target handling times set by Ministers vary according to the nature and complexity of the planning appeal and the method used to process it. For example, in February, the average time taken following registration to decide appeals proceeding by the written representations method was 18 weeks. For appeals proceeding by hearing or inquiry method, it was 39 weeks. Further details of performance in relation to planning appeals can be found on the inspectorate website:

http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/appeals/planning_appeals/Planning_appeal_handling_times.htm

Planning Permission: Compensation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was awarded in compensation to planning applications that were rejected but subsequently allowed on appeal in each of the last three years; and how much of this amount was paid to registered social landlords. [198146]

Mr. Iain Wright: Compensation is not payable for winning an appeal against refusal of planning permission. Parties can apply for an award of costs in planning appeals and applications are determined in accordance with longstanding Government guidance

contained in DOE Circular 8/93. Awards are made only where one party is found to have acted unreasonably and as a result caused another to incur quantifiable unnecessary or wasted expense.

The actual amount to be paid is not determined by a costs award. That is for the parties to settle by negotiation initially. Accordingly, no records are available of costs paid following awards on appeal in each of the last three years, whether or not involving social landlords.

The following table shows by financial year, the number of local planning authorities being liable to pay costs following awards made against them by Inspectors and the Secretary of State:

Financial year	Number of local planning authorities liable	Approximate percentage of applications against authorities
2004-05	338	34
2005-06	304	39
2006-07	362	38

Planning Permission: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many times she has called in a planning authority's decision to proceed with a development in a case where the Environment Agency objected to the development because of flood risk since April 2007; [197755]

(2) for what reasons she permitted developments to proceed in each of the cases referred to in the Environment Agency's Annual Report 2006-07 where the Agency objected to the developments on grounds of flood risk; [197757]

(3) for those cases where a development took place against an Environment Agency objection on grounds of flood risk between April 2006 and March 2007 if she will publish *(a)* the Environment Agency objection and *(b)* the final decision of the planning authority; and what further steps may be taken in such cases to encourage the planning authority to take greater account of the Agency's objection. [197756]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State has called in four planning applications under the Town and Country Planning (Flooding) (England) Direction 2007, ("the Direction"). This requires local planning authorities to send details of all applications for major development they are minded to approve where the Environment Agency has an objection, to the Secretary of State to consider whether or not they should be called-in for decision. Since 2007, the Secretary of State has called-in a further four planning applications, not under the Direction, where flooding was a main issue.

The 13 cases referred to in the Environment Agency's HLT5 Report 2006-07, were granted planning permission by the respective local planning authorities before the Direction came into force. The Environment Agency's objections to those applications are tabled as follows.

The Direction requires that where a local planning authority wants to grant planning permission for a major development to which the Environment Agency objects, the authority and the Agency must discuss and agree a course of action which would allow the Agency's objection to be withdrawn. Such discussions are proving fruitful in resolving flood risk issues, and have allowed most of the planning applications referred to the Secretary of State, to be returned to the local planning authorities for decision.

Details of the high level target 5 (HLT5) 2006-07—13 major development proposals granted planning permission contrary to Environment Agency concerns

Local planning authority	Nature of development	Flood zone	Reason for Environment Agency objection
North Lincolnshire Council	Barton upon Humber. Proposed tipping of cement kiln dust and inert factory waste above existing approved levels.	3	The proposal involved significant land raising within the floodplain. Environment Agency objected as no Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) had been submitted, and was concerned about possible increased flood risk to third parties. Extensive consultation with the LPA, but LPA knowingly overruled Environment Agency advice on the grounds that the proposal would have other environmental improvements.
West Lindsey District Council	Gainsborough. Erection of 38 residential units.	3	The Environment Agency objected to the application on grounds that the site is within Flood Zone 3 "high risk" and no Flood Risk Assessment had been submitted with the application. A FRA was subsequently submitted; however the Environment Agency maintained its earlier objection on the grounds that the FRA had not considered the flood risk posed by a breach in the banks of the nearby River Trent. However, the Environment Agency did not object to the allocation of the site in the (now adopted) Local Plan, and the site benefits from an extant planning permission. The LPA considered it unreasonable to refuse the application, given the earlier approval and the Local Plan status.
East Lindsey District Council	Mablethorpe. Proposed development of 10 single storey dwellings (bungalows).	3	The Environment Agency objected on the basis that the site is located within Flood Zone 3 "high risk", and the LPA's own adopted catchment-wide flood risk assessment showed the site could flood to depths between 1-1.5 m in the event of a breach in the raised sea defences. The Environment Agency therefore considered the site inappropriate for single storey development. Site already has an extant planning permission for a similar proposal before the LPA's own flood risk assessment had been prepared. Despite the flood risk, the LPA considered it unreasonable to refuse the new application, given the earlier approval.

Details of the high level target 5 (HLT5) 2006-07: 13 major development proposals granted planning permission contrary to Environment Agency concerns

Local planning authority	*Nature of development*	*Flood zone*	*Reason for Environment Agency objection*
East Lindsey District Council	Chapel St. Leonards. Erection of 18 dwellings, estate roads and vehicular/pedestrian access.	3	The Environment Agency objected on that basis that the site is located within Flood Zone 3 'high risk', and the LPA's own adopted catchment-wide flood risk assessment showed that the site could flood to depths greater than 2 m in the event of a breach in the raised sea defences. The assessment identifies the site as being within the 'critical velocity zone'—the highest subdivision of risk as set out in the assessment. Given the predicted speed/depths of floodwater and the risk to life and property, the Environment Agency advised the LPA that residential development was generally not suitable in this area and objected. However, the site had an extant planning permission dating back to 1994, prior to the consideration of flood risk, and the LPA granted planning permission on the basis that this application represented a betterment in flood risk terms compared with that 1994 permission.
East Lindsey District Council	Chapel St. Leonards. Change of use of agricultural land to 71 pitch touring caravan site.	3	The Environment Agency objected on the basis that the site is located within Flood Zone 3 'high risk', and the LPA's own adopted catchment-wide flood risk assessment showed that the site could flood to depths of between 1 and 2 m in the event of a breach in the raised sea defences. The assessment identifies the site as being within the 'Rapid Inundation Zone'—where flood waters are greater than 0.5 m and/or have a velocity of greater than 1 m/second. Given the predicted speed/depths of floodwater and the risk to life and property, the Environment Agency advised the LPA that it could not support an application for a new caravan site in such flood depth zones, and objected. The LPA accepted the dangers, but overruled the objection on the grounds of overriding tourism and economic benefits.
Plymouth City Council	Plymouth. Temporary permission for the provision of motor cycle speedway track and ancillary accommodation and facilities.	3	The Environment Agency objected as the site lies within Flood Zone 3 'High Risk', and yet no Flood Risk Assessment was submitted with the planning application as required by Government guidance PPG25. The LPA approved the application without re-consulting the Environment Agency, as a proposal on the same site had been upheld at appeal in 1998, when an Inspector found that 'no demonstrable harm' would result from that development, although in that case the site was to have been raised (hence appropriately defended). This appeal decision predates Government policy on development and flood risk, and the need for FRAs. A permanent permission application has subsequently been submitted and approved. A FRA was submitted with this application allowing the Environment Agency to remove its objection.
Mid Suffolk District Council	Stowmarket. Construction of a new access road incorporating new junction arrangements and bridge with ancillary works.	3	The Environment Agency objected as development might lead to a loss of flood storage capacity, and the Flood Risk Assessment submitted was unsatisfactory as it was for a different site to the actual proposal. From the information submitted it was not clear whether the bridge proposal would impede flood flows by encroaching into FZ3. Although the Environment Agency responded late to this consultation, our response was in time to influence the decision. Delegated decision, so our concerns were not reported to committee.
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Doncaster. Factory/warehouse extension.	2/3	The application site fell partly within flood zones 2 and 3. Although the LPA received a Flood Risk Assessment from the developers to accompany the planning application, the Environment Agency never received this. The Environment Agency therefore objected on the grounds that no FRA had been prepared to accompany the application, in accordance with PPG25. Our objection was not reported upon in processing the planning application. As a result, the fact that the FRA had never been received was not picked up, and the Environment Agency's objection was never recorded.
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	West Bromwich. Two new distribution/industrial units with associated service yards and car parking.	1	The objection relates only to surface water run off risk, not development in a high risk flood zone. Due to the size of this application (> 2 Ha), the Environment Agency objected on the ground that no Flood Risk Assessment had been submitted, and the surface water runoff could increase the flood risk to others. The LPA consulted the Environment Agency late, and our response was never reported to committee as the application was determined before it was received. A condition was attached to the planning permission requiring a FRA to be carried out retrospectively before the development commences.
Stafford Borough Council	Stafford. Development of an automotive complex.	1	The objection relates only to surface water run off risk, not development in a high risk flood zone. The application site lay within a longstanding employment site under development at the time of the application. Due to the size of this application (> 4 Ha), the Environment Agency objected on the ground that no Flood Risk Assessment had been submitted, as required under PPG25, and the surface water runoff could increase the flood risk to others. Environment Agency concerns were reported to committee, and the committee report acknowledges that the application should be decided in accordance with latest Government policy on flood risk and development. The committee however approved the application.

Details of the high level target 5 (HLT5) 2006-07: 13 major development proposals granted planning permission contrary to Environment Agency concerns

Local planning authority	Nature of development	Flood zone	Reason for Environment Agency objection
London Borough of Barnet	Barnet. Outline application for 23 houses and 78 flats.	1	The objection relates only to surface water run off, not development in a high risk flood zone. The Environment Agency objected on the ground that due to its size, the application might present a significant flood risk to others from the generation of surface water run-off, and therefore required a Flood Risk Assessment, as per Government guidance. The LPA approved the proposal without requesting a FRA from the developer, or re-consulting the Environment Agency. The LPA included a condition on the planning permission requiring the developer to retrospectively carry out a FRA before development commences.
Swindon Borough Council	Swindon. Redevelopment of former railway works for hotel, offices, retail, 211 apartments and ancillary uses.	1	Although this site lies within flood zone 1, due to the size of the site (3.4 Ha) and the nature of the development proposal, the Environment Agency was concerned that the application might present a significant flood risk to others from the generation of surface water run-off. The applicant was required therefore to provide a Flood Risk Assessment to accompany the application, as per Government guidance. Initially the Environment Agency requested further information about whether a FRA had been carried out, and requested an extension to the consultation period. There is no record of any extension being agreed, and the Environment Agency finally submitted a late response (June 2006) objecting to the proposal on the ground that no FRA had been submitted. The LPA did not approve the proposal until February 2007. Environment Agency concerns were not reported to committee.
West Berkshire District Council	Hungerford. Erection of 36 residential units with associated car parking.	1	An Outline Planning Permission was granted in 2005 for 16 dwellings, which the Environment Agency provided comments on in 2002. As the site lies within Flood Zone 1 the Environment Agency requested a surface water condition, which was applied to the extant permission. A subsequent planning application was submitted for 36 residential units in 2006. Although the applicant provided a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with Government guidance, the Environment Agency objected as it was not satisfied with the surface water drainage strategy submitted as part of the FRA. The development could present a flood risk to others by generating surface water run-off. The Environment Agency's objection was reported to the Planning Committee in August 2006. The objection was not resolved before planning permission was granted. The Council applied a condition requiring full details of the surface water drainage system to be submitted before development commenced on the site. Despite ongoing negotiations the proposed surface water drainage system still does not meet Environment Agency requirements.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* her Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197511]

Mr. Dhanda: No contracts have been awarded to Rackspace by the Department or its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which was formed in May 2002.

No contracts have been awarded to Rackspace by the Department's agencies.

Railways: Accidents

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* railway and *(b)* aircraft accidents were attended by fire and rescue services in each fire authority area in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [198062]

Mr. Dhanda: The requested information has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Regional Government: Ministers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Taunton of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 65W, on regional government: Ministers, what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each visit listed. [197526]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 236W. Providing further details of meetings would incur disproportionate costs.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria each regional Minister uses to decide whether to visit areas in their region. [196647]

Mr. Dhanda: In addition to the normal criteria applied to ministerial invitations, Regional Ministers also consider how each invitation relates to their role as outlined in the "Governance of Britain Green Paper" to be a visible presence in, and provide a clear strategic direction for, the region by:

representing their region's interests in the formulation of central Government policy relevant to economic growth and sustainable development in areas that have not been devolved to the RDAs;

facilitating a joined up approach across government to enable the effective delivery of the single regional strategy; and

championing the region via high profile projects and high level events.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the process is for *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* the relevant Government office for the region to approve each local development framework. [194262]

Mr. Iain Wright: The provisions for approving each development plan document in the framework are set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and the accompanying Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations (2004). Each local authority is required to submit to the Secretary of State the development plan document they propose to adopt, which is then subject to an independent examination by a Planning Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State. There will be a hearing into the 'soundness' of the plan, where any person who has requested to be heard may appear before the Inspector. The Inspector must consider all representations received on the plan, and will then issue a report, the recommendations of which are binding on the local authority. If the Inspector recommends the plan is sound, it must then be adopted by the local authority.

Roads: Accidents

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many road accidents the Fire and Rescue Service attended in each fire authority area in each year since 1994; and how many people were rescued by the Fire Service from their vehicles in each year. [197958]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, for the period 1995 to 2006, has been deposited in the Library of the House.

This information includes the number of incidents where people were extricated from vehicles. Information on the number of people rescued from these incidences is not held centrally.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many road accidents involving the rescue of a person or persons were carried out in each fire authority area in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [198063]

Mr. Dhanda: The requested information has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Slavery: Anniversaries

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1007W, to the hon. Member for Liverpool, Riverside, on the slave trade, what funding was allocated to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local communities or organisations to provide for the commemoration of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act; and if she will make a statement. [198114]

Mr. Dhanda: Throughout 2007 the Government worked closely with stakeholders from local authorities, the media, faith groups and the voluntary and community sectors to galvanise activity to mark the 2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. The Government's approach was not to direct, organise or control commemorations, but to encourage and empower grassroots organisations, local authorities, faith groups and national organisations to mark the bicentenary in a way that was appropriate to their communities.

Heritage Lottery Fund provided funding to support heritage and commemorative projects. In total Heritage Lottery Fund awarded over £15 million to more than 180 projects across the country related to the bicentenary and the slave trade. The funding was provided to a range of organisations including local authorities, community organisations, voluntary groups and cultural bodies. Many of the awards were to Black Voluntary and Community Sector groups. Information on the precise breakdown of the Heritage Lottery funding awarded to local authorities and community organisations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department for Communities and Local Government also provided funding to support bicentenary-related projects under its Connecting Communities Plus Grants Programme. This funding was exclusively for community organisations—overall 41 organisations received a total of £364,825.92 for bicentenary-related projects.

The Government want to ensure that we continue to mark this important part of our history, therefore their announced on 13 December 2007 that they will, in future, adopt the 23 August—the UNESCO day for the International Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition—as the focal date for national commemorations. Community groups will be able to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for support for heritage projects linked to commemoration and will also be able to apply to the Big Lottery Fund and Arts Council England.

Supporting People Programme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid to local authorities in Essex under her Department's Supporting People budget; and what proportion of this was spent on people with learning disabilities in each of the last four years. [197639]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority. It is for the authority to decide which services to fund, informed by the local needs and priorities identified in their five year Supporting People Strategies. The following table sets out the amount allocated to Essex county council and the proportion of each year's allocation that funded Supporting People services for people with a learning disability (as reported to the Department by the authority). It will not identify all funding spent on people with a learning disability who access Supporting People services: some

may have a different service classification (for example, people with a learning disability may access support from Supporting People services that help them move on from domestic violence or homelessness).

	Essex county council total supporting people allocation (£)	*Proportion of each year's allocation reported as spent on services for people with a learning disability (Percentage)*
2004-05	31,742,850	31.0
2005-06	30,144,101	32.9
2006-07	29,622,839	26.6

Information for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Supporting People Programme: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid to local authorities in Gloucestershire under her Department's Supporting People budget for each of the last three years. [198070]

Mr. Iain Wright: Supporting People funding is paid to upper-tier local authorities. In the county of Gloucestershire, this includes Gloucestershire county council and South Gloucestershire council. Authorities receive two separate funding streams related to Supporting People—the Supporting People Programme Grant and the Supporting People Administration Grant, which is paid towards an authority's costs in administering the programme. Details of the relevant allocations for the last three years are set out in the following tables.

Gloucestershire county council

£

	Supporting People—Programme Grant allocation	*Supporting People—Administration Grant allocation*
2005-06	25,769,741	353,014
2006-07	25,135,925	353,014
2007-08	24,633,207	353,014

South Gloucestershire council

£

	Supporting People—Programme Grant allocation	*Supporting People—Administration Grant allocation*
2005-06	4,764,505	150,177
2006-07	4,682,116	150,177
2007-08	4,674,886	150,177

Supporting People Programme: Leicestershire

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has allocated to Leicestershire County Council for the Supporting People programme in each of the last three financial years. [198084]

Mr. Iain Wright: Authorities receive two separate funding streams related to Supporting People—the Supporting People Programme Grant and the Supporting People Administration Grant, which is paid towards an authority's costs in administering the programme. Details of the allocations for the last three years are set out in the following table:

Leicestershire county council

£

	Supporting People Programme Grant allocation	*Supporting People Administration Grant allocation*
2005-06	6,807,853	351,726
2006-07	6,690,129	351,726
2007-08	7,012,300	351,726

Tenants' and Residents' Association of England: Conferences

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department provided for the Tenants' and Residents' Association of England's conference in Liverpool on Saturday 15 March. [198086]

Mr. Iain Wright: TAROE received a grant of £25,000 from the Department's Tenant Empowerment programme for their second annual conference which was held in Liverpool on 15 March 2008.

Travelling People: Shipton-on-Stour

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* representations her Department has received from and *(b)* discussions her Department has had with Stratford-on-Avon district council on the unauthorised development of a Traveller camp at Darlingscott, near Shipton-on-Stour in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [198670]

Mr. Iain Wright: I cannot comment on the merits of any planning application or enforcement action that might be taken by the local authority given the quasi-judicial role of the Secretary of State. No formal representations have been received by the Department on the camp at Darlingscott. Officials from Stratford-on-Avon district council have provided a brief update to officials in my Department on the action the council has taken, but it is for local authorities to decide whether to enforce against breaches of development control.

Waste Management: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions Gloucestershire County Council has had with her Department on its proposals for Javelin Park, off Junction 12 of the M5, to situate a major waste facility there. [198071]

Mr. Iain Wright: Gloucestershire county council has recently resolved to acquire land at Javelin park. The council is preparing its waste core strategy and officials

at Government office for the south west have discussed the strategy with council officers. However, these discussions did not specifically cover any proposals for Javelin park.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have made objections to new or expanded wind farms during the formal planning process in the last 12 months. [197470]

Mr. Iain Wright: Records for objections made by local authorities on applications made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and determined by local planning authorities are not held centrally. No authorities in England have objected to applications which have been called-in or recovered by the Secretary of State. The Planning Inspectorate do not hold this information in the form requested in relation to appeals.

In respect of applications in England made under s36 of the Electricity Act 1989, the following authorities have objected to applications:

Tynedale district council objected to the Steadings wind farm on 23 May 2007 (and again on 17 October 2007 following revisions to the proposal).

Tynedale district council objected to the Ray wind farm on 21 March 2007.

Norfolk county council objected to the proposed Lincolnshire Offshore Wind Farm on 28 March 2007.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the reasons for repeat abortions; and if he will make a statement. [197810]

Dawn Primarolo: No specific research has been commissioned or evaluated on the reasons for repeat abortions to date. The Department recently announced £26.8 million funding for 2008-09 to improve access to contraception, and some of this funding will be used to improve care pathways between abortion and contraceptive services to reduce repeat abortions.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed in each licensed abortion clinic since each was licensed. [197868]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the place of termination has been withheld in order to protect individuals' confidentiality. This is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics, 2005.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the abortion rates were among people aged under *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 16 years in each of the last five years, broken down by region. [198215]

Dawn Primarolo: The data are shown in the following tables.

Abortion rates[1] for women age under 16 and under 18 by region of residence, 2002-06

	2002		2003		2004	
	Rate per 1,000 women		Rate per 1,000 women		Rate per 1,000 women	
Region (strategic health authority (SHA) 2002-2005	Under 16	Under 18	Under 16	Under 18	Under 16	Under 18
East	3	15	3	15	3	14
East Midlands	3	15	3	16	4	17
London	5	28	6	29	5	27
North East	5	18	5	20	5	20
North West	4	17	4	18	4	18
South East	3	15	3	15	3	16
South West	3	15	3	15	3	15
West Midlands	4	18	4	19	4	18
Yorkshire and Humber	4	17	4	17	4	18
Wales	4	16	4	17	3	16
England and Wales	3.7	17.8	3.9	18.3	3.7	17.8

	2005		2006	
	Rates per 1,000 women		Rates per 1,000 women	
Region (SHA) 2006	Under 16	Under 18	Under 16	Under 18
East Midlands			3	16
East of England	3	15	3	15
London	3	16	5	24
North East	5	25	5	18
North West	4	18	4	19

Region (SHA) 2006	2005 Rates per 1,000 women Under 16	2005 Rates per 1,000 women Under 18	2006 Rates per 1,000 women Under 16	2006 Rates per 1,000 women Under 18
South Central	4	18	3	15
South East Coast	3	16	3	16
South West	3	15	3	15
West Midlands	4	19	4	20
Yorkshire and Humber	4	17	5	19
Wales	3	15	4	17
England and Wales	3.7	17.8	3.9	18.2

[1] Rates for ages under 16 and under 18 are based on populations 13-15 and 15-17 respectively.

Abortion: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed in Gloucestershire in each year since 1990. [198100]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for abortions performed in Gloucestershire are not available. Data for abortions for women resident in Gloucestershire are shown in the following tables.

Abortions to residents of Gloucestershire[1], 1990 to 2006

District health authorities (DHA) 1990 to 1991, Gloucester DHA

	Total
1990	823
1991	850

District health authorities (DHA) 1992 to 1998, Gloucestershire DHA

	Total
1992	1,413
1993	1,361
1994	1,326
1995	1,367
1996	1,497
1997	1,412
1998	1,505

Health Authority (HA) 1999 to 2001, Gloucestershire HA

	Total
1999	1,435
2000	1,372
2001	1,452

Primary care trust (PCT) 2002 to 2005

	Cheltenham and Tewkesbury	Cotswold and Vale	Gloucestershire	Total
2002	393	374	630	1,397
2003	446	380	648	1,474
2004	457	434	676	1,567
2005	419	343	699	1,461

Primary care trust (PCT), 2006

	Gloucestershire	Total
2006	1,534	1,534

[1] Boundaries for Gloucestershire changed in 2002, 1999, 2002 and 2006 and totals cannot be compared between groups.

Source:
Department of Health.

AIDS: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of treating an AIDS patient *(a)* in hospital and *(b)* as an out-patient. [197141]

Dawn Primarolo: The data are not held centrally in the format requested. Costs of treating people with HIV vary depending on the severity of symptoms and level of immune suppression. Estimated annual costs of HIV treatment, including the costs of combination antiretroviral therapies range between £12,000 to £19,000 per person. Treatment is lifelong. Total national health service expenditure on HIV treatment in 2006-07 was £497 million. This was the first year this data has been collected since HIV treatment and care budgets were placed into NHS baselines in 2002-03.

Alcoholic Drinks: Accident and Emergency Departments

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the demands on accident and emergency services of each NHS acute hospital trust arising from alcohol consumption; and if he will make a statement. [193438]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government recently assessed alcohol-related demands on accident and emergency (A and E) departments, as part of the evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003.

The evaluation showed that alcohol-related demands on A and E services appear to have been stable in aggregate, though some individual hospitals have seen increased demands, others a fall.

Information about alcohol-related visits to A and E services is not collected centrally.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will introduce screening of all patients in primary and secondary care for alcohol misuse. [194338]

Dawn Primarolo: Our policy is not to adopt a universal screening programme for alcohol misuse, as the evidence base indicates this would not be cost-effective. Instead, we are encouraging health care professionals and others to implement opportunistic alcohol case identification and to deliver brief advice about alcohol. This can take place at any opportunity when an individual is consulting with a health care professional or indeed any agency about a health issue, which may have a link to excessive alcohol consumption.

International research has shown that this approach works well in primary care. We believe these results would be replicated in some targeted clinics within secondary care, such as genito-urinary medicine, fracture clinics or facial injury clinics.

While there is good evidence confirming the value of this approach, there are some gaps in the research. This is why the Department has commissioned a programme of research into opportunistic alcohol case identification and delivering brief advice that is now under way in a selection of general practitioner (GP) practices, accident and emergency departments and probation departments. The purpose of this research is to define which identification tool works best in which setting, with which target groups, and what methods of providing advice are most effective.

We have put in place from April 2008, a new national health service indicator to measure the change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related harm—the first ever national commitment to monitor how the NHS is tackling alcohol health harms. This indicator is expected to encourage primary care trusts to invest in earlier identification of people who drink too much linked to advice and support from GPs or other health care staff. This has been shown to be the best way of reducing the kind of 'everyday' drinking which over time leads to liver disease and other problems.

Aortic Aneurysm

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients were treated for abdominal aortic aneurysms through *(a)* endovascular aneurysm repair using a stent graph and *(b)* open surgical repair in the NHS (i) in England and Wales and (ii) broken down by strategic health authority in each of the last five years; [188518]

(2) how many patients were treated for thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections through *(a)* endovascular aneurysm repair using a stent graph and *(b)* open surgical repair in the NHS (i) in England and Wales and (ii) broken down by strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [188519]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested. Using clinical codes, it is not possible to identify endovascular aortic aneurysm repair using a stent graft. Furthermore, in order to adhere to patient confidentiality, incidences of treatment between one and five are suppressed, which is why to break these results down by strategic health authority (SHA) would be infeasible. Data on patients in Wales is not held centrally.

The following table shows the count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a primary diagnosis of aortic aneurysm, broken down by abdominal and thoracic, and a main or secondary procedure of open surgical repair of aortic aneurysm from 2002-03 to 2006-07, which are the latest figures available, in national health service hospitals in England.

	Thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections	*Abdominal aortic aneurysm*	*Aorta aneurysm that crosses both the thoracic and abdominal areas*
2006-07	408	4,516	65
2005-06	375	5,017	77
2004-05	375	4,858	65
2003-04	306	4,871	62
2002-03	300	4,718	68

Notes:

1. FCE:
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

2. Data quality:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

3. Assessing growth through time:
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS, there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

4. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis):
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

5. Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

6. Main operation:
The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for 'all operations count of episodes' give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.

7. Secondary procedure:
As well as the main operative procedure, there are up to 11 (three prior to 2002-03) secondary operation fields in HES that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Bone Diseases

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of new diagnoses of ankylosing spondylitis in England in each year. [198693]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence have estimated that there are around 2,300 new cases of ankylosing spondylitis each year in England and Wales.

Bone Diseases: Research

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on research into treatment of ankylosing spondylitis in each year since 1997; and what percentage of his Department's budget for research and development activity this constituted in each year. [198694]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects undertaken during that time are available on the archived national research register at:

https://portal.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

Implementation of the Department's research strategy 'Best Research for Best Health' has led to an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. A copy of the research strategy is available in the Library. Work relevant to musculoskeletal function will be undertaken in several of the National Institute for Health Research Biomedical Research Centres (BRC). For example, the Cambridge BRC has a musculoskeletal disorders research theme to which £2.2 million has been allocated over five years; and the Newcastle BRC has a musculoskeletal disorders research theme for which £0.3 million has been allocated over five years.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC has funded and continues to fund research into understanding the pathophysiology of ankylosing spondylitis in search of possible new therapeutic approaches. MRC's spend in this area since 1997 is shown in the following table.

	£000
1997-98	26
1998-99	26
1999-2000	38
2000-01	157
2001-02	210
2002-03	234
2003-04	140
2004-05	261
2005-06	138
2006-07	166

In addition, the MRC funds a large portfolio of research on arthritis, rheumatism and mechanisms of inflammation which will have relevance to our understanding of ankylosing spondylitis and its possible treatment. Available MRC expenditure figures for research relevant to arthritis and rheumatism are shown in the following table.

	Expenditure (£ million)
1999-2000	4.8
2000-01	3.9
2001-02	4.2
2002-03	6.8
2003-04	6.8
2004-05	5.0
2005-06	5.5
2006-07	5.8

Brain Cancer: Medical Treatments

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to investigate the comparative effectiveness of treatment for brain cancer in the UK and other EU member states. [197725]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no plans to instruct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to investigate this issue.

As the "Cancer Reform Strategy" is implemented across the national health service, the Department will track the progress of other countries on issues such as survival and mortality, awareness, early detection, access to different forms of treatment, clinical outcomes, patient experience and costs across all cancers.

Chlamydia: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of screens for chlamydia undertaken in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07 were (i) offered to and (ii) accepted by (A) men and (B) women. [197822]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) records numbers of screens accepted not the numbers of screens offered. The data on proportion of screens accepted are shown in the following table:

Proportion of males and females screened for Chlamydia as part of the NCSP: 2003-07

	Proportion Male (percentage)	*Proportion Female (percentage)*	*Total[1]*
2003-04	7	93	17,391
2004-05	13	87	63,303
2005-06	18	82	112,714

Proportion of males and females screened for Chlamydia as part of the NCSP: 2003-07

	Proportion Male (percentage)	Proportion Female (percentage)	Total[1]
2006-07	21	79	162,961
Overall	18	82	356,369

[1] Total number screened excluding screens with sex marked as unknown and unspecified.

Notes:

1. The data from the NCSP are for screens outside of GUM clinics only and include screens from the Boots pathfinder project.
2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of screens undertaken and not the number of patients screened. The number of screens is assumed to be a close proxy of the number of people screened.
3. The data include those aged 13-24 years.
4. The NCSP began screening on 1 April 2003 and so data are only available from that date onwards.
5. The data is specific to the financial year 1 April-31 March: 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06. For 2006-07, data as of 27 February 2008.

Source:
The NSCP

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to consult patient and service user organisations on the skills, competences and experience required of future (*a*) lay and (*b*) professional members of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence. [196789]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is our intention that appointments made to the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) by the Secretary of State will be devolved to the Appointments Commission who will work with CHRE on the precise process. We understand that CHRE intends to seek the views, as appropriate, of patient and service user organisations on the attributes for council members. They will also be able to draw on the recommendations made by Niall Dickson in his report 'Enhancing Confidence in Healthcare Professional Regulation', which we intend to publish soon. All the appointments to the new council for CHRE will be public members (it will not be possible for a health professional or ex-health professional to be appointed).

Dental Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Peterborough Primary Care Trust has undertaken a needs assessment of children's orthodontics within its boundaries; and if he will make a statement. [197399]

Ann Keen: This requested information is not held centrally.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing or commissioning primary dental care services, including orthodontic services, to reflect local needs. This is a local rather than centrally managed process. The Department has issued guidance to the local national health service on developing local dental commissioning plans. Additional support is available through the national primary care contracting team.

Increasing the number of patients seen within NHS dental service as a whole is now a formal priority in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09. The Department has supported this with a substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192225]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table outlines cost of departmental public health awareness campaign advertising in each year since 1997.

£ million

Campaign	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Alcohol (from 2006-07, DH contribution to campaign run jointly with HO)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.05	0.34	0.06	1.90
Antibiotics	0.00	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.00	0.39	0.00
Blood donation	0.60	1.70	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carbon Monoxide Awareness	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
CALM	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.43	0.44	0.32	0.00
Child Immunisation	0.62	0.86	2.62	0.94	1.05	1.01	2.07	0.05	0.03	1.97
Children's health/pregnancy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.40	0.00	0.00
Drugs (DH contribution to campaign run jointly with HO)	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.50	0.00	1.52	1.50	1.99	1.26	3.13
Flu	0.23	0.28	0.08	2.02	1.45	2.00	1.60	1.50	1.85	1.16
Hepatitis C	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.70	1.28	0.53
Immunisation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.35	2.80
Mind Out/Mental Health	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.16	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.00

Campaign	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ million 2006-07
Maternal and Infant Nutrition/Breastfeeding	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.46	0.75	0.74	0.73
National Health Service including nurse recruitment	1.30	4.90	4.21	4.90	5.00	4.23	4.90	5.84	0.23	0.00
NHS Direct	0.12	0.78	1.24	0.21	1.08	0.58	0.75	0.00	0.005	0.32
Organ donation	0.02	0.77	0.47	0.43	0.18	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pandemic Flu Preparedness (Standby Materials)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57
Prescription fraud	0.00	0.38	0.00	1.35	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Promoting new NHS Services (Caring in many ways)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.85	0.69	0.00
Teenage Pregnancy (from 2005-06 DH contribution to campaign run jointly with DCSF)	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00	2.00	1.60	2.00	0.77	2.00	2.00
Sexual Health	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.82	7.30
Social care/worker recruitment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.83	1.24	4.62	2.14	2.44	2.69
Smoking	0.00	0.00	6.18	8.97	7.79	7.87	17.34	24.00	22.70	21.53
TB awareness	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.09	0.01	0.20	0.00	0.00
Walk-in centres	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.02	0.14	0.04	0.40	0.00	0.00
Winter (Get the right treatment/ask about medicines day	0.00	0.00	1.02	2.03	0.16	0.50	1.87	0.99	0.98	0.00
5 a Day	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.48	1.03	0.90	0.92
E111	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.32	1.37	0.00

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will break down, by sub-head in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms his Department's (i) gross resource outturn, (ii) operating appropriations in aid outturn, (iii) gross capital outturn and (iv) non-operating appropriations in aid outturn for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [191678]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures for final and provisional outturns are published each year in Public Expenditure Outturn White Papers (PEOWP), which are available in the Library. The paper references are:

PEOWP	Reference
2001-02	CM5574
2002-03	CM5884
2003-04	CM6293
2004-05	CM6639
2005-06	CM6883
2006-07	CM7156

The differences between provisional and final outturns are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) papers, which are available in the Library. The paper references are:

PESA	Reference
2002	CM4602 to CM4621
2003	CM5901
2004	CM6201
2005	CM6521
2006	CM6811
2007	CM7091

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195870]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department publishes its sustainable operations commitments as part of its Sustainable Development Action Plan. We also report annually to the Sustainable Development Commission on our progress against the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets. The results of the latest SOGE exercise have recently been published, and we were in first place overall.

Disease Control

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued on the appointment of authorised persons to inspect *(a)* central sterile stores and *(b)* management of infection control. [197642]

Ann Keen: The Department has issued guidance on the management and environment for the decontamination of reusable medical devices in "Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-01): Decontamination of reusable medical devices". Part A of HTM 01-01 identifies the

functional responsibilities including 'Authorised Persons (Decontamination)' to ensure equipment is operated safely and efficiently. A copy of HTM 01-01 Part A has been placed in the Library.

The role of the Director of Infection Prevention and Control (DIPC) was first set out in "Winning Ways—working together to reduce healthcare associated infection in England" a report by the Chief Medical Officer which was published in December 2003. A copy of this publication is available in the Library. Guidance on competences for DIPCs was issued in May 2004.

Drugs: Babies

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were born with drug-dependency problems in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* type of drug. [195451]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables show the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the primary or secondary diagnosis was either neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs addiction or withdrawal symptoms from therapeutic use of drugs in newborn. Information is provided for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07, which is the latest data available, broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence. It is not possible to provide information for what type of drug a newborn baby is addicted to.

Count of cases (FCEs) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by SHA of residence for the period 2006-07

SHA of Residence	Total finished consultant birth episodes
North East SHA	52
North West SHA	100
Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	163
East Midlands SHA	64
West Midlands SHA	82
East of England SHA	95
London SHA	66
South East Coast SHA	40
South Central SHA	20
South West SHA	60
Other and unknown	469
Total	1,211

Count of cases (finished consultant birth episodes) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by SHA of residence for the period 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Total finished consultant birth episodes			
SHA of Residence	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	*	*	*	*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	12	16	10	0
Essex SHA	0	8	*	*
North West London SHA	11	11	11	8
North Central London SHA	12	13	*	*
North East London SHA	*	0	*	0
South East London SHA	*	*	*	8
South West London SHA	*	0	*	0
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	6	*	*	*
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	17	30	40	28
North & East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	23	27	45	45
West Yorkshire SHA	13	11	27	17
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	7	13	16	33
Greater Manchester SHA	10	8	11	39
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	54	63	40	38
Thames Valley SHA	7	*	*	*
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	*	9	7	*
Kent and Medway SHA	0	*	*	*
Surrey and Sussex SHA	13	11	13	18
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	62	40	44	51
South West Peninsula SHA	17	17	10	16
Dorset and Somerset SHA	28	8	9	12
South Yorkshire SHA	*	*	*	*
Trent SHA	6	8	10	8
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	21	*	0	0
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	13	6	12	*
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	*	*	*	*
West Midlands South SHA	*	0	6	11

Count of cases (finished consultant birth episodes) with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by SHA of residence for the period 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Total finished consultant birth episodes			
SHA of Residence	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Other and Unknown	860	873	817	694
Total	1,211	1,193	1,156	1,054

Notes

1. *Coverage and data quality:*
The maternity tail data coverage is not as complete as the rest of HES data. There are a number of reasons for the coverage and data quality issues such as:
trusts submitting a significantly higher number of delivery episodes compared to birth episodes;
trusts failing to submit data on the number of birth episodes where they record a high number of delivery episodes;
trusts failing to submit delivery - the reason for this is that approximately 20 trusts have a stand alone maternity system which is not linked to the Patient Administration System;
trusts identifying a high number of maternity beds available, but not recording any information about deliveries or births;
trusts identifying that they have no maternity beds available, but recording a high number of birth and delivery episodes; and
Some trusts have space in their maternity system to record nine birth tails, whereas other systems have space for 18. As deliveries, miscarriages and abortions are all recorded in the birth tail, there are cases where nine tails is not enough to record all of the relevant data.

2. Between 2001-02 and 2005-06, coverage of hospital deliveries was 72.6 per cent., on average, whereas that of home deliveries was 13.6 per cent., on average. The incomplete coverage problem is significantly compounded by the data quality issues outlined.

3. *Assessing growth through time:*
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

4. *FCE:*
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

5. *All Diagnoses count of episodes:*
These figures represent a count of all FCE's where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.
International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 diagnosis codes used:
P96.1 Neonatal withdrawal symptoms form maternal use of drugs of addiction.
P96.2 Withdrawal symptoms form therapeutic use of drugs in newborn.

6. *Low Numbers:*
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk).

7. *Ungrossed Data:*
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were born to drug-dependent mothers in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* type of drug. [195452]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables show the number of deliveries finished consultant episodes (FCEs) by drug dependent mothers by strategic health authority (SHA) region in 2002-03 to 2005-06, and in 2006-07; and the number of deliveries (FCEs) to drug dependent mothers for the same period, broken down by diagnosis code and type of drug used.

Count of deliveries by drug dependent mothers broken down by SHA of residence, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Total finished consultant delivery episodes			
SHA of residence	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	489	362	410	360
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	*	*	*	*
Essex SHA	11	37	11	7
North West London SHA	10	15	110	6
North Central London SHA	40	25	11	12
North East London SHA	18	7	6	19
South East London SHA	16	10	21	42
South West London SHA	12	10	12	6
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	66	55	44	22
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	162	77	52	28
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	31	22	24	12
West Yorkshire SHA	45	33	47	39
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	126	233	69	42
Greater Manchester SHA	110	92	80	22
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	105	111	65	60
Thames Valley SHA	16	19	14	11
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	10	10	8	*
Kent and Medway SHA	21	27	21	35
Surrey and Sussex SHA	43	33	34	24
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	38	40	36	27
South West Peninsula SHA	20	16	16	9
Dorset and Somerset SHA	*	8	6	12
South Yorkshire SHA	126	114	78	60
Trent SHA	122	105	93	80
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	26	34	40	21
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	65	59	43	30
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	167	138	81	45
West Midlands South SHA	38	33	19	8
Other and Unknown	17	13	6	15
Total	1,956	1,741	1,460	1,057

	2006-07
SHA of residence	*Total finished consultant delivery episodes*
North East SHA	267
North West SHA	305

2006-07	
SHA of residence	*Total finished consultant delivery episodes*
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	227
East Midlands SHA	160
West Midlands SHA	287
East of England SHA	506
London SHA	58
South East Coast SHA	51
South Central SHA	23
South West SHA	64
Other and Unknown	22
Total	1,970

Count of deliveries by drug dependent mothers for the period 2002-03 to 2006-07 by diagnosis code and type of drug used

		Total finished consultant delivery episodes				
Diagnosis code	*Type of drug*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
F10.2	Alcohol	82	62	50	31	22
F11.2	Opioids	1,059	1,014	946	772	535
F12.2	Cannabinoids	100	93	81	52	19
F13.2	Sedatives or hypnotics	*	8	12	*	*
F14.2	Cocaine	32	47	32	33	25
F15.2	Other stimulants including Caffeine	27	10	9	11	*
F16.2	Hallucinogens	16	13	8	8	14
F17.2	Tobacco	641	748	606	564	440
F18.2	Volatile solvents	*	0	0	*	0
F19.2	Multiple drug use	61	32	41	27	18
	Total[1]	1,970	1,956	1,741	1,460	1,057

[1] For all years the total number of cases is higher when looking at the yearly total broken down by drug use compared to the yearly figure broken down by region. This is because there will be several cases where the mother has been diagnosed as using more than one type of drug and those drugs have been recognised. International Classification of Diseases-10 diagnosis code F19.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances is only used when patterns of psychoactive substance-taking are chaotic and indiscriminate or when the contributions of different psychoactive substances are inextricably mixed.

Coverage and data quality:

The maternity tail data coverage is not as complete as the rest of HES data. There are a number of reasons for the coverage and data quality issues such as:

trusts submitting a significantly higher number of delivery episodes compared to birth episodes;

trusts failing to submit data on the number of birth episodes where they record a high number of delivery episodes;

trusts failing to submit delivery—the reason for this is that approximately 20 trusts have a stand alone maternity system which is not linked to the Patient Administration System;

trusts identifying a high number of maternity beds available, but not recording any information about deliveries or births;

trusts identifying that they have no maternity beds available, but recording a high number of birth and delivery episodes; and

some trusts have space in their maternity system to record nine birth tails, whereas other systems have space for 18. As deliveries, miscarriages and abortions are all recorded in the birth tail, there are cases where nine tails is not enough to record all of the relevant data.

Between 2001-02 and 2005-06, coverage of hospital deliveries was 72.6 per cent. on average, whereas that of home deliveries was 13.6 per cent. on average. The incomplete coverage problem is significantly compounded by the data quality issues outlined above.

Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE):

A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Secondary Diagnoses:

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (6 prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

ICD-10 code used:

Z37. Outcome of delivery (must always been found in the first secondary position)

All Diagnoses count of episodes:

These figures represent a count of all FCE's where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 secondary (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.

ICD-10 diagnosis codes used (and must be accompanied by secondary diagnosis code):

F10.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, dependence syndrome;

F11.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids, dependence syndrome;

F12.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids, dependence syndrome;

F13.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics, dependence syndrome;

F14.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cocaine, dependence syndrome;

F15.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine, dependence syndrome;
F16.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of hallucinogens, dependence syndrome;
F17.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco, dependence syndrome;
F18.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents, dependence syndrome;
and
F19.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances, dependence syndrome.
The codes indicate addiction to all types of drugs. For example F11.2 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of Opioids, would include addiction to Heroin and also Opioids found in prescription drugs.
Low Numbers:
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional smallest number have been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.
Ungrossed Data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and social care.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much PricewaterhouseCoopers was paid for its review of prison-based drug treatment funding; and what competitive tendering process was undertaken to choose a private sector provider for this report. [198339]

Dawn Primarolo: The tender for the review of prison-based drug treatment funding was let to PricewaterhouseCoopers at a cost of £317,510. Additional funding for a value of £9,000 was also provided due to a change in the requirements.

The tendering process took place under the Department's consultancy services framework, which allows limited competition between 43 registered suppliers, chosen following a rigorous procurement process. Pre-agreed terms and conditions with these suppliers offer the Department sound contractual safeguards.

Three companies tendered for the review. In total, there are 13 companies listed under the consultancy services framework's sub-category of health consultancy. These were all invited to tender.

Epilepsy: Death

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has monitored progress on the commitments to improve the investigation of epilepsy-related death and the support to bereaved families made by the Department of Health's Action Plan 2003 in response to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical audit of epilepsy-related deaths in 2002; [198762]

(2) whether his Department has monitored epilepsy-related death since the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence national clinical audit of epilepsy-related death 2002. [198764]

Ann Keen: The Department has not monitored epilepsy-related deaths since the publication if the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical audit.

The Department has not monitored progress on the commitments to improve the investigation of epilepsy-related death and the support provided to bereaved families made in the Department's Action Plan 2003.

In 2006, the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcomes and Death (NCEPOD) reported on the conduct of coronial autopsy and made specific recommendations on deaths suspected to be related to epilepsy. They also published a self assessment checklist for trusts allowing them to check their progress in adopting NCEPOD's recommendations.

Eyesight: Testing

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on the desirable frequency of eye examinations for *(a)* children under 16 years old and *(b)* adults. [197966]

Ann Keen: The Department issued guidance on the frequency of general ophthalmic services sight tests in 2002. The guidance contains the following minimum intervals for sight tests:

Patient's age	*Minimum sight test interval*
Under 16 years, in the absence of any binocular vision anomaly	1 year
Under 7 years with binocular vision anomaly or corrected refractive error	6 months
7 years and over and under 16 with binocular vision anomaly or rapidly progressing myopia	6 months
16 years and over and under 70 years	2 years
70 years and over	1 year
40 years and over with family history of glaucoma or with ocular hypertension and not in a monitoring scheme	1 year
Diabetic patients	1 year

The General Ophthalmic Services Regulations require optometrists or ophthalmic medical practitioners (practitioners) to satisfy themselves that a sight test is clinically necessary. Therefore, the intervals given are not to be read as applying to all patients in a category.

A practitioner may carry out a sight test at a shorter interval than those listed, either at the practitioner's initiative for a clinical reason, or because the patient presents him/herself to the practitioner with symptoms or concerns which might be related to an eye condition.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many free eye examinations were carried out by the NHS for *(a)* children under 16 years old and *(b)* adults entitled to free eye examinations in each of the last five years. [197967]

Ann Keen: The latest numbers relating to General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) sight tests paid for by the national health service, by patient eligibility, are available in table 3 of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: April 2007-September 2007" report. This information is for the first six months of 2007-08.

This report, published on 26 March 2007, has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-datacollections/primarycare/eyecare/generalophthalmicservices:-activity-statistics-for-england-and-wales:-april-2007--september-2007

The number of GOS sight tests paid for by the NHS, by patient eligibility, in England and in Wales, for the year ending 31 March 2007 are available in table B4 of "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales, Year Ending 31 March 2007" report.

This report, published 31 July 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity310307

The number of GOS sight tests paid for by the NHS, by patient eligibility, in England and in Wales, for the year ending 31 March 2006 are available in table A4 of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales, Year Ending 31 March 2006" report.

This report, published 27 July 2006, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/genophtservsactivitystats

In the above reports, information is provided for children aged 0 to 15 and by various adult eligibility groups.

The number of GOS sight tests paid for by the NHS, by patient eligibility, in England, Wales, Scotland and Great Britain for the years ending 31 March 1996 to 2005 are available in table 3 of "General Ophthalmic Services: Consultation tables for England, Wales and Scotland, 2004-05". Information is available for children (aged 15 and under), students in full-time education (aged 16 to 18) and other eligible adults.

This report, published 30 November 2005, has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/genopth2005

All reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the average distance between a person's home and nearest GP surgery in different parts of the country. [198241]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold information regarding the average distance between a person's home and nearest general practitioner surgery centrally.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of general practitioner practices there will be in England in 2010-11. [198260]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has made no projections of general practitioner practice data. Any estimate will depend on decisions made by primary care trusts on the local configuration of health services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of primary care trusts have submitted plans to his Department for a GP-led health centre in their area. [198262]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not asked to see individual plans or specifications from primary care trusts. Strategic health authorities will provide assurances that each primary care trusts' plans reflect the procurement principles and core criteria.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what he estimates will be the average annual cost of running one of the new 150 GP-led health centres. [198267]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of each new service will be dependant upon its clinical design based on local health need.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients he estimates will be registered on average at each of the new 150 GP-led health centres. [198268]

Mr. Bradshaw: This will be determined locally by primary care trusts and is likely to vary depending on the needs and access of the local population.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the establishment of the new 150 GP-led health centres. [198269]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Operating Framework set a national requirement for primary care trusts to undertake open and transparent procurements during 2008-09 for new general practitioner-led health centres. Exact service commencement will depend on a range of local circumstances, including the availability of premises.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average number of general practitioners working in a general practitioner-led health centre. [198270]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. Decisions on service configurations is a local matter for primary care trusts.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of general practitioners he estimates will be based in one of the new 150 general practitioner-led health centres in 2010. [198271]

Mr. Bradshaw: This will be determined by primary care trusts and will depend on a range of local factors, including the clinical design of the services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services the new 150 general practitioner-led health centres will be expected to provide. [198272]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has established the following core criteria for each new health centre service:

easily accessible locations;

core general practitioner (GP) services;

open 8 am-8 pm, seven days per week;

bookable GP appointments and walk-in services;

registered and non-registered patients; and

maximising opportunities to integrate and co-locate with other community based services.

Beyond these, local commissioners will determine the precise range of services in ways that best meet local health needs.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner-led health centres his Department plans to introduce by 2010; and what estimate he has made of the impact of the introduction of these centres on the number of general practitioner practices. [198273]

Mr. Bradshaw: The configuration of health services is a local matter for primary care trusts. From 2008-09 the Department will support primary care trusts (PCTs) in commissioning 152 new general practitioner led health centres to add to existing provision.

PCTs are currently engaging with stakeholders, including local patients and national health service staff about how new health centre services are best provided to meet local needs and the effect they may have on existing provision.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the first of the new 150 GP-led health centres to open. [198274]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are currently developing their plans and specifications with their strategic health authorities. It is too early to say at this stage when and where we expect the first services to open.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the effect of establishing the new 150 GP-led health centres on the average distance from a person's home to the nearest GP surgery. [198275]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts are responsible for assessing the impact of local health service configurations. They are currently engaging with their stakeholders, including local patients and national health service staff about how new general practitioner led health centre services are best provided to meet local needs and the effect they may have on existing provision.

Health Services: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what representations have been received by the NHS Appointments Commission in England on the communication skills to be required of professional applicants for membership of councils of professional health regulatory bodies; [196810]

(2) what representations have been received by the NHS Appointments Commission in England on the patient and public advocacy skills to be required of lay applicants for membership of councils of professional health regulatory bodies. [196811]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for discussion between the Appointments Commission and the relevant professional regulatory bodies. However, they will wish to take into account the recommendations in Niall Dickson's report 'Enhancing Confidence in Healthcare Professional Regulation, when it is published'.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of proposals requiring members of councils of professional health regulatory bodies regularly to consult national and local patient and consumer bodies. [196845]

Mr. Bradshaw: This matter has been raised during consultation on the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order. The Government are in the process of analysing all the responses and a report will be published shortly.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that *(a)* professional and *(b)* lay members of councils of (i) professional healthcare regulatory bodies and (ii) the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence reflect patient and service user concerns; and if he will make a statement. [196846]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is currently a matter for discussion between the Appointments Commission and the relevant regulatory bodies. However, in the future they will want to consider the recommendations of Niall Dickson's report 'Enhancing Confidence in Healthcare Professional Regulation', when it is published. We will also be asking the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence for advice on this matter.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration has been given to introducing a requirement for lay applicants for membership of councils of professional health regulatory bodies to demonstrate an understanding of issues from *(a)* patient, *(b)* consumer and *(c)* public perspectives. [196848]

Mr. Bradshaw: In May 2007, the former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Lord Hunt asked Niall Dickson, chief executive of the Kings Fund, to chair one of the seven working groups to take forward key recommendations in the White Paper 'Trust, Assurance and Safety'. This group was asked to examine those aspects of the White Paper concerned with enhancing public confidence in the regulators of health care professionals. Among these were the criteria for recruitment of lay members for membership of councils of professional health regulatory bodies. The Department will discuss the recommendations of the report of the group with the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, the regulatory bodies and the Appointments Commission.

Health Trainers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2383W, on health trainers, how many health trainers there were in *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* the NHS in September 2006. [194738]

Dawn Primarolo: In September 2006, figures for health trainers were not collected. The programme for 2006-07 was been rolled out across spearhead primary care trusts (PCTs) with 2007-08 seeing the programme expanded to all PCTs.

We do, however, have an overall figure of health trainers recruited to the programme at that time, which stands at approximately 900. The vast majority of those were sited in spearhead PCTs.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the take-up of influenza vaccinations by pensioners over 65 years old in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency, *(b)* Tyne and Wear and *(c)* England in the last year for which figures are available. [197267]

Dawn Primarolo: Influenza vaccine uptake is reported to the Department by primary care trusts (PCT) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) and is based on the number of patients registered at reporting general practitioners practices who were vaccinated between 1 September 2007 and 31 January 2008. Data are not collected by constituency.

Influenza vaccine uptake for those 65 years and over was 77 per cent. for Sunderland Teaching PCT and 74 per cent. overall in England.

This information and influenza uptake information for all PCTs and SHAs has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/Flu/Vaccine

Kidney Patients: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many kidney transplant operations were performed in Lancashire hospitals in each of the last five years. [198552]

Ann Keen: None. Kidney transplants are carried out in specialist centres. In the North West these are located at Manchester Royal Infirmary and the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* inpatients and *(b)* outpatients treated in Lancashire hospitals were on dialysis following kidney failure in each of the last five years. [198553]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information on acceptance rates onto renal replacement therapies, the percentage of patients on each modality of treatment, and the referral to treatment times for such patients is collected by the UK Renal Registry. The annual reports containing analysis of data from 1997 to 2006 can be found on the Renal Registry's website at:

www.renalreg.com

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in Lancashire hospitals in each of the last five years. [198554]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not collected centrally. Data on the number of admissions to hospital where the primary reason was chronic kidney disease is collected. However, this does not take account of the time or location of diagnosis.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical trials were conducted in Lancashire hospitals as part of kidney disease research in each of the last five years. [198555]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Department has set up and is funding the National Institute for Health Research UK clinical research network to ensure patients and clinicians in all parts of the country can take part in and benefit from clinical research. The comprehensive clinical research network will provide support (through 25 local research networks) for studies in all areas of disease and clinical need, including renal medicine.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on kidney disease research in Lancashire hospitals in each of the last five years. [198556]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Learning Disability: Adults

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much his Department spent on each category of services for adults with learning disabilities in each year since 2001-02; [197088]

(2) how much and what proportion of the *(a)* adult social care and *(b)* NHS budget was spent on people with a learning disability in each of the last four years. [197421]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information available is shown as follows.

Table 1 shows how much was spent by adult social services departments in England on each category of services for adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities in each year since 2001-02 to 2006-07. Adults aged 65 or over with learning disabilities cannot be separately identified. This information would have been recorded in the older people client group.

Table 2 shows how much was spent on all adults (including older people) and the proportion of expenditure on adults with learning disabilities aged 18-64 through adult social services in England each year since 2003-04 to 2006-07. Adults aged 65 or over with learning disabilities

cannot be separately identified. This expenditure would have been recorded in the older people client group.

Table 3 shows the estimated expenditure on learning disabilities through national health service specialised learning disability services each year since 2003-04 to 2006-07. We do not hold a breakdown of this expenditure on each category of services for adults with learning disabilities within the NHS.

It is for individual local authorities and NHS trusts to determine the level of funding available from their general allocations for the needs of people with learning disabilities, taking into consideration locally identified needs and assessments of individuals.

Table 1: Gross current expenditure on adults aged 18-64 with learning disabilities, 2001-02 to 2006-07

£000

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Assessment and care management	116,666	136,821	152,659	176,183	205,392	201,293
Nursing home placements	[1]35,358	69,362	63,167	74,216	77,098	72,506
Residential care home placements	[2]935,917	1,161,765	1,174,039	1,293,325	1,393,556	1,459,134
Supported and other accommodation	139,678	153,734	163,464	181,996	191,179	228,296
Direct Payments	4,877	8,303	14,368	27,530	42,181	60,799
Home care	127,663	138,671	175,347	216,098	288,125	349,107
Day care	474,416	516,568	558,586	572,359	620,478	638,879
Equipment and adaptations	1,483	1,020	808	727	799	937
Meals	573	789	1,488	734	1,306	950
Other services to adults with learning disabilities	67,360	66,449	66,616	97,990	93,502	109,199
Total (excluding Supporting People)	1,903,991	2,253,481	2,370,541	2,641,158	2,913,618	3,121,100
Supporting People[3]			238,899	209,066	196,708	171,182
Total (including Supporting People)			2,609,441	2,850,224	3,110,326	3,292,281

[1] From 2002-03 onwards data includes expenditure related to clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.
[2] From 2002-03 onwards data includes expenditure related to clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.
[3] Supporting People programme started in April 2003.

Source:
PSSEX1

Table 2: Adult social services and learning disability gross current expenditure 2003-04 to 2006-07

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Adult social services expenditure (£000)	12,775,914	13,696,392	14,494,908	15,014,838
Learning Disability (aged 18-64) expenditure (£000)	2,609,441	2,850,224	3,110,326	3,292,281
Learning Disability as a proportion of total adult expenditure (percentage)	20.4	20.8	21.5	21.9

Source:
PSSEX1

Table 3: Net estimated aggregate expenditure on learning disability for primary care trusts in England from 2003-04 to 2006-07

Financial year	Net expenditure (£000)
2003-04	1,851,427
2004-05	2,067,667
2005-06	2,195,942
2006-07	2,334,321

Notes:
1. Data for 2006-07 may not be comparable with previous years due to changes in data definitions.
2. Learning disability is defined as 'patients where the primary issue is the problem of learning disability'.

Source:
Programme Budgeting Data, Department of Health

Mental Health Services: Training

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his timetable is for implementing the recommendation on a national training scheme for mental health workers contained in the Management of Violence project's report. [196226]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department and National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) are committed to the accreditation of training and regulation of trainers in the prevention and management of aggression and violence and are currently working to ensure the introduction of an effective accreditation system as soon as is practicable.

The NIMHE issued the positive practice standards "Developing Positive Practice to Support the Safe and Therapeutic Management of Aggression and Violence in Mental Health In-patient Settings" in 2004. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidelines in 2005 entitled "Short-term Management of Violence and Disturbed Behaviour in Psychiatric In-patient Settings and Emergency Departments". These guidelines state that all service providers should have a policy for training in physical intervention that specifies the frequency and level of training required.

On 8 February, consultation ended on definitive guidance by NIMHE, reflecting feedback on the two previous publications, entitled "The National Minimum Standards for the Safe and Therapeutic Management of Aggression and Violence in Mental Health In-patient Settings". Responses to this consultation are being considered.

The NHS Security Management Service has developed training for all NHS staff in mental health and learning disabilities settings entitled "The Promoting Safer and

Therapeutic Services Training Programme!. This does not include training in physical intervention techniques.

NHS Questionnaires

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2860W, on NHS questionnaires, what the cost of the surveys conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Department was for each of the last 10 years. [196232]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total paid to Ipsos MORI (Market and Opinion Research International) for surveys by the Department from April 2001 to March 2008 is £26,071,628.76.

It would not be possible to discern the specific details of each survey without incurring disproportionate cost.

NHS: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS underspend was in each of the last three years for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust. [197923]

Mr. Bradshaw: The net under/overspend reported by the national health service in audited accounts for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 is provided in the following table. The 2006-07 audited final position for individual NHS organisations, is available in the Library under the title 'table showing audited figures for the NHS for the financial year 2006-07'. Tables showing the audited financial figures for individual NHS organisations for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 have been placed in the Library.

Final accounts under/(overspend)

£000

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Total NHS	221,358	547,256	514,621

Notes:
1. Final account figures for 2005-06 include unaudited figures for one NHS trust. 2. Foundation trusts not included.
Source:
Audited summarisation schedules

NHS: Recruitment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS trusts on use of open competition in recruitment of NHS IT personnel. [196391]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* In line with good employment practice the Department expects that individual national health service organisations comply with the relevant legal requirements in the recruitment of staff.

NHS Employers, the body representing trusts in England on workforce issues, with the agreement of the Department, has recently issued revised guidance "NHS Employment Check Standards", which outlines the checks employers must carry out for the appointment and ongoing employment of all individuals in the NHS. This does not mandate how employers should undertake the recruitment process, however local NHS organisations are encouraged to assess their recruitment and selection policies to ensure the processes are not directly or indirectly discriminatory.

NHS: Redundancy Pay

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid in severance payments to NHS staff in each of the last five years. [194535]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. The employment of staff, clinicians and managers within the national health service is a matter for individual NHS organisations.

Occupational Health

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has he made of the use of *(a)* NHS and *(b)* privately practising occupational health specialists by employers. [197321]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Many larger employers in the private sector provide their own occupational health (OH) services, while other employers buy OH provision from private providers. The national health service, on the other hand, provides the majority of its own occupational health provision with the remainder bought from the private sector. The NHS Plus project, funded by the Department, set up in 2006, has already begun to improve the provision of OH services to both the NHS and Small and medium enterprises in the private sector.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts employ at least one occupational health specialist. [197330]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. However, every primary care trust (PCT) is required to make arrangements for the provision of occupational health specialists support to its directly employed staff. PCTs use one of three models of provision:

directly employed occupational health specialists;

access to occupational health specialists through a contract with another national health service body which provides occupational health services; and

access to occupational health specialists through a contract with an independent provider of occupational health services.

Prescription Drugs: Addiction

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are receiving treatment for involuntary addiction to legal drugs; and what plans his Department has to tackle such addiction. [195580]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* This information is not held centrally.

Primary care trusts are responsible for providing local health services, including addiction services and together with their strategic health authorities are responsible for deciding which services to plan, commission and develop to meet the health needs of their local communities.

Prescriptions

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the use of electronic repeat prescriptions in the NHS. [197337]

Mr. Bradshaw: Repeat electronic prescriptions will be available through the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) once general practitioner and pharmacy information technology suppliers have implemented Release 2 of the EPS which is readily available.

Risks, Rights and Recovery

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Government will respond to the Mental Health Act Commission report, Risks, Rights and Recovery. [197869]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We welcome the Mental Health Act Commission's report and commend it to those responsible for the care and treatment of patients under the Mental Health Act 1983. We have noted its recommendations. The Government have not, in recent years, published responses to the Commission's biennial reports and does not propose to do so in this case.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sexually transmitted infections were diagnosed in each constituency in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* age group and *(b)* type of infection; and if he will make a statement. [197426]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of sexually transmitted infections diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine clinics and the National Chlamydia Screening Programme in the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Authority from 1997 to 2006 broken down by age group and type of infection has been placed in the Library.

X Rays: Maladministration

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who have been mistakenly sent for x-rays or CT scans in each English region in each of the last five years. [195563]

Dawn Primarolo: The requested information for the period between 1 January 2003 and 31 October 2006 is shown in the following table.

Number of incidents notified under Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (IRMER) 2000 to Secretary of States' Inspectors which were classified as patient identification (ID) and referral errors from 1 January 2003 to 31 October 2006

	Region															
	Eastern		London		North West		North Yorkshire		South East		South West		Trent		West Midlands	
	CT	X-ray	CT	X-ray	CT	X-ray	CT	X-ray	CT	X-ray	CT	X-ray	CT	X-ray	CT	X-ray
2003	1	0	3	0	4	4	2	5	2	8	1	1	1	3	4	0
2004	0	0	1	2	1	1	4	1	5	9	2	0	1	7	2	4
2005	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	4	4	6	1	5	1	3	1	1
2006	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	5	5	0	2	0	0	0	4

From 1 November 2006 the Healthcare Commission assumed responsibility for enforcement of the (IRMER) 2000 in the Amendment Regulations of 2006.

In March 2008 the Healthcare Commission published the first report on its activities in this area this included an analysis of the errors that led to patients being exposed unnecessarily to medical radiation.

From 1 November 2006 to 31 December 2007 there were 105 notifications of errors in the referral of patients for diagnostic x-ray, CT scan and other diagnostic radiology investigation.

The following table provides a breakdown by strategic health authority (SHA) area of notifications received from national health service trusts.

Breakdown by SHA area of diagnostic patient ID error

SHA	Diagnostic patient ID error
Independent Healthcare	1
East of England SHA	8
London SHA	12
North East SHA	4
North West SHA	8

Breakdown by SHA area of diagnostic patient ID error

SHA	Diagnostic patient ID error
South Central SHA	9
South East Coast SHA	11
South West SHA	8
West Midlands SHA	30
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	14
Total	105

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prosecutions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for alcohol-related offences in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) region and (ii) offence. [193585]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1274-78 W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of acceptable behaviour contracts in tackling underage drinking; [193575]

(2) how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued to teenagers for drinking alcohol underage. [193576]

Jacqui Smith: Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. Surveys carried out by the Home Office of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003.

A National Audit Office study in December 2006 found that such interventions were highly effective in combating antisocial behaviour. 65 per cent. of people stopped behaving antisocially after one intervention; 86 per cent. after two; and 93 per cent. after three.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were issued for drunk and disorderly behaviour in each of the last four years. [185292]

Jacqui Smith: The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for the offence of being guilty of disorderly behaviour in any public place while drunk, issued in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006, the latest year for which data are available, are set out in the following table.

A PND is a type of fixed penalty that can be issued by the police to persons committing a specified range of antisocial behaviour offences including being drunk and disorderly which attracts a penalty of £80. The PND scheme was rolled out to all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for drunk and disorderly in England and Wales, 2004-06[1,2,3]

	Drunk and disorderly
2004	26,609
2005	37,038
2006	43,556

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] A PND is a form of fixed penalty that can be issued for certain offences including being "drunk and disorderly". The PND scheme was rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Under the scheme, the police are able to issue penalty notices of either £50 or £80 for a range of minor disorder offences. The offence of drunk and disorderly attracts a fine of £80 under the PND scheme.

[3] This is a recordable offence under statute: S 91, Criminal Justice Act 1967.

Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on asylum, if she will give a break down by nationality of the other nationalities granted leave to remain under the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise. [195358]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* The requested information is contained in the following table.

Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Grants of ILR issued under the Family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007, excluding dependants, for specified nationalities[1,2,3,4]

Country of nationality	*Total*
Africa other	
Benin	5
Botswana	*
Burkina Faso	5
Central African Republic	*
Chad	10
Gabon	5
Guinea	15
Guinea-Bissau	10
Malawi	10
Mali	5
Mauritania	*
Mauritius	15
Mozambique	*
Niger	5
Senegal	*
Seychelles	10
South Africa	40
Togo	40
Western Sahara	*
Zambia	25
Total Africa Other	200
Asia Other	
Bhutan	*
Cambodia	*
Fiji	*
Indonesia	10
Malaysia	5
Mongolia	30
Myanmar (Burma)	10
Nauru	*
Nepal	50
North Korea	*
Philippines	15
Singapore	*
South Korea	5
Taiwan	*
Thailand	5
Total Asia other	130
Middle East	
Bahrain	*

Grants of ILR issued under the Family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007, excluding dependants, for specified nationalities[1, 2, 3, 4]

Country of nationality	Total
Egypt	20
Israel	40
Jordan	10
Kuwait	10
Lebanon	100
Morocco	15
Oman	*
Palestine	155
Saudi Arabia	5
Tunisia	10
United Arab Emirates	*
Yemen	65
Total Middle East other	440

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest 5 (* = 1 or 2).
[2] Main asylum applicants.
[3] This information is based on internal management information.
[4] Nationality recorded as at 7 December 2007 is not necessarily the applicant's nationality at the time of grant of ILR.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* refugees and *(b)* internally displaced people resident in the UK in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [197105]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not held and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

British Nationality: Ex-servicemen

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will seek the views of Gurkha and other ex-servicemen's charities and organisations in its consultation on the Path to British Citizenship. [197018]

Mr. Byrne: The Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps In Reforming The Immigration System' sets out proposals for a clearer framework for the journey to citizenship and for clarifying the routes to British citizenship or permanent residence through a new stage of probationary citizenship.

We welcome comments on the proposals in the Green Paper from all those who have views on the future shape of the immigration system. The document can be accessed on the BIA website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/pathtocitizenship/

We will finalise our proposals following the consultation period which ends on 14 May 2008.

Children: Protection

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in implementing Action 4 of the Review of Protection of Children from Sex Offenders, published in June 2007. [196960]

Jacqui Smith: The Government have identified four pilot police force areas: Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Hampshire and Warwickshire. We are currently working with these forces to develop an appropriate system for operating the new disclosure model, and a process for evaluating the effectiveness of the pilots in terms of child protection. The pilots will be overseen by Project Board on which the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children Schools and Families, ACPO, Barnardos, NCH and NSPCC are represented. The aim is for the pilots to commence this summer.

Control Orders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals are subject to control orders; and how many of those are claiming benefits, broken down by type of benefit. [194589]

Mr. McNulty: As of the last quarterly written ministerial statement updating Parliament on the operation of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005, issued on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 24-26WS, there were 11 control orders in force. The latest information the Home Office holds suggests that eight of the individuals currently subject to control orders are currently in receipt of benefits that are administered by the Department for Work and Pensions. Some individuals are in receipt of more than one form of DWP administered benefit. Of these individuals: four receive incapacity benefit, three receive jobseeker's allowance, one receives disability living allowance, three receive income support and two receive child tax credit.

In addition, five controlled individuals are currently living in Home Office provided housing.

The Home Office does not hold information where controlled persons are in receipt of benefits administered by Government Departments other than the Home Office or the Department for Work and Pensions.

Credit Cards: Fraud

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking in conjunction with the police to take action when card cloning is suspected. [197858]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to my letter dated 19 March 2008.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on consultants in each financial year since 1997, broken down by consultancy. [180823]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes and, where more cost effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is allocated across a wide range of firms, from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few

employees, to global multinational organizations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU Procurement Directives based on value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available. Some expenditure is on consultants to whom we have outsourced services, such as IT.

To provide information on the Department's consultancy spend broken down by consultancy since 1997 would incur disproportionate cost. The information held by the Home Department on the total value of spend on consultancy since 1997 is as follows:

£

Financial year	HO Headquarters	IPS	Total spend
1997-98	7,627,016	[1] —	7,627,016
1998-99	4,351,060	237,385	4,588,445
1999-00	9,822,145	480,527	10,302,672
2000-01	30,716,195	[2]457,073	31,173,268
2001-02	24,383,520	[2]1,938,219	26,321,739
2002-03	[3] —	[2]2,272,996	[3] —
2003-04	111,602,850	[2]3,836,770	115,439,620
2004-05	55,991,869	[2]4,486,183	60,478,052
2005-06	128,000,000	[2]10,912,741	138,912,741
2006-07	118,000,000	29,870,522	147,870,522

[1] Included in HO HQ.
[2] IPS recently revised figures.
[3] Not held.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contracts were awarded by her Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* any other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196563]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Department engages consultancy firms to support and augment civil servants in the delivery of a specific range of work, including large IT development programmes and, where more cost effective, longer term service delivery programmes.

The Department's expenditure on these services is allocated across a wide range of firms, from small, specialist companies with niche expertise and few employees, to global multinational organisations offering a broad spectrum and substantial depth of consultancy expertise.

The Department awards contracts in competition according to the EU procurement directives based on value for money. The Department uses OGC framework agreements where appropriate. The use of external consultants provides the Department with specialist knowledge, skill, capacity and technical expertise that would not otherwise be available. Some expenditure is on consultants to whom we have outsourced services, such as IT.

The Department does not hold a central record of individual contracts with external consultants. To provide information on what contracts were awarded by the Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* any other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months would incur disproportionate cost.

The (i) purpose of the contracts is the provision of advice, guidance, training and operational development and support in a broad range of areas from business change to technical development.

The latest information held by the Home Department on the (ii) value of the total spend with the named companies relates to the FY 2006-07 and is as follows:

Home Office including agencies 2006-07	£
Deloitte and Touche	13,753,669
Ernst and Young	4,675,868
KPMG	1,873,314
McKinsey	1,600,000
PricewaterhouseCoopers	4,669,861

The latest information held on the Department's total consultancy spend inclusive of that with the named companies above for the FY 2006-07 is as follows:

£

Financial year	HO headquarters	IPS	Total spend
2006-07	118,000,000	29,870,522	147,870,522

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the policy of British jobs for British workers will affect her Department's recruitment policy. [179876]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the House by the Parliamentary Secretary at the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2206W.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195868]

Mr. Byrne: In order to meet the requirements of the sustainable operations in Government targets a new sustainable operations policy statement has been prepared and will be issued in the next few months following approval by the relevant Home Office Boards.

Detention Centres: Offenders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many time-served foreign national prisoners being held in immigration removal centres were convicted of *(a)* Class A drug trafficking, *(b)* terrorist offences and *(c)* violent offences. [196841]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Drug Seizures

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of drugs seized by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2006-07 that were ultimately destined for the UK. [195706]

Jacqui Smith: SOCA's 2006-07 annual report detailed the total volume of Class A drugs seizures in which the agency was involved. No attempt was made to estimate what percentage of these seizures were ultimately destined for the UK, as such estimates would be subjective and likely to be inaccurate.

Drug Seizures: Cannabis

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much cannabis was seized by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2006-07. [195538]

Jacqui Smith: The amount of cannabis seized by the Serious Organised Crime Agency as a result of UK-based operations in 2006-07 was as follows:

	Kg
Resin	9,107
Herbal	616
Skunk	315
Total	10,038

Entry Clearances: Kenya

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people seeking to enter the UK from *(a)* Kenya and *(b)* South Africa have been refused entry due to confirmed or suspected cases of tuberculosis in the last 12 months. [197735]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: The Border and Immigration Agency does not collect statistics on the numbers of passengers who are refused leave to enter as a result of having tuberculosis.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what arrangements unskilled or low-skilled migrants from outside the EU were allowed to migrate to the UK in 2007; what maximum stay in the UK was permitted under each arrangement; how many migrants entered the UK under each arrangement in 2007; and what will happen to these arrangements when the points-based migration system becomes fully operational. [196519]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: In 2007, 60 per cent. of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) quota (16,250) could be filled through applications from outside the European Union, the remainder through applications from Romania or Bulgaria. The maximum stay permitted under SAWS is six months. From 2008, applications to SAWS are accepted only from Romania and Bulgaria. SAWS will be phased out by 2010.

Domestic workers in private households may accompany their employer to the UK. Leave may be granted for a period of 12 months initially, with the possibility to extend and apply for settlement once they have spent a continuous period of five years in the UK in this capacity. The latest published figure is that 12,500 entered in 2006.

There are no plans for a separate route for overseas domestic workers in private households, under the points-based system.

Low skilled schemes will be catered for under tier 3 of the points-based system. However, tier 3 is currently suspended and will remain so as long as labour market restrictions are in place for Romania and Bulgaria.

Frontiers: Security

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* discussions there have been on and *(b)* consideration has been given to the merits of setting up an e-borders system around the Common Travel Area. [168411]

Mr. Byrne: We continue to work closely with the Government of the Republic of Ireland on operational, policy and legislative issues that affect the common travel area (CTA), including on the implementation of the e-Borders programme which is a key part of the Government's plans for securing our borders.

As set out in our 'Securing the UK Border' strategy, March 2007, the CTA presents immigration risks and we are reviewing the rules and operation of the CTA to explore how border security can be strengthened. Monitoring all major air and sea movements across CTA borders via e-Borders by 2011 is one of the measures we are taking to strengthen operation of the CTA. The results of the review will be announced in due course.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA samples from the National DNA database have been used for each research project undertaken using data from the National DNA database to date; and if she will make a statement. [182636]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave her on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 281W.

Homicide: Greater London

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides were recorded by the Metropolitan police in (*a*) 2000-01 and (*b*) 2006-07. [196838]

Jacqui Smith: Available Home Office data are from the homicide index and relate to offences currently recorded as homicide. As at 12 November 2007, when recording closed down for the purpose of analysis, the Metropolitan police service had recorded 178 homicides in 2000-01 and 167 in 2006-07. These are not necessarily the years in which the incidents took place or the years in which any court decisions were made. Figures will change as subsequent court hearings take place or other information is received.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to assist trafficked persons discovered during Pentameter 1. [198248]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Operation Pentameter 1 recovered 88 possible victims. Victims were assisted into support services or returned to their country of origin. During the campaign specific guidance was given to police officers on appropriate victim care and police forces were asked to scope local service provision to help develop local strategies and partnerships.

Identity Cards: Banks

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she and Ministers in her Department have had with representatives of high street banks on identity cards in the last 12 months; and what was the date of each such meeting. [187426]

Jacqui Smith: There have been no ministerial meetings on identity cards with representatives from the banking sector within the last 12 months.

Police Custody: Expenditure

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how much her Department has been invoiced for costs incurred under Operation Safeguard, since the start of 2008, broken down by police force; and if she will make a statement. [197311]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

Police forces invoice in arrears for the cost of holding prisoners under Operation Safeguard.

The following table shows the amounts invoiced by police forces this year up to 27 March. Some of the costs relate to Safeguard use in 2007.

Police authority	*Total invoiced (£)*
North Wales	437,025.55
West Yorkshire	181,194.95
Leicestershire	30,766.69
Kent	288,436.77
South Yorkshire	55,076.00
Thames Valley	138,229.75
Metropolitan	1,114,133.18
Devon and Cornwall	105,281.00
Total invoiced	2,350,143.89

Police cells have been used to hold prisoners before. They were used to hold prisoners regularly from 1982 until 1993, and from 1994-95. They were also used from July to November 2002. Their use peaked in 1988, and peaked again in 1990-92, when more than 1,000 prisoners a night were being regularly held in police cells.

Police Stations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 994-5W, on police stations, for what reasons changes in the use of police buildings have made it difficult to obtain comprehensive information as to the number of police stations in use. [186931]

Jacqui Smith: The use of police stations has changed in recent years to reflect more flexible modern policing. Many forces have now devised innovative ways of increasing their accessibility to members of the public by using other more modern methods of interaction, such as police shops in high streets, police kiosks and by use of mobile police stations—particularly in rural areas.

The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of police officers in each force were dismissed through the incapability procedure in each year since 1997. [197294]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not centrally collected as part of the police personnel statistics series.

Police: Pensions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the contribution rates were for police officers to the contributory pension scheme in the latest year for which figures are available. [197295]

Jacqui Smith: There are two police pension schemes in England and Wales, the Police Pension Scheme (1987) (PPS) and the New Police Pension Scheme (2006) (NPPS) which was introduced for new entrants with effect from 6 April 2006.

The employee contribution rate for the PPS is 11 per cent. of pensionable pay (7.5 per cent. if an officer is ineligible for ill-health benefits).

The employee contribution rate for the NPPS is 9.5 per cent. of pensionable pay (6 per cent. if an officer is ineligible for ill-health benefits).

Police: Resignations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers resigned from police forces in England and Wales in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [185627]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 February 2008]:* The available data are given in the following table.

Officer resignations have remained stable in the last four years (2003-04 to 2006-07) and the figures represent 1.5 per cent. 1.4 per cent. 1.5 per cent. and 1.5 per cent. of total officer strength respectively in each year.

Police officer resignations[1] by police force area (FTE[2]) from 2002-03 to 2006-07[3,4]

	2002-03[5]	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	11	52	40	77	35
Bedfordshire	22	39	35	24	23
Cambridgeshire	22	23	34	26	28
Cheshire	10	21	26	37	24
Cleveland	2	23	20	24	25
Cumbria	9	11	15	11	17
Derbyshire	14	21	20	20	41
Devon and Cornwall	22	13	31	44	34
Dorset	11	18	20	22	19
Durham	4	19	19	15	16
Dyfed-Powys	5	9	17	12	8
Essex	12	36	66	79	81
Gloucestershire	10	16	16	19	20
Greater Manchester	43	126	128	186	159
Gwent	1	15	17	20	16
Hampshire	35	68	47	64	49
Hertfordshire	28	56	54	55	63
Humberside	20	29	36	31	34
Kent	37	72	60	66	49
Lancashire	17	28	42	26	32
Leicestershire	20	35	36	45	27
Lincolnshire	10	16	19	20	16
London, City of	19	12	11	11	11
Merseyside	22	34	38	83	61
Metropolitan Police	453	552	422	337	531
Norfolk	9	10	13	22	24
Northamptonshire	9	26	30	24	19
Northumbria	35	29	34	38	49
North Wales	7	22	17	27	22
North Yorkshire	11	15	18	17	32
Nottinghamshire	12	13	25	14	28
South Wales	20	21	18	29	39
South Yorkshire	36	46	57	40	38
Staffordshire	7	27	43	24	22
Suffolk	14	28	26	14	12
Surrey	27	34	32	37	46
Sussex	35	124	113	82	76
Thames Valley	64	71	100	131	86
Warwickshire	14	19	15	12	18
West Mercia	18	27	21	19	38
West Midlands	89	107	119	137	105
West Yorkshire	34	46	72	89	65
Wiltshire	18	18	24	26	16
Total	1,316	2,026	2,042	2,133	2,151

[1] Resignations also include those officers who have rejoined the force as part of the 30+ scheme and subsequently leave the force.
[2] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Comparable data are not available prior to 2002-03.
[4] Data have not previously been previously published in this format therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.
[5] Excludes quarter 1, data not available.

Police: Sick Leave

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department *(a)* how many working days were lost to sickness, *(b)* what the average number of working days per staff member lost to sickness was and *(c)* what percentage of days lost to sickness were attributed to stress-related conditions for (i) police officers, (ii) other police staff and (iii) other departmental staff in each of the last five years. [195015]

Jacqui Smith: The available data relating to police sickness absence have been centrally collected from 2002-03 and is set out in Table A. The data are available on the Home Office website, located at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

The method of counting police officer sickness was changed in 2004-05. For and prior to 2003-04 it is counted on the basis of days lost per officer. From 2004-05 police sick absence data has been collected and published in hours per officer. The change was made to reflect the fact that the police officers and staff do not work a conventional day and are employed on differing shift patterns.

The Home Office does not hold data on the reasons for sick absence in the police service.

Information on sick absence for the Home Office and its agencies. Home Office staff data represents the number of working days lost to sickness, the number of days lost to sickness per member of staff and the percentage of sickness attributed to stress.

Table A Police service: Average number of hours lost per annum to sickness

	Police officers	Police staff
2002-03[1]	10.4 days	11.7 days
2003-04[1]	9.6 days	10.9 days
2004-05	70.9 hours	72.6 hours
2005-06	69.3 hours	77.4 hours
2006-07	69.7 hours	74.8 hours

[1] Data is incomplete for those years.

Table B

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Home Office HQ					
Working days lost to sickness			23,564	30,082	24,393
Average number of working days lost to sickness per member of staff			5.12	5.99	6.9
Percentage of days lost to sickness attributed to stress			23	25	24
Border and Immigration Agency					
Working days lost to sickness			157,066	164,181	197,476
Average number of working days lost to sickness per member of staff			10.17	10.31	11.27
Percentage of days lost to sickness attributed to stress			11.39	11.80	14.22
Criminal Records Bureau					
Working days lost to sickness			3,700	3,100	4,300
Average number of working days lost to sickness per member of staff			9.2	8.2	10.5
Percentage of days lost to sickness attributed to stress					
Identity and Passport Service					
Working days lost to sickness	32,724	33,087	36,386	38,822	42,324
Average number of working days lost to sickness per member of staff	13.5	12.64	11.34	10.21	9.73
Percentage of days lost to sickness attributed to stress	27	23	24	24	24

[1] The data in the table has been extracted from the Home Office HQ and Border and Immigration Agency personnel system

[2] The Home Office HQ and Border and Immigration Agency's data for 2003 and 2004 is not available due to lack of central recording

[3] CRB do not centrally hold sick absences due to stress related conditions therefore this information is not available

[4] Information on sick absence for CRB was not collected and held centrally until 2005 therefore data are only available for the last three years.

[5] Not available

Prosecutions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted as a result of National Crime Squad investigations in 2005-06. [195542]

Jacqui Smith: In 2005-06, 520 people were charged as a result of National Crime Squad operations and, during the same period, 404 people were convicted.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197514]

Mr. Byrne: From best available records the *(a)* Home Department and *(b)* its executive agencies have not awarded contracts to Rackspace.

Security: ICT

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the threat posed by storm worm trojans to IT infrastructure in the UK. [197074]

Jacqui Smith: No assessment has been made of this particular type of trojan. However, the Government works closely with law enforcement and the private sector to understand the threats to the UK from the internet.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 357W, on the Serious Organised Crime Agency, for which offences the 15 individuals were convicted. [195713]

Jacqui Smith: Three of the 15 individuals were convicted in Russia of 10 counts of extortion each. The remaining 12 were convicted in UK courts of at least one of the following offences:

Conspiracy to defraud

Money laundering

Possession of false instruments with intent

Indecency with a child

Hacking

Blackmail

Making indecent images of a child

Possessing indecent images of a child

Possession of controlled drugs with intent to supply

Supply of class B drugs

Deception

Sexual Offences: Disclosure of Information

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how she plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot scheme on disclosure of child sex offenders' convictions to certain members of the public. [196959]

Jacqui Smith: The details of the pilot scheme, including the method of evaluating the pilots' effectiveness in term of child protection, are currently being developed. This—as well as all other aspects of the pilots—is overseen by Project Board, on which the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children Schools and Families, ACPO, Barnardos, NCH and NSPCC are represented.

Stowaways

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was raised from fines of drivers of vehicles carrying stowaways in each year since the inception of such fines. [163092]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 November 2007]:* The civil penalty regime was amended by the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act which came into effect on 8 December 2002. Flexible penalties were introduced enabling separately imposed penalties on companies and drivers as apposed to fixed penalties of £2000 per clandestine entrant.

The regime now ensures that if the owner or hirer of a vehicle is also the employer of the driver, they remain jointly and severally liable to the payment of the driver's penalty.

Since the inception of civil penalties within European Operations locally collated management information indicate the following amount of revenue raised from fines to drivers and hauliers.

These figures take into account the objection and appeals process by which penalties could be reduced or cancelled and include payment for penalties imposed in previous years. Information relating to the revenue raised from drivers' penalties alone is not available.

	Total penalties received (£)
2003	490,092
2004	749,076
2005	981,135
2006	1,033,240
2007	1,357,703

Terrorism: Convictions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for terrorist offences in each year since 1997. [196823]

Jacqui Smith *[Holding answer 26 March 2008]:* The number of individuals convicted since 1997 under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Acts 1974 and 1976 is available on the Home Office website in "Statistics on the Operation of the Prevention of Terrorism Legislation, Great Britain". This publication details detentions under this Act and outcomes including statistics on individuals found guilty. It is available quarterly through the 'archive' page back to 1979.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/hosbarchive.html

The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001. Statistics compiled from police records are available on the Home Office website from 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/?view=Standard

These detail arrests under this Act and under other legislation where the investigation is considered terrorist related and the outcomes to those arrests, including convictions.

For this period, there were 41 Terrorism Act convictions and 183 convictions under other legislation.

In addition to the above, statistics on the number of convictions in significant terrorist cases are collated for 2007 and 2008. In 2007, 37 individuals were convicted in 15 significant terrorist cases. 21 of those individuals pleaded guilty. So far in 2008, 21 people have been convicted in seven significant terrorist cases. Of these 21, 10 individuals pleaded guilty.

Figures are complied from police records and are subject to change as cases go through the system. The Home Office is currently working with the police to review how terrorism statistics are collated.

Terrorism: Internet

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many websites have been shut down for terrorism-related reasons since 1997; and how many of these websites have subsequently reopened. [182216]

Jacqui Smith: The legislation that allows us to request that unlawfully terrorism related material is modified or removed from the internet is Section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2006. Section 3 allows a constable to serve a notice where he or she believes illegal terrorism related material is available on the internet, on the person(s) responsible for that material. The notice requires that the terrorism related material be removed or modified within two working days. The preferred route of the police (recommended in the guidelines on using Section 3 notices) is not to issue formal Section 3 notices in the first instance, but to use informal contact with communication service providers instead. To date this has proved effective, but statistics covering the number of sites removed through such informal contact are not available. The police have no record of any Section 3 notices being issued, and statistics on the use of Section 3 notices are not collected by the Home Office.

Terrorism: Prosecutions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of the offence of acts preparatory to terrorism under the Terrorism Act 2006. [164064]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 13 November 2007]:* The Terrorism Act 2006 came into force in April of that year. Statistics compiled from police records show that, to date, seven individuals have been prosecuted for acts preparatory to terrorism under this legislation and of these, five individuals have been convicted.

Work Permits

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers applied for work permits in each of the last three years. [197765]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Shoplifting: Convictions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General how many successful prosecutions have been brought for shoplifting in each of the last five years. [197400]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Data showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts, cautioned and issued with Penalty Notices for Disorder for the offence of theft from a shop or stall in England and Wales for the respective years 2002 to 2006 are in the following table.

PNDs and conditional cautions, in addition to simple cautions, allow low level offending to be dealt with effectively outside court when it is not in the public interest to prosecute.

Under the Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme rolled out to all forces in England and Wales in 2004, a fixed penalty of £80 can be issued for shoplifting of goods, normally up to a value of £100. The offence was added to the scheme in November 2004.

National roll-out of conditional cautions began in June 2006.

The figures given in the table on prosecutions relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings, cautions and Penalty Notice for Disorder data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of defendants found guilty, cautioned and issued with penalty notices for disorder for the offence of theft from a shop or stall, England & Wales, 2002 to 2006[1,2]

	Found guilty	*Cautioned*[3]	*Penalty notices for disorder*[4]
2002	80,166	34,190	n/a
2003	74,927	35,384	n/a
2004	69,541	41,165	2,072
2005	64,076	44,009	21,997
2006	58,536	45,054	38,772

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes conditional cautions.

[4] The Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme was rolled out to all police forces in 2004. The police can issue a fixed penalty of £80 for shoplifting of goods up to the value of £200.

Source:
RDS-OCJR - Ministry of Justice.

TREASURY

Car Allowances

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he next plans to review the recommended level of free mileage rates for business journeys in employees' own vehicles; [198545]

(2) when the last review of the recommended level of free mileage rates for business journeys in employees' own vehicles took place; [198546]

(3) what recent representations he has received on the review of the recommended level of tax-free mileage rates for business journeys in employees' own vehicles; [198440]

(4) whether increases in fuel costs are taken into account when setting the level of tax-free mileage rates for business journeys in employees' own vehicles. [198441]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Mid-Dorset and North Poole (Annette Brooke) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 535W. I also refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 306W. The Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAPs) system was reformed in 2002. The Government keep AMAP rates and thresholds under review as part of the PBR and Budget process.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197030]

Angela Eagle: The National School of Government's records for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 indicate the following attendances for HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs:

seven officials attended 'Influencing with integrity' (four from HMRC at a total cost of £2,904 and three from HM Treasury at a total cost of £2,178); and

two HMRC officials attended 'Emotional intelligence' (at a total cost of £2,990).

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195812]

Angela Eagle: Staff in HM Treasury can complete a flexi hours timesheet, but it is not mandatory to do so. Around 80 per cent. of staff complete the timesheet each month, this equates to an average of 37 hours per week per employee. This average will include part-time staff whose standard working week is less than 36 hours net.

Housing

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of owner-occupiers in each income decile, broken down by region. [196544]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The available information, derived from the Department of Work and Pension's "Family Resources Survey" (FRS), is given in the following tables. Since the question does not specify whether the basis for income should be before or after housing costs have been deducted both sets of figures have been determined.

Table 1: Number of owner-occupied households by equivalised income decile and region/country, before housing costs (3-year average: 2003-04 to 2005-06)

million

Region/country	*Bottom decile*	*Second decile*	*Third decile*	*Fourth decile*	*Fifth decile*	*Sixth decile*	*Seventh decile*	*Eighth decile*	*Ninth decile*	*Top decile*	*All owner-occupied households*
England	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.1	14.9
North East	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
North West	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.1
Yorkshire and Humber	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.5
East Midlands	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.3
West Midlands	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.6
East of England	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.7
London	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.9
South East	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	2.5
South West	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.6
Wales	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9
Scotland	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.5
Northern Ireland	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.5
UK	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.2	2.3	17.8

Table 2: Number of owner-occupied households by equivalised income decile and region/country, after housing costs (3-year average: 2003-04 to 2005-06)

million

Region/country	*Bottom decile*	*Second decile*	*Third decile*	*Fourth decile*	*Fifth decile*	*Sixth decile*	*Seventh decile*	*Eighth decile*	*Ninth decile*	*Top decile*	*All owner-occupied households*
England	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.8	2	2.2	14.9
North East	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7
North West	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.1
Yorkshire and Humber	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.5
East Midlands	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.3
West Midlands	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.6
East of England	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.7
London	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.9
South East	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	2.5
South West	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.6
Wales	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9
Scotland	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.5
Northern Ireland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5
UK	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.5	17.8

Notes:

1. Averages based on three survey years are given because the sample sizes for individual regions for single years are too small to produce robust annual estimates.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the DWP publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. The national median income of the survey year in question has been used (i.e. the contemporary median) instead of using a fixed median for a particular year. This is consistent with the preferred way of measuring poverty.
5. Owner-occupied households are defined as households that are either owned outright or are being bought with a mortgage.
6. Figures are given in millions rounded to the nearest 100,000 households. Some figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of owner-occupier households earning below 60 per cent. of median income *(a)* who are working and *(b)* who are unemployed in each region; and what his estimate is of the number of owner-occupiers earning below 40 per cent. of median income (i) who are working and (ii) who are unemployed in each region. [196545]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure poverty is income below 60 per cent. of median. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) does not present information covering 40 per cent. of median income in our Households Below Average Income series as it is not a sound measure of poverty. This is because households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey may not actually have the lowest living standards.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06", published by the DWP. This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the number and proportion of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportion in persistent poverty.

The available information, derived from the DWP's "Family Resources Survey" (FRS), is given in the following tables. However, it should be noted with regards to the information in the tables that robust estimates are not available for each individual region for owner-occupied households below 40 per cent. of contemporary median income because of small samples.

Although the question asks for the number of owner-occupied households who are unemployed, the tables show the number of workless households the reason for this is given in note 7.

The question does not specify whether the basis for income should be before or after housing costs have been deducted so both sets of figures have been given.

Table 1a Number of working and workless owner-occupied households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income before housing costs, by region or country, three year averages, 2003-04 to 2005-06

million

Region/ country	*Working owner-occupied households*	*Workless owner-occupied households*	*All owner-occupied households*
England	0.8	1.4	2.2
North East	0.0	0.1	0.1
North West	0.1	0.2	0.3
Yorkshire and Humber	0.1	0.1	0.2
East Midlands	0.1	0.1	0.2
West Midlands	0.1	0.2	0.3
East of England	0.1	0.1	0.2
London	0.1	0.2	0.3
South East	0.1	0.2	0.3
South West	0.1	0.2	0.2
Wales	0.1	0.1	0.2
Scotland	0.1	0.1	0.2
Northern Ireland	0.0	0.1	0.1
UK	1.0	1.7	2.7

Table 1b Number of working and workless owner-occupied households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income after housing costs, by region or country, three year averages, 2003-04 to 2005-06

million

Region/ country	*Working owner-occupied households*	*Workless owner-occupied households*	*All owner-occupied households*
England	0.9	1.0	1.9
North East	0.0	0.0	0.1
North West	0.1	0.2	0.3
Yorkshire and Humber	0.1	0.1	0.2
East Midlands	0.1	0.1	0.2
West Midlands	0.1	0.1	0.2
East of England	0.1	0.1	0.2
London	0.1	0.1	0.3
South East	0.1	0.1	0.3
South West	0.1	0.1	0.2
Wales	0.1	0.1	0.1
Scotland	0.1	0.1	0.2
Northern Ireland	0.0	0.0	0.1
UK	1.1	1.2	2.3

Table 2a Number of working and workless owner-occupied households with less than 40 per cent. of contemporary median household income before housing costs, by region or country, three year averages, 2003-04 to 2005-06

million

Region/ country	*Working owner-occupied households*	*Workless owner-occupied households*	*All owner-occupied households*
UK	0.4	0.5	0.9

Table 2b Number of working and workless owner-occupied households with less than 40 per cent. of contemporary median, household income after housing costs, by region or country, three year averages, 2003-04 to 2005-06

Million

Region/ country	*Working owner-occupied households*	*Workless owner-occupied households*	*All owner-occupied households*
UK	0.5	0.4	1.0

Notes

1. Averages based on three survey years are given, because the sample sizes for individual regions for single years are too small to produce robust annual estimates.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. Income includes housing benefit, where applicable. Housing costs include rents, where applicable. This definition is standard international best practice.
4. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
5. The national median income of the survey year in question has been used (i.e. the 2003-04 median income is the basis of the results for the 2003-04 survey year) instead of using a fixed median for a particular year. This is consistent with the preferred way of measuring poverty.
6. Owner-occupied households are defined as households that are either owned outright or are being bought with a mortgage.
7. A household is defined as workless if no one within the household is classified as working. So 'workless' embraces all the 'not working' categories: unemployed, retired, student, looking after family/home, permanently sick/disabled, temporarily sick/injured and other inactive. DWP prefer to answer this PQ in a manner consistent with their publications. In any case, if they had limited the analysis to just 'unemployed', the sample size would have been too small to produce anything robust or meaningful.
8. Within households, pensioners are excluded from the classifications if they are not working, and are included if they are working. For example, a household with a pensioner in work, but a working age person not in work, would be in the working households category. This is consistent with the definition of the economic status of the household used in the "Households Below Average Income" publication.
9. Figures are given in million, rounded to the nearest 100,000 households. Some figures may not sum due to rounding.
10. This response includes a lower income threshold of 40 per cent. of the contemporary median income. The data for families with an income lower than 50 per cent. of median is not considered to be accurate as an indicator of living standards. Many of these households while having very low incomes would not be considered poor, but who do genuinely have few sources of income in the short-run. These figures are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the FRS may not actually have the lowest living standards.

Source

Family Resources Survey 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06.

Housing: Prices

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* price and *(b)* rental costs of housing was in each year since 1990, broken down by (i) size, (ii) type and (iii) region. [196761]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

A range of tables showing recent trends in property prices and rents are set out as follows. Property price information is provided for the whole of the UK but rental information from the Survey of English Housing is available for England only.

Property price data goes back to 1990, as requested but rental information is only available for later years.

Table 1 Average property price by Government office region, England, 1990-2007

£

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West
1990	41,374	50,361	47,231	52,620	54,694	71,671	83,821	81,638	65,378
1991	45,395	52,951	52,343	55,740	58,659	69,865	85,742	80,696	65,346
1992	47,485	56,488	52,291	54,551	57,881	65,198	78,049	76,528	61,654
1993	48,725	55,641	54,572	53,797	58,508	66,756	81,332	77,239	61,319
1994	48,893	57,242	54,352	55,119	59,089	69,431	87,631	82,513	64,847
1995	46,565	56,231	54,356	55,060	62,123	70,036	89,528	83,030	65,096
1996	51,009	57,609	55,867	58,855	64,320	73,403	94,065	87,644	68,034
1997	52,824	63,077	60,019	61,930	67,803	81,378	105,819	94,842	73,004
1998	55,957	65,666	62,214	66,155	71,864	88,682	114,783	106,378	80,203
1999	61,620	72,017	67,416	72,437	79,757	96,841	142,321	121,654	89,217
2000	63,921	77,913	72,176	79,323	88,431	111,813	163,577	142,790	104,233
2001	69,813	82,402	76,368	87,280	97,650	127,858	182,325	156,964	118,639
2002	78,971	92,074	88,126	104,835	112,313	151,330	207,246	180,243	142,403
2003	100,344	115,003	114,253	132,013	137,371	183,234	241,864	214,971	174,482
2004	126,611	139,095	137,317	154,493	161,846	202,985	272,886	237,000	197,926
2005	135,210	149,440	148,014	161,487	168,904	211,661	282,548	243,537	204,686
2006	141,125	157,506	158,247	164,336	177,182	221,125	305,544	256,889	213,586
2007	152,295	170,072	170,203	176,255	185,048	238,147	342,122	278,054	230,885

Table 2 Average property price by country, 1990-2007

£

	United Kingdom	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
1990	59,785	63,173	46,464	41,744	31,849
1991	62,455	65,299	48,989	48,772	35,392
1992	61,366	63,692	49,551	50,010	38,287
1993	62,333	64,572	52,465	49,568	38,880
1994	64,787	67,518	53,106	50,651	38,651
1995	65,644	68,066	52,978	53,143	42,810

Table 2: Average property price by country, 1990-2007

£

	United Kingdom	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
1990	70,626	72,210	54,898	56,674	47,678
1991	76,103	78,831	58,372	57,883	53,309
1992	81,774	84,695	60,902	63,585	59,376
1993	92,521	96,133	67,483	69,312	66,267
2000	101,550	106,998	72,285	69,961	72,514
2001	112,835	119,563	79,628	73,570	79,885
2002	128,265	137,278	88,261	77,655	83,829
2003	155,627	166,820	109,661	103,641	95,217
2004	180,248	192,002	138,141	118,932	110,188
2005	190,760	202,409	149,979	129,631	129,229
2006	204,813	214,045	157,457	137,192	169,259
2007	223,405	232,054	169,848	158,798	229,701

Source
Regulated Mortgage Survey
CLG Live table 503: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140951

Table 3: Average property price by dwelling type, UK, 1990-2007

£

	Bungalow	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat or maisonette in converted house	Purpose-built flat or maisonette	All dwellings
1990	71,177	108,474	56,506	46,421	53,885	44,890	59,785
1991	71,032	106,351	58,971	48,252	54,626	45,305	62,455
1992	67,947	104,462	57,259	46,696	52,475	43,449	61,366
1993	68,347	102,612	56,307	46,157	53,123	42,824	62,333
1994	70,071	107,794	57,689	47,549	56,536	43,940	64,787
1995	68,398	109,502	57,598	49,028	59,815	47,412	65,644
1996	72,173	112,530	61,794	52,417	66,049	51,613	70,626
1997	78,784	119,402	66,452	58,511	74,023	56,311	76,103
1998	84,133	127,556	71,485	62,589	83,945	61,469	81,774
1999	90,981	140,963	79,654	71,404	99,767	73,908	92,521
2000	103,390	155,167	88,098	78,264	107,775	81,725	101,550
2001	113,419	173,295	99,412	87,470	121,456	90,356	112,835
2002	138,299	201,815	113,299	99,150	149,192	103,408	128,265
2003	163,818	250,095	138,731	120,997	164,867	125,777	155,627
2004	189,074	280,877	162,410	142,827	164,636	148,543	180,248
2005	203,292	299,378	176,030	152,977	155,524	159,325	190,760
2006	218,762	312,075	189,525	163,955	159,803	171,928	204,813
2007	236,760	339,235	206,026	180,618	180,810	185,859	223,405

Source
Regulated Mortgage Survey
CLG Live table 511: http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140990

Table 4: Average housing association rents by Government office region, England, 1994-2007

£ per week

	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East
1994	38	34	31	35	38	36	38	43	42
1995	41	36	33	36	40	39	41	46	44
1996	44	37	36	40	43	41	44	50	49
1997	47	40	39	42	45	44	47	53	52
1998	50	42	42	44	48	45	50	57	55
1999	52	43	44	46	48	48	53	59	58
2000	53	45	46	48	48	48	54	61	60
2001	54	46	46	47	49	48	56	63	61
2002	56	46	49	49	50	50	57	65	64
2003	57	47	50	49	51	51	59	67	65

Table 4: Average housing association rents by Government office region, England, 1994-2007

£ per week

	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East
2004	58	49	52	50	53	52	60	70	67
2005	61	52	55	51	56	56	64	75	71
2006	64	54	57	54	59	58	66	78	75
2007	67	56	59	55	61	61	69	81	77

Note
The figures reflect gross rents (before deduction of housing benefit, if applicable).
Source
Housing Corporation HAR/10 and RSR (Regulatory and Statistical Return).
Derived from CLG Live Table No.703.
http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141440

Table 5: Average council rents by Government office region, England, 1994-2007

£ per week

	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West
1996	40	33	38	31	34	37	41	53	46	41
1997	41	34	38	32	36	38	43	54	47	41
1998	42	35	39	34	37	39	44	55	48	42
1999	44	37	41	35	38	40	46	58	51	44
2000	46	39	42	37	40	41	48	60	52	45
2001	48	40	44	39	41	45	50	62	54	47
2002	50	42	46	42	44	47	52	65	56	48
2003	51	42	47	43	44	47	52	65	58	49
2004	53	44	47	44	46	49	55	67	59	50
2005	55	45	49	46	48	51	58	69	62	52
2006	58	48	51	48	50	54	61	73	64	54
2007	61	51	54	51	54	57	64	77	68	57

Notes
1. The figures reflect gross rents (before deduction of housing benefit, if applicable).
2. Figures are unaudited and therefore indicative only.
Source
Second Advance Claim Forms submitted by local authorities to Communities and Local Government.
Derived from CLG Live Table No. 715.
http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-715

Table 6: Average private rents by Government office region, England, 1995-96 to 2006-07

£ per week

Two-year period	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West
1995-96 and 1996-97	86	65	71	61	59	69	78	127	90	71
1996-97 and 1997-98	88	61	64	62	61	70	82	133	97	73
1997-98 and 1998-99	90	59	66	62	70	65	82	141	101	78
1998-99 and 1999-2000	93	55	76	65	70	64	83	148	102	82
1999-2000 and 2000-01	97	59	76	66	64	73	89	151	109	84
2000-01 and 2001-02	106	70	77	68	75	79	94	165	119	91
2001-02 and 2002-03	116	72	79	75	82	82	96	188	135	95
2002-03 and 2003-04	120	72	81	81	84	85	102	191	135	97
2003-04 and 2004-05	119	75	83	86	86	85	113	179	130	103
2004-05 and 2005-06	123	75	86	83	89	88	122	184	136	108

Table 6: Average private rents by Government office region, England, 1995-96 to 2006-07

£ per week

Two-year period	England	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East	London	South East	South West
2005-06 and 2006-07	128	83	91	79	94	94	126	194	141	114

Notes

1. The figures reflect gross rents (before deduction of housing benefit, if applicable)
2. Assured and Assured Shorthold tenancies only - accessible to the public without special conditions.
3. Sampling variability is too great for regional figures to be published for individual years.

Source

Survey of English Housing
Derived from CLG Live Table No.734
http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141656

Income: Gold

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been raised from sales of (*a*) gold and (*b*) mobile telephone licences in the last 10 years; and what such revenue was used for. [196808]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

Gold

395 tonnes of gold were sold from the reserves between July 1999 and March 2002 and re-invested in interest-bearing foreign currency assets. The total proceeds were around $3.5 billion, equivalent to around £2.3 billion (using exchange rates at the time of the sales).

Mobile telephone licences

The auction of wireless telegraphy licences for 3G mobile telephony raised £22,477.4 million in May 2000. Ofcom has since held three further auctions of licences on a technology and application neutral basis in frequency bands suitable for mobile communications (in May 2006, October 2006 and May 2007) raising a total of £5.64 million.

The aim of the auctions was not to raise revenue but to secure optimal use of the radio spectrum. Receipts from spectrum awards are passed to the Consolidated Fund. The Consolidated Fund receives the proceeds of taxation and certain other Government receipts and finances the nation's general expenditure.

Landfill Tax: Tax Yields

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department makes estimates of the amount of landfill tax receipts it receives from each local authority. [198802]

Angela Eagle: It is not possible using landfill tax receipts data to determine how much revenue is received from local authorities. This is because registered landfill site operators pay the tax to HM Revenue and Customs and pass on the cost to their customers through the disposal charges they set. The origin of the landfilled waste is not recorded on the tax return.

National Savings and Investments: Marketing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the advertising and sponsorship budget of National Savings and Investments was in each of the last five years; [198397]

(2) what discussions he has had with representatives of National Savings and Investments since September 2007 on its advertising budget. [198398]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide range of issues with National Savings and Investments.

The following table summarises spend for advertising and sponsorship in NS&I over the past five financial years.

	Spend (£ million)
2002-03	10.4
2003-04	6.1
2004-05	12.7
2005-06	17.7
2006-07	15.1

Northern Rock

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what distinct payments have been made by the Bank of England to Northern Rock in each of the last five years; and on what date each amount was transferred between the parties. [166508]

Angela Eagle: This is a commercial matter between the Bank of England and Northern Rock.

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what range of estimates of the potential level of support required by Northern Rock were provided to his Department by (*a*) Northern Rock, (*b*) the Financial Services Authority and (*c*) the Bank of England prior to the agreement to provide financial support. [183920]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 1 February 2008]*: Information provided on Northern Rock's financial position by the company itself, the Financial Services Authority or the Bank of England remain commercially confidential, and in some cases would be covered by statutory restrictions on disclosure under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The provision of liquidity support by the Bank of England as lender of last resort was addressed in HM Treasury's statement of 14 September 2007 and in subsequent statements. The provision of additional facilities by the

Bank of England, in respect of which HM Treasury provided an indemnity, was addressed in HM Treasury's statement of 11 October 2007 and in subsequent statements.

Northern Rock: Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons were for providing that sections 4 and 6 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will not apply to Northern Rock under public ownership in the Banking (Special Provisions) Bill. [189564]

Angela Eagle: As the chief secretary to the Treasury explained to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 634-37, Northern Rock is not performing a public function. The company is a purely commercial concern operating at arm's length from the Government in a competitive environment. Moreover, it has been taken into public ownership only on a temporary basis. On this basis, it would be inappropriate to make Northern Rock subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Northern Rock: Nationalisation

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the European Competition Commissioner on the effects the nationalisation of Northern Rock has had on the competitive environment in banking in the European Union. [194568]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 14 March 2008]*: Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide range of issues with the European Commission, including the temporary public ownership of Northern Rock.

Northern Rock: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Ann Godbehere's remuneration package is as chief financial officer of Northern Rock, including *(a)* annual salary, *(b)* pension contributions, *(c)* potential bonus payments and *(d)* non-financial benefits. [188871]

Angela Eagle: As HM Treasury announced on 17 February 2008, Ann Godbehere is being paid £75,000 per month. This is a flat rate.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Ron Sandler's remuneration package is as executive chair of Northern Rock, including *(a)* annual salary, *(b)* pension contributions, *(c)* potential bonus payments and *(d)* non-financial benefits. [188874]

Angela Eagle: As HM Treasury announced on 17 February 2008, Ron Sandler is being paid £90,000 per month. This is a flat rate.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 21 April 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Legal Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was spent on legal advice and services in each year from 1997 to date; and how much in each such year was paid to Carter-Ruck and Partners. [195856]

Nick Harvey: The cost of legal advice and services has been as follows:

£

	Legal advice	*Other legal costs*	*Total costs*	*Carter-Ruck and Partners*
2003-04	108,921		108,921	
2004-05	96,737	96,154	192,891	
2005-06	196,283	79,159	275,442	
2006-07	134,515	596,586	731,101	
2007-08 to date	243,337	309,266	552,603	21,517

The other legal costs include fees paid in connection with the refurbishment of Norman Shaw South, and the construction of Portcullis House and the Visitor Reception Building. Details of similar costs prior to 2003 are not available.

Two previous answers on legal costs—4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 23W, and 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 659W—included some costs that had been incorrectly allocated to particular years. The figures now provided, correct the earlier position.

Parking

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what air filtering, circulating or cleansing system services the hon. Members' underground car park; when this system was last operational; and if he will make a statement. [198737]

Nick Harvey: The underground car park ventilation system was installed around 1977 when the car park was built. It services all car park levels using a supply and extract air plant with filters and duct work.

The system is maintained and inspected on a monthly basis. This was last done on 17 March 2008. Deep cleaning of the ducts was last completed during 2007. The system was last fully operational around 2001 when the original automatic system controls needed to be replaced with an interim manual controls arrangement. Since then a reduced level of air changes has been provided. However, the rate of air change will be increased by 21 April 2008 to the original level. Major refurbishment of the system is planned currently for 2010-11.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what visits he made to (*a*) Harrogate International Centre, (*b*) International Conference Centre, Birmingham, (*c*) Manchester Central, (*d*) Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, (*e*) Edinburgh International Conference Centre, (*f*) Bournemouth International Conference Centre, (*g*) the Brighton Centre, Brighton, (*h*) the Riviera Centre, Torquay, (*i*) Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, (*j*) Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and (*k*) Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1st January 2005 to 31st December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197162]

Des Browne: I have not visited any of the listed venues in a ministerial capacity between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were between 25 February and 1 April 2008. [199486]

Des Browne: Throughout the period 25 February and 1 April, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. In addition, on 26 February I had a video/telephone conference with the NATO Secretary-General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. On 28 February, I met the Australian high commissioner. On 29 February, I visited HMS Gannet and met with representatives of the Scottish Pensioners Forum in Edinburgh. On 3 March, I answered Defence questions in the House of Commons and, in the evening, attended the graduation reception of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. On 4 March I had separate meetings with the Dutch ambassador, with Dr. Paul Sender, the recently-returned head of the British Health Organisation in Afghanistan, and with a representative of the media. On 5 March, I answered Scottish questions in the House of Commons. On 6 March, had a meeting with Gerry Grimstone, the chairman of Standard Life. I also had meetings with the Albanian Defence Minister, with former Chiefs of the Defence Staff in the House of Lords, and with my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) on the Armed Forces National Recognition Study. On 8 March, I attended a Veterans Badge presentation event in Edinburgh and the RBS six nations Scotland versus England rugby match at Murrayfield. On 19 March, I met representatives of the Scottish War Widows Association at 10 Downing Street. On 25 March, I met the bereaved mother of a serviceman. On 26 March, I gave an interview to a national newspaper and attended President Sarkozy's parliamentary address at the House of Commons. On 27 March, I attended the Anglo-French Summit, which included a bilateral meeting with the French Defence

Minister. On 31 March, I attended the launch for Stephen Walker's book, "Shot at Dawn". On 1 April, I attended the Media Launch of TA100, the 100th anniversary of the Territorial Army, at the Tower of London and the fly past for the RAF 90th anniversary at MOD Main Building.

Official Visits

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what visits he has made in his capacity as Secretary of State for Scotland since July 2007. [190822]

Des Browne: My Ministry of Defence and Scotland Office diaries and public engagements are closely co-ordinated, it is therefore appropriate to cover both portfolios in the response for completeness.

On 10 July, I visited Berlin for a meeting with the German Defence Minister. On 12 and 13 July I was in Belgium to attend the Tyne Cot ceremony and for a meeting with Javier Solana. Between the 13 and 15 July, I visited Paris to attend Bastille Day celebrations. On 21 July, I was at the University of Strathclyde for the UK Youth Parliament annual sitting. On 1 August I visited Standard Life in Edinburgh, and on 2 August I visited Aegon and Selex Sensors in Edinburgh. On 3 August I went to visit Rolls Royce in East Kilbride, and on 4 August I had dinner with General Officer Commanding 2 Division, Edinburgh. The following day, I attended the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland performance in Glasgow. Between 6 and 10 August I was in Afghanistan. On 11 August, I attended the FEBA Highland Games event at Strathclyde country park, Motherwell, and then saw a performance of On Danfe at Edinburgh Playhouse. I visited WL Gore Co. Ltd. in Livingstone on 14 August, and on the 16 August I visited Seebyte in Edinburgh. The following day I visited Mahle Engine Systems in East Kilbride and watched the Simón Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela concert in Edinburgh. On Sunday 19 August I spoke at the Celebration of Indian Independence dinner in Glasgow. On Monday 20 August I visited Highland Spring. Later that day I visited the Diageo Bottling Plant in Glasgow and attended the Scottish Council for Development and Industry dinner in Glasgow. I was in Edinburgh on 22 August to visit a Waterfront regeneration project, and then travelled to Glasgow for an afternoon meeting with the STUC at their offices. On 23 August I visited REPower Aberdeen, and also visited a Scotch whisky distillery. Between 27 and 29 August I was in Greenland to meet the Danish Defence Minister.

On 12 September I hosted a Conflict Resolution Seminar at the University of Glasgow. On 13 September I visited 52 Brigade and a Medical Centre in Edinburgh. On 20 September I attended the opening of the new BBC building at Pacific Quay, Glasgow. On 25 September I paid a visit to the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington. On 28 and 29 September I was in Lisbon for EU informal ministerial meetings. On 11 October I went to HMS Albion for a Project Compass dinner, and on 12 October I attended the armed forces memorial dedication ceremony in Staffordshire. On 13 October I was a guest at the Scotland versus Ukraine Euro 2008 qualifier at Hampden park. On 14 October I listened to the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland Futures performance in Glasgow. On 15 October I visited the UK Pinnacle Course at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham, and on 18 October, I was in Crawley for a debate on Trident. On 19 October I visited 12 Mechanised Brigade at Tidworth and Bulford. On 20 October I attended the Trafalgar night dinner on HMS Victory. On 24 and 25 October I was at the NATO informal defence ministerial meetings in the Netherlands, and on 26 October I attended the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce business breakfast and I was at the launch of Stagecoach's bio-diesel coaches in Kilmarnock.

From 29 October to 2 November I was in Iraq. On 9 November I visited Diageo, in Ochil, Stirling, before attending the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on 10 November, and the Remembrance Sunday ceremony in Whitehall on 11 November. On 14 November I attended the SSAFA Corporate Friends reception at Chatham House. On 17 November I watched Scotland play Italy at Hampden park, Glasgow. On 19 November I visited Brussels for the General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting. On Friday 23 November, I addressed the State of the City Economy conference in Glasgow.

On 1 December, I visited Longannet Power Station, Alloa, and the Scottish Interfaith Week Come and Play the Diversity Game event in Edinburgh. On 5 December I attended the SSAFA carol service in London. Between 7 and 10 December I was in Afghanistan. On 13 and 14 December I attended the RC South meeting in Edinburgh. On 20 December I visited Bassingbourne for the Army Training Regiment Pass off Parade.

On 3 and 4 January I visited Brussels for meetings with the UK Representative to NATO, and on 5 January I visited headquarters in Northern Ireland. I watched the Cirque du Soleil with Canadian high commissioner at the Royal Albert Hall on 8 January. On 22 January I opened the 'Scots in Quebec' exhibition at Canada house, London, with Premier Charest of Quebec. On 25 January I visited 51 Brigade, Stirling, the Solve It project in Falkirk and the Glasgow Works project in Glasgow. On 31 January I visited Headley court and the Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow. I was in Geneva on 5 February for the Nuclear Disarmament conference and SERA new year reception, and then from 6 to 8 February I attended the NATO informal defence ministerial meetings in Lithuania. On 11 February I visited Babcocks at Rosyth Dockyard, and on 12 February I visited the Defence Academy at Shrivenham. On 15 February I visited Thales Optronics in Glasgow. On 21 and 22 February I was in Slovenia for EU informal defence ministerial meetings.

WALES

Brabners Chaffe Street LLP

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1298W, on Brabners, Chaffe and Street, how much has been paid to Brabners, Chaffe and Street; what the estimated figure is to be paid on completion for its work; for what reasons this work was outsourced; and if he will make a statement. [198346]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I am informed by the Environment Agency Wales that as at 31 March 2008, the Environment Agency had paid £29,080 net of VAT to Brabners Chaffe Street LLP in respect of their legal fees. This work was outsourced to Brabners Chaffe Street LLP to provide advice on matters relating to defamation and issues of reputation. It is a firm recognised for dealing with such issues.

Brofiscin Quarry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1302W, on Pollution: Brofiscin Quarry, what factors the Environment Agency will take into account when deciding when it is practicable to place the information on the public register. [198794]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have been informed by the Environment Agency Wales that the legislation and statutory guidance do not specify what factors the Environment Agency should consider in deciding when it is practicable to place the prescribed information on the public register. The Government view is simply that it should be added as soon as reasonably practicable, so for example, the prescribed details of a Remediation Notice should be added as soon as reasonably practicable after the service of that notice.

Clear Communication

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what payments his Department has made to communications consultancy Clear in the last five years; and what the purpose of such payments was. [198160]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his departmental website. [200032]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office spent £10,500 to redesign and implement the new website and we pay £6,936 per annum for website hosting.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997. [198325]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200015]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office did not employ polling companies in the financial year 2007-08.

Douglas Gowan

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for what reasons Mr. Douglas Gowan's original *(a)* witness statements and *(b)* evidentiary materials submitted to the Environment Agency were destroyed; and if he will make a statement. [198793]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I am informed by the Environment Agency Wales that the Environment Agency has not destroyed any original documents or evidentiary materials belonging to Mr. Douglas Gowan. Where original documents and evidentiary materials had been received by the Environment Agency from Mr. Gowan, they have been returned to him.

On 2 November 2007, Mr. Gowan requested that all copies of those originals be 'shredded'. The Environment Agency has complied with that request.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department and its predecessors paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199691]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since the Wales Office was established in 1999, we have not made any payments to JP Morgan.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199638]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since the Wales Office was established in 1999, my Department has not awarded contracts to Karian and Box.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199594]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since the Wales Office was established in 1999, we have not made any payments to Zurich Financial Services.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of her Office's website. [200026]

Helen Goodman: The cost for the redesign and formatting of the Leader's website was £3,968 excluding VAT.

Members: Allowances

Bob Spink: To ask the Leader of the House what criteria were used to establish the 10,000 mile threshold below which hon. Members' car travel is reimbursed at 40p per mile. [199385]

Helen Goodman: Since 1 April 2005, hon. Members have been entitled to claim mileage allowances in line with Inland Revenue rates (now HM Revenue and Customs rates), which are 40p per mile for the first 10,000 business miles travelled in a year and 25p per mile thereafter. This was decided by Resolution of the House on 3 November 2004. The Resolution was in line with a recommendation by the Senior Salaries Review Body of October 2004, Cm 6354-1, paragraphs 4.50-52, which gave the following rationale:

"The approved IR rate is calculated to represent the actual cost of motoring, including fuel costs, wear and tear (including servicing and depreciation), road fund licence, and insurance. We received no evidence to justify why MPs should be entitled to a more advantageous rate."

Salisbury Convention

Mr. Drew: To ask the Leader of the House whether she has had discussions with the authorities in the House of Lords on the interpretation of the Salisbury Convention in relation to the European Union (Amendment) Bill. [198722]

Helen Goodman: My right hon. Friend the Leader of the House has had no such discussions.

Welsh Grand Committee

Mr. Hood: To ask the Leader of the House how many times the Welsh Grand Committee has met in each Parliament since 1997; and what the *(a)* dates of, *(b)* venues of, *(c)* subjects debated at and *(d)* Ministers attending each meeting were. [199585]

Helen Goodman: The information is as follows:

Date	*Venue*	*Subject*	*Ministers attending (excluding whips) (Wales Office unless indicated)*
30 June 1997	Mold	Government's programme for Wales	Ron Davies: Secretary of State Peter Hain, Win Griffiths: Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
18 November 1997	Westminster	North Wales and Government proposal for Welsh Assembly	Ron Davies: Secretary of State Peter Hain, Win Griffiths: Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
16 December 1997	Westminster	Government expenditure in Wales	Ron Davies: Secretary of State Peter Hain, Win Griffiths: Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
5 May 1998	Carmarthen	Rural economy in Wales and questions	Ron Davies: Secretary of State Peter Hain, Win Griffiths: Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
13 July 1998	Merthyr Tydfil	New economic agenda in Wales	Ron Davies: Secretary of State Peter Hain, Win Griffiths: Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
16 December 1998	Westminster	Government expenditure in Wales, 1999-2000 to 2001-02	Alun Michael: Secretary of State Peter Hain, Jon Owen Jones: Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
22 February 1999	Aberavon	Transport policy in Wales	Alun Michael: Secretary of State Peter Hain, Jon Owen Jones: Parliamentary Under-Secretaries
14 December 1999	Westminster	Government's legislative programme and the Chancellor's pre-Budget report	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State David Hanson: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
4 April 2000	Westminster	The Budget statement and its implications for Wales	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State David Hanson: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
16 May 2000	Westminster	Welsh economy	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State David Hanson: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
20 June 2000	Westminster	Social exclusion in Wales	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State

Date	Venue	Subject	Ministers attending (excluding whips) (Wales Office unless indicated)
			David Hanson: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
			Alistair Darling: Secretary of State for Social Security
19 July 2000	Westminster	No subject specified	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State
			David Hanson: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
11 December 2000	Westminster	The Government's legislative programme as outlined in the Queen's Speech and the Chancellor's pre-Budget statement as they relate to Wales	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State
			David Hanson: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
13 February 2001	Westminster	Building safer communities in Wales	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State
			David Hanson: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
12 March 2001	County Hall, Cwmbran	The Budget statement and its implications for Wales	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State
			David Hanson: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
Total meetings 1997-2001 Parliament: 15			
3 July 2001	Westminster	The Government's legislative programme, as outlined in the Queen's Speech as it relates to Wales	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
28 November 2001	Westminster	Pre-Budget statement and its implications for Wales	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
24 April 2002	Westminster	The matter of the Budget statement and its implications for Wales	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
16 July 2002	Westminster	Draft National Health Service (Wales) Bill	Paul Murphy: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
21 November 2002	Westminster	The Government's legislative programme as outlined in the Queen's Speech as it relates to Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
5 December 2002	Westminster	Government's pre-Budget report as it relates to Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
24 June 2003	Westminster	The economy in Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
15 July 2003	Westminster	Draft Public Audit (Wales) Bill	Peter Hain: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
16 December 2003	Westminster	Matter of the Government's legislative programme as outlined in the Queen's Speech as it relates to Wales and public expenditure in Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
24 March 2004	Westminster	Budget statement and its implications for Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State
			Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary

Date	Venue	Subject	Ministers attending (excluding whips) (Wales Office unless indicated)
6 July 2004	Westminster	Report of the Richard Commission	Peter Hain: Secretary of State Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
20 July 2004	Westminster	Draft Transport (Wales) Bill	Peter Hain: Secretary of State Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
7 December 2004	Westminster	Government's legislative programme as outlined in the Queen's Speech as it relates to Wales and public expenditure in Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
Total meetings 2001-05 Parliament: 13			
23 June 2005	Westminster	Government's legislative programme as outlined in the Queen's Speech as it relates to Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State Nick Ainger: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
19 April 2006	Westminster	The Budget statement and its implications for Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State Nick Ainger: Parliamentary Under-Secretary Don Touhig: Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Defence
13 December 2006	Westminster	Government's legislative programme as it relates to Wales and public expenditure in Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State Nick Ainger: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
12 December 2007	Westminster	Government's legislative programme as it relates to Wales and public expenditure in Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State Huw Irranca-Davies: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
26 March 2008	Westminster	Budget statement and its implications for Wales	Peter Hain: Secretary of State Huw Irranca-Davies: Parliamentary Under-Secretary
Total meetings 2005 Parliament to date: 5			

Source:
Journal Office and Official Report of Welsh Grand Committee debates

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reason Peterborough City Council was not selected for the air quality grant programme in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [199896]

Jonathan Shaw: Local authorities are required to work towards meeting the air quality objectives in the Air Quality Regulations 2000 by designating air quality management areas where concentrations of any of the seven pollutants in the regulations exceed, or are likely to exceed, the stated objectives. To help local authorities do this, DEFRA operates an air quality grant scheme, a capital grant for which local authorities bid. The total amount of this grant, which is divided between successful authorities, is approximately £2.3 million per year. While Peterborough city council was aware of the air quality grant, the council has not applied for the past three years.

Animal Welfare: Supermarkets

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with major supermarket chains on animal welfare standards. [198105]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has frequent communications with supermarkets on a wide range of issues, including animal welfare.

Animals: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent review he has undertaken of his Department's contingency plans, including for *(a)* the mobilisation of veterinary staff and *(b)* tackling future animal disease outbreaks. [197993]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA'S latest revised generic Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases for England, which includes arrangements for the mobilisation of

veterinary staff, was laid before Parliament on 10 December 2007. The plan is amended annually (as required under the Animal Health Act 2002) and covers arrangements for dealing with a range of exotic animal diseases.

The aim is to ensure that the Government and others have contingency plans in place to deal with disease outbreaks. The effective and speedy deployment of veterinary staff and expertise has long been a prime consideration.

Dr. Iain Anderson conducted an independent review into the lessons learned from the response to the 2007 outbreak of foot and mouth disease, and the Government are considering the recommendations made. The review is published on the DEFRA website.

Animals: Imports

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of *(a)* reptiles and *(b)* birds being imported from (i) within and (ii) outside the European Union were recorded on the Trade Control and Export System in each year since 2000. [199531]

Joan Ruddock: The TRACES system is run by the European Commission; using the system became compulsory from the start of 2005. Records exist for 2004 though, as TRACES was not then compulsory, these are not comparable with later years.

Number of consignments recorded on TRACES for each year

	Within the EU	*Outside the EU*
2004		
Reptiles	2	89
Birds[1]	107	37
2005		
Reptiles	18	233
Birds[1]	962	90
2006		
Reptiles	12	248
Birds[1]	787	8
2007		
Reptiles	13	289
Birds[1]	964	14

[1] Non-poultry but includes game

Beef

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what impact assessment he has made in relation to Annex III, Section V, Chapter III, point 2 (B) of Regulation (EC) number 853/2004 and beef production in the UK. [198217]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

A regulatory impact assessment (RIA) was completed as part of the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) consultation on the European Commission proposals to consolidate and simplify European Union (EU) hygiene legislation in 2004 that came into force on 1 January 2006. This covered all the proposals in the legislation, and a copy of the RIA has been placed in the Library and is also available from the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/EURegulationsRIA.pdf

In October 2007, as part of the FSA's proposals to adapt the EU legislation to allow the continuation of the English tradition of ageing meat that is used to produce minced meat, an impact assessment was completed. This document has been placed in the Library and also is available on the FSA's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/hyg08engia09.pdf

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the proposals for the regulation of mince in Annex III, Section V, Chapter III, point 2 (B) to Regulation (EC) number 853/2004. [198219]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Regulation (EC) 853/2004 of 29 April 2004 laid down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and is one of three sets of food hygiene legislation that came into force on 1 January 2006. The requirements, in that legislation, regarding the production of minced meat (Annex III, Section V, Chapter III, paragraph 2(b)) are the same as those that were in force for trade between member states prior to 1 January 2006. Between March 2004 and June 2004 industry and other stakeholders were consulted on the European Commission proposals to consolidate and simplify European Union food hygiene legislation; there were 71 responses to the consultation from a range of stakeholders on all aspects of the simplification of the legislation.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of livestock owners he estimates would take-up blue tongue vaccinations if such a programme were to be introduced. [198104]

Jonathan Shaw: Although we have made no formal estimate of likely take-up of vaccine, the advice of industry stakeholders is that take-up will be high in a voluntary scheme, especially with an active approach to promoting vaccination. As individual keepers will be responsible for the costs of vaccination, our aim, in close collaboration with a core group of industry stakeholders, has been to develop a vaccination programme which will reduce the cost of vaccination to a minimum by using existing delivery chains and reducing regulatory burdens in order to encourage maximum participation.

Carbon Emissions: Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the carbon dioxide output of uranium fuel for nuclear power stations will be taken into account in estimating the UK's carbon footprint. [199900]

Mr. Woolas: Carbon dioxide emissions from the production and reprocessing of nuclear fuel in the UK are taken into account in the UK Greenhouse Gas

Inventory. Carbon dioxide emissions associated with energy use in the mining or extraction of uranium are reported in the emissions inventories of the country where the activities occur.

Catchment Sensitive Farming Project

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* projects and *(b)* locations are part of his Department's catchment sensitive farming project. [198107]

Jonathan Shaw: The England catchment sensitive farming delivery initiative has been in place since April 2006 and is being delivered jointly by Natural England and the Environment Agency on behalf of DEFRA. It is currently based in priority catchments covering a little over a third of the agricultural area of England and its purpose is to encourage farmers to take voluntary action to tackle diffuse water pollution, mainly from nitrates, phosphorus, sediment, pesticides and livestock faeces.

The main elements of the initiative are: 40 priority catchments served by a network of 42 catchment sensitive farming officers working locally; a programme of farmer workshops, farm demonstrations and farm visits; partnership with the pesticides voluntary initiative; local catchment steering groups bringing together farmers, water companies and other stakeholders; a capital grant scheme. In its first two years the initiative also supported 20 projects, with similar aims and objectives, in other catchments.

In February 2008 DEFRA launched Future Water, the Government's new water strategy for England. This stated that DEFRA will continue to support farmers on catchment sensitive farming for a further three years. DEFRA has since confirmed that the England catchment sensitive farming delivery initiative will receive funding of £12.9 million in 2008-09. Most of the initial programme is being rolled forward for a period of six months, with a new programme planned from October.

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has worked on research with the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy based jointly at the London School of Economics and the University of Leeds. [199697]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has not carried out any research with the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy. The Centre will be set up in October 2008.

Climate Change

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his highest projection is of the average annual temperature for the UK in 2050. [199418]

Mr. Woolas: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report includes 'high-end' projections for global temperature rise from an ensemble of climate models. These are based on close to business-as-usual Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) (for example, A2 and A1B).

Using these projections, our current best estimate for a high-end UK-wide average annual temperature increase by 2050 (relative to 1990) is approximately 1.75° C.

In general terms, there is relatively little differentiation in temperature projections at 2050, no matter what emissions scenario is chosen. However, later this century, the gap between high-end and low-end scenarios will widen.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197160]

Jonathan Shaw: It would be possible to provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196738]

Jonathan Shaw: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195881]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is working hard to identify where we can reduce the need to travel, through the use of video conferencing and other alternatives, and when travel is necessary, to encourage staff to make the most sustainable choices.

We are working with our IT strategic supplier IBM and Tandberg to install the infrastructure necessary to make available the next breed of video conferencing services based around IP rather than ISDN telecommunication protocols and fixed v/conf studios.

This will improve the availability, quality and mobility of the v/conf service and make it a more attractive alternative option for staff to choose when travelling to meetings would normally be required.

But we recognise it is not a panacea for all meetings. Initial contacts and team building often require physical, face-to-face meetings to ensure good team relationships are built before moving to electronic meeting spaces. We also recognise that there are other technologies that can impact on the need for meetings—e.g. a quick teleconference session can often be appropriate and sufficient if there is a single issue to resolve among a small number of people.

We will also be setting up SharePoint team spaces to provide a repository of shared resources, discussion threads and wikis etc. that should reduce the need for meetings in the first place and support the move of the core department to a more project-orientated structure.

DEFRA is looking to these new technologies to assist in meeting its new travel targets to:

reduce carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles by 15 per cent. by 2011-12 (from a 2005-06 baseline)

achieve a new fleet emissions average of 130g/k by 2010

reduce carbon dioxide emissions from air travel by 5 per cent. by 2008-09 (from a 2006-07 baseline)

achieve an overall reduction in the amount of travel undertaken across the core-department

More specifically we will look to see an increase in take-up and use of the new v/conf services following implementation of the new IP infrastructure, though a target has yet to be set.

You may also wish to know that DEFRA worked with IBM to produce a White Paper on methods and techniques for assessing and reducing the carbon footprint of office IT services entitled "Environmentally aware governance of the distributed IT infrastructure". This has now received two awards—a Gold Award from BCS link:

http://www.bcs.org/server.php?show=conWebDoc.16275

and the European Green IT Summit Infrastructure Project of the Year award, see link:

http://www.lansdown.com/green/awards.php

at the same event IBM also won the award for European Green IT Supplier of the Year. So we are at the forefront of work taking forward the Green IT agenda.

Departmental Waste Disposal

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste his Department sent to landfill in each year since 1997. [198805]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 3 April 2008]*: DEFRA was created in 2001, and we are unable to provide data on waste sent to landfill from the date as requested. However, the figures for the last five years are as follows.

	Waste sent to landfill (tonnes)
2006-07	1,560
2005-06	1,619
2004-05	1,890
2003-04	2,129
2002-03	1,180

Data are gathered from waste monitoring returns which are collated by each site, this data feeds into the Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reporting.

Environment Protection: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the expected changes in average annual temperature in the UK by 2050 using a Kyoto commitment as its benchmark *(a)* if carbon emissions increase by 20 per cent., *(b)* if carbon emissions remain the same, *(c)* if carbon emissions decrease by 20 per cent., *(d)* if carbon emissions decrease by 40 per cent., *(e)* if carbon emissions decrease by 60 per cent. and *(f)* if carbon emissions decrease by 80 per cent. [198233]

Mr. Woolas: Estimates by the Met Office Hadley Centre suggest that the anticipated increased average annual temperature in the UK by 2050, relative to the 1990 temperature level, will be approximately *(a)* 1.5°C if greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increase by 20 per cent., *(b)* 1.3°C if GHG emissions remain the same, *(c)* 1.1°C if GHG emissions decrease by 20 per cent., *(d)* 1.0°C if GHG emissions decrease by 40 per cent., *(e)* 0.8°C if GHG emissions decrease by 60 per cent. and *(f)* 0.6°C if GHG emissions decrease by 80 per cent.

Actual increases in temperature will, however, depend on when emission reductions begin, with later start dates for reductions resulting in a correspondingly larger temperature rises. The above estimates for temperature increases are based on a set of emission reduction pathways beginning during the 2010 to 2030 period.

Ferries: Lymington

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the reasons are for plans for larger ferries between Lymington and Yarmouth and associated shore works not being subject to an environmental impact assessment; and if he will make a statement; [199174]

(2) what progress has been made in conducting an appropriate assessment of plans to increase the size of ferries between Yarmouth and Lymington together with associated shore works; and if he will make a statement. [199175]

Joan Ruddock: It is for the relevant consenting authorities, in this case the Marine and Fisheries Agency and the planning authorities, to decide whether or not an environmental impact assessment is needed. In this case I understand that in view of the nature, scale and location of the proposed works the relevant authorities agreed that there are not likely to be any significant environmental effects and therefore the proposals do not trigger the requirement to undertake such an assessment.

The criteria for undertaking an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations provide that the consenting authorities must ascertain, before granting approval to

the works, that the proposals will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European protected site. In this case the authorities agreed that an assessment should be undertaken which would also take account of the possible effects of operating the new ferries on the Solent and Southampton Water protected site. The developers engaged consultants who produced a report on 28 March to underpin that assessment. This is currently being considered by Natural England and the Marine and Fisheries Agency. In determining their respective consents the regulating authorities must make an assessment of the potential effects of the proposals on the site and on any mitigation necessary to protect the site from damage.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information he has received from the European Commission on fuel subsidies to other member states' fishing fleets in the last 12 months. [200204]

Jonathan Shaw: The European Commission does not routinely publish information on fuel subsidies in member states and I have received no information from the Commission in the last 12 months.

Flood Control

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that those local authorities which are in the lead of flood preventative planning committees have the (*a*) resources and (*b*) powers to carry out the recommendations of those committees. [199025]

Mr. Woolas: My Department is not aware of any local authority bodies named as flood preventative planning committees.

In terms of resources committed to the effective management of flood and coastal erosion risk more generally, spend across central and local government will increase from £600 million in 2007-08 to £650 million this year, £700 million in 2009-10 and £800 million in 2010-11.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to establish a single, comprehensive source of accurate flood risk data in the UK. [199350]

Mr. Woolas: As this is devolved issue; the Environment Agency has responsibility for England only.

As part of their role in taking a strategic overview of flood risk, the Environment Agency is determining what data needs to be collected in relation to the different sources of flood risk.

Decisions on the form and accessibility of the database will be taken in the light of this.

Flood Control: Coastal Areas

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the scope for using recycled materials to provide low cost material for coastal defence. [200042]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency employs a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment process to ensure its construction activities deliver the best for the environment. This is complemented by a procurement Sustainability Construction Risk Assessment which aims to ensure that sustainability issues are considered at the outset, in the project plan, the design and the specification. This ensures that where possible the materials used are recycled and/or locally sourced.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the compatibility of Natural England and the Environment Agency's policies on Managed Retreat. [200053]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's policy, as set out in their response to "Making Space for Water", is to adopt a more sustainable approach to flood risk management, moving to a wider portfolio of responses including greater use of rural land-use solutions. In that context, the recent inquiry into the 2007 flooding, chaired by Sir Michael Pitt, has concluded that DEFRA, the Environment Agency and Natural England should work with partners to establish a programme and framework to achieve greater working with natural processes.

Flood Control: West Sussex

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he had with the Environment Agency about the warning received on 7 March about an imminent collapse of the sea defences in Selsey. [200157]

Mr. Woolas: On 7 March, the Medmerry shingle bank was in a good condition and there was no concern of an imminent collapse of any sea defence in Selsey.

Storm conditions, combined with high spring tides and a coastal surge on 10 March caused the overtopping of the shingle bank during the lunchtime high tide. This resulted in the subsequent failure of a section of the defence. The Environment Agency has kept DEFRA updated on the general situation regarding the coastal surge and wave conditions.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to prevent a recurrence of the circumstances that led to the foot and mouth outbreak at Pirbright. [197994]

Jonathan Shaw: As soon as we became aware that Pirbright was a potential source of the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak we put in place a number of additional safeguards at the site. We immediately asked the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Professor Spratt to carry out reviews of biosecurity, and subsequently accepted all of the recommendations in their reports. Since then, stringent new biosecurity conditions have been applied to work on the Pirbright site, providing several independent layers of safety and ensuring that the process is contained. For example, a

comprehensive programme of preventive maintenance of the contained drainage system has been implemented and sections have been re-lined. These measures will ensure the highest level of biosecurity at Pirbright.

In addition, a Safety Alert was issued last September to all similar laboratories, which has been followed up by a joint programme of inspections by HSE and DEFRA inspectors to these labs. The inspections of containment level (CL) 4 laboratories revealed no breaches of the legislation and no formal enforcement action was taken. This process has provided both the regulatory bodies and the operators of the laboratories with the assurance that their facilities are well managed. HSE will continue this series of Safety Alert inspections to consider CL3 facilities based on risk.

The Government accepted all of the recommendations in Sir Bill Callaghan's independent review of the regulatory framework for the handling of animal pathogens, published in December 2007. These included that responsibility for the regulation of animal pathogens should transfer to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). DEFRA is working closely with the HSE and other departments, to implement all three phases of the work recommended by Sir Bill Callaghan. The formal legal transfer of the Specified Animal Pathogens Order enforcement and inspection responsibilities is well under way and is nearing completion.

We have worked closely with the HSE and are satisfied that all necessary measures are in place to provide assurance that the risk of accidental release is as close to zero as possible.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the French government on its decision to extend its ban on Monsanto's MON810 maize. [198716]

Mr. Woolas: We have not discussed this issue with the French Government. In line with European Union (EU) rules, the French decision to suspend the marketing of MON810 maize seed is now being considered by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Based on its advice, the European Commission should then make a proposal for an EU decision to either require France to rescind its action, or to approve and extend it across the EU. We will take a position on this in due course, taking account of the EFSA opinion and the view of our own independent Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to respond to the National Audit Office review UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Measurements and Reporting, published on 15 March. [199705]

Mr. Woolas: The review "UK greenhouse gas emissions: measurement and reporting" produced by the National Audit Office was a briefing note prepared for the Environmental Audit Committee. Therefore, although DEFRA is carefully considering all the points that were raised during the review, we will not be formally responding to the review.

Heating: EC Law

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when officials from his Department next plan to meet European Commission officials to discuss the proposed labelling of heating systems in the Energy-using Products Directive; and what the timetable is for implementation of the Directive in the UK. [198828]

Joan Ruddock: My officials have no meetings currently planned, but a request has been made to the European Commission for a teleconference about this in the next couple of weeks. At that time, the European Commission will be asked whether they intend to stick to their original timetable for this implementing measure, which is for a vote at a regulatory committee in early 2009.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Energy Using Products Board will meet the UK controls industry following the Government's submission of a paper to the Commission on Lot 1 of the Energy-using Products Directive. [198829]

Joan Ruddock: Officials have met the controls industry several times while developing a position on Energy-Using Products Directive Lot 1 and would be happy to do so again if the industry needed to discuss this further at this stage. However, we have received no recent indication that the industry would like to meet.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department has spent on (*a*) Warm Front and (*b*) Warm Deal since 2000. [199554]

Mr. Woolas: Warm Front is a devolved issue. In Scotland it is known as Warm Deal and is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive. For information on Warm Front spending I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 731W, to my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones).

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the Warm Front scheme in respect of (*a*) affordability, (*b*) properties already benefiting from prior insulation grants and (*c*) regional procurement; and if he will make a statement. [199861]

Mr. Woolas: We have received representations on the Warm Front Scheme in the form of letters and e-mails from hon. Members and the general public as well as parliamentary questions. These have been on a variety of issues, including affordability, prior insulation grants and regional procurement.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Eaga

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many firms involved in the Warm Front scheme are wholly or partly owned by Eaga. [195740]

Mr. Woolas: A total of seven companies involved in the delivery of Warm Front are wholly or partly owned by the Eaga Group. These are listed in the following table:

Company	Role	Percentage ownership
Eaga plc	Scheme Management	100
ATEC Ltd	Client Contact Centre and Surveys	100
Iguana Ltd	Heating installations	100
Eaga Social Housing	Heating installations	100
Millfold Group Ltd	Insulation installations	100
WarmSure Ltd	Aftercare services	50
Eaga Insurance Services Ltd	Insurance cover provision	100

Incinerators: Pollution

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether incinerators are assessed for their effects on public health; what a safe level of dioxins is considered to be; and whether his Department has records of incinerators that exceeded this level in the latest period for which figures are available; [197834]

(2) what regulations govern emissions from the incineration of waste in (*a*) hospital, (*b*) crematoria and (*c*) waste incinerators. [197849]

Joan Ruddock: Waste incineration plants, including those in hospitals, are subject to the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (the "PPC Regulations") which were superseded from 6 April 2008 by the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007. These regulations require each incinerator to have a permit to operate which is issued by the regulator only after detailed consideration of the environmental and health impacts of the operation. Each permit contains operating conditions which incorporate the requirements of the waste incineration directive (the WID), among which is a maximum emission limit to air for dioxins of 0.1 ng/m^3 expressed as International Toxic Equivalents (ITEQ). This limit is considered to provide adequate protection to the human health and environment.

Waste incinerators are responsible for a small proportion only of emissions of a range of pollutants. An independent, peer reviewed, study published in 2004, 'Review of the Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management', concluded that based on the evidence from studies so far:

"risks to human health from incineration are small in comparison with other known risks".

Of the 65 incinerators regulated by the Environment Agency, five were reported to have breached the 0.1 ng/m^3 emission limit during 2007. In four of these cases a formal warning was issued by the Environment Agency. In the last case the Environment Agency is considering what enforcement action is required.

Crematoria are not waste incineration plants and so are not regulated in that way, although they are subject to controls upon emissions to air under other parts of the EPR regulations.

Livestock: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to engage with small livestock keepers, including hobby farmers, on disease control strategies. [198103]

Jonathan Shaw: Livestock keepers are encouraged to take responsibility for developing their own contingency plans should they be affected by a disease outbreak. Guidance for livestock keepers, as well as our disease control strategies are publicly available on our website and information is available via the DEFRA Helpline.

Small holders and hobby farmers are a target audience in DEFRA's 'Give Disease the Boot' marketing campaign, which is designed to increase awareness of animal diseases and the actions that livestock keepers need to take to help reduce the incidence and spread of disease. In addition, through active engagement with partners in industry we disseminate messages to the members they represent.

Milk: Quotas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in his Department's discussions with the European Commission on the abolition of milk quotas. [198115]

Jonathan Shaw: Milk quotas will be abolished in 2015. Discussions with the European Commission about how best to ensure the "soft-landing" for the dairy sector ahead of the abolition of milk quotas are ongoing. We expect the Commission to publish their draft proposals at the end of May.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to encourage greater milk production in the UK in order to fulfil new quota allocations. [198116]

Jonathan Shaw: Milk quotas are a limit on production; a ceiling not a target. The Government have been pressing for their removal for some time as they encourage producers to produce to a quota rather than to meet market demand. In addition, they are an unnecessary cost and regulatory burden. We look forward to their abolition in 2015. Consequently, we have no plans to encourage greater milk production to fulfil the new quota ceilings we believe producers should produce for the market.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of milk consumed in England was produced in England in the last 12 months; and whether he plans to increase levels of self-sufficiency. [198117]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK is largely self-sufficient in milk. Over 95 per cent. of the milk consumed in the UK is produced in the UK. Organic milk has occasionally been imported when demand outstripped supply and it made economic sense for companies to do so. In addition, a small amount of UHT milk is imported from abroad. We have no plans to increase levels of self-sufficiency.

Nature Conservation: Wildlife

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many priority species have been *(a)* added and *(b)* removed from the UK Biodiversity Action Plan list in each year since the list was first issued; [198263]

(2) what criteria were used in determining priority species to be added to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan list; [198264]

(3) how often the UK Biodiversity Action Plan list of priority species is reviewed. [198265]

Joan Ruddock: In 1995, the original UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) included a total of 427 priority species. In 1997-98, 20 of these species were removed and a further 169 were added, giving a total of 576. This was increased to 577 in 2005, due to recognition of two distinct sub-species of pipistrelle bat. On 28 August 2007, I announced a new UK list of priority species and habitats which contained 1,149 species. Of the former UK BAP species, 123 were removed while 695 species were added, partially because of new declines but primarily because our knowledge and understanding had increased. This was the first full review of the UK BAP list. The review criteria were:

1. International threat.
2. International importance of the UK population.
3. Marked decline in the UK.
4. Other important factor(s) such as very restricted geographic range or extreme threat.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been allocated to UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species in each year since the action plan list was first issued. [198266]

Joan Ruddock: This information is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, in 2007 consultants estimated a total UK Biodiversity Action Plan related expenditure of £388 million, of which £318 million related to Habitat Action Plans and £70 million to Species Action Plans. Many widespread species require the delivery of habitat management at the landscape scale, so in practice much of the spend on Habitat Action Plans also benefits species.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what actions accompany the designation of a priority species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. [198277]

Joan Ruddock: The UK list of priority species provides a focus for conservation action over the next decade and will be used to inform statutory lists under legislation in each of the countries of the UK. The list has been published with an indication of the most important types of action necessary for the conservation of each species. The UK Biodiversity Partnership is adopting the ecosystem approach and, in addition to legal protection and management for single species and sites, these actions include habitat expansion and restoration, wider action on cross-cutting issues such as climate change, and research. Biodiversity conservation is a devolved matter, and implementation is being taken forward under biodiversity and environment strategies in each of the four countries of the UK.

Nature Reserves: West Sussex

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effect of the Environment Agency's Managed Realignment proposals on the recently acquired RSPB Nature Reserve behind the Medmerry frontage. [200022]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency is currently developing the Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy.

A strategic environmental assessment of the options is currently being completed and will be published with the draft and made available for public consultation. This will assess the impacts of many options, including managed realignment on the RSPB Nature Reserve and neighbouring land.

The Environment Agency will continue to discuss these potential options with the RSPB and other landowners in developing the strategy.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the effect of the Managed Retreat losses under options *(a)* one and *(b)* two of the Environment Agency's proposals (i) in the Chichester Harbour area and (ii) at Selsey. [200023]

Joan Ruddock: The Environment Agency has not yet published any proposals as part of the Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy. The strategy is currently being drafted. It will make an assessment of the impacts of all options, including any losses as a result of managed realignment, in accordance with DEFRA guidance.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to relocate the lost grazing marsh in Medmerry. [200025]

Joan Ruddock: There are currently no plans to relocate any habitat as the Environment Agency has not yet concluded its investigations as part of the Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy.

The grazing marsh behind the Medmerry sea defences forms part of the Bracklesham Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Environment Agency is working closely with Natural England and others to develop a Regional Habitat Creation Programme which

will consider how best to offset potential habitat losses across the south east, such as that which could occur at Medmerry.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether Selsey's £1 billion asset value was taken into consideration when calculating the Cost Benefit Analysis on the frontage at Medmerry. [200057]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency is currently drafting a Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy. The cost benefit analysis for the Medmerry frontage does take into account the full asset value for Selsey and has been calculated in accordance with DEFRA guidelines.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the area of grazing marsh that will be lost to the sea under options *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 of the Environment Agency's Managed Retreat proposals. [200159]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency has not yet published any proposals as part of the Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy. Options one and two were indicative outlines highlighted within the initial consultation document, which was published in November 2006.

The draft strategy is currently being prepared and a number of different options are being investigated, including realignment. The potential impacts of these options on the coastal hinterland, including the area of grazing marsh, will be fully assessed in the strategy.

Oilseed Rape: Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which sites genetically modified oil seed rape has been grown for trial purposes; which of these sites has subsequently been cultivated with conventional and organic oil seed rape crops; and in which years such conventional and organic crops were cultivated in each case. [199514]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's website gives information on the sites for which consent was given to undertake trials of GM oilseed rape as part of the 1999-2003 farm-scale evaluations of herbicide tolerant GM crops.

It has been a general rule that a site used for GM oilseed rape trials would not subsequently be used to grow non-GM rape for a period of at least two years. Beyond that we do not have details of the subsequent cropping history of former GM sites.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department is carrying out into genetically modified oil seed rape volunteer plants at sites previously used for trials. [199515]

Mr. Woolas: We have funded two research projects that are relevant to this issue. One is on the occurrence of GM oilseed rape volunteers at sites used for the Farm Scale Evaluation trials. The other is on the prediction, sampling and management of GM volunteer impurities in conventional oilseed rape crops, where the latter are grown on land previously sown with a GM variety. Both of these projects have been completed and reports on them will be published as soon as possible.

Organic Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support is available from his Department for farmers who wish to switch to organic food production. [198719]

Jonathan Shaw: We want to encourage the expansion of organic food production and have just re-launched the Organic Conversion Information Service (OCIS), which provides free organic conversion advice to help farmers and land managers in England consider the practical implications of converting their businesses to organic production.

Financial support is available for organic farmers under the organic entry level stewardship (OELS) section of the environmental stewardship scheme. Aid under the OELS is worth £60 per hectare per year in recognition of the inherent environmental benefits delivered through farming organically. Top-up payments for the conversion of improved land and top fruit orchards are also available under OELS.

Both OCIS and OELS are managed by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA. There are equivalent arrangements in other UK territories.

More details are available on the DEFRA and the Natural England websites.

Pigs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pig farmers there are in England; and how many there were in May 2005. [198514]

Jonathan Shaw: Data on the number of pig farmers and registered holdings in England which specialise in pig production are collected via the annual June Agricultural Survey. The following figures relate to the position on these holdings at June in each year.

Figures shown are for holdings where pigs are the predominant activity.

Number

	2005	*2007*
Total farmers, partners, directors including spouses if working on the holding	3,349	3,418
Total labour force (including the above)	5,296	5,286
Total holdings where pigs are the predominant activity	2,409	2,453

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Plastic Bags

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Office of Fair Trading and *(b)* Competition Commission on co-operation between supermarkets to reduce consumption of single-use plastic bags. [197637]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend has had no such discussions.

Refrigerators: Waste Disposal

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the release of greenhouse gases from the disposal of fridges through fragmentisers in the latest period for which figures are available. [194892]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 March 2008]:* Fridges form a relatively small proportion of the material handled by fragmentisers and the associated emissions of green house gases are not routinely measured or recorded. However, the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive requires that all greenhouse gases with a global warming potential above 15 must be extracted before items are sent through a fragmentiser.

Any fragmentiser handling separately collected waste electrical and electronic equipment—including fridges—must be an approved authorised treatment facility and deal with WEEE in accordance with the guidance published by the environment agencies on best available treatment, recovery and recycling techniques.

Renewable Energy: Transport

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has received from his Departmental chief scientific adviser on the review of the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation. [199704]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA's chief scientific adviser provides advice to Ministers on all aspects of biofuels policy and wider climate change strategy.

The Review of the Indirect Impacts of Biofuels was commissioned by the Department for Transport, and will be led by the Renewable Fuels Agency, under Professor Ed Gallagher. The Gallagher Review is critical to assessing the social and environmental sustainability of biofuels, and DEFRA's chief scientific adviser, along with other Government chief scientific advisers, will peer review the findings of the review prior to its publication.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on seas and oceans: environmental protection, if he will list those sites not mentioned in the answer, but included in the figure of 180 sites reported in the Government's response to the Science and Technology Committee's report, Investigating the Oceans 2006-07, HC470; and what the reasons are for each site's protection. [199123]

Jonathan Shaw: As mentioned in the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 354W, the information provided to the Science and Technology Committee, of around 180 marine protected areas in UK inshore waters (within 12 nautical miles), differs from the current figure of 151 marine protected areas as a result of ambiguity in the definition of what constitutes a 'marine' site.

Work was completed by the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) in October 2007 to refine inter-agency definitions of 'special areas of conservation with marine components' and 'special protection areas with marine components' in agreement with the Marine Natura Project Group. Lists of these sites and their associated interest features were then produced.

The JNCC website provides the names of the sites, and describes the qualifying species and marine habitats present.

Smallholdings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on the future of local authority small holdings following the recent decision of Staffordshire county council to retain its stock. [198118]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government have not recently had any specific discussions with the Local Government Association about the future of county farms, although they have regular discussions with interested stakeholders on this subject. We would always urge local authorities to think carefully when making decisions about the future of their smallholding estates. Therefore I am very pleased that as a result of its consultation exercise, Staffordshire county council has decided to retain a smallholding estate.

Sustainable Development: Thames Gateway

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote the development of sustainable drainage systems within new and existing developments in the Thames Gateway growth area; and if he will make a statement. [198989]

Mr. Woolas: Planning Policy Statement 25 on Development and Flood Risk (PPS25) advocates that regional planning bodies and local authorities incorporate policies for furthering the use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) in their regional spatial strategies and development plan documents. They should also ensure that their policies and decisions on applications complement building regulations on sustainable rainwater drainage. This gives priority to the use of infiltration drainage systems over watercourses and then sewers. PPS25 also encourages local authorities to promote the use of SUDs by developers when they design their developments.

However, the principal obstacle to the increased take-up of SUDS is the lack of clarity over where responsibility for the ownership and long-term maintenance and renewal of SUDS infrastructure should lie. These issues are currently being addressed through a specific DEFRA work stream and have been the subject of informal consultation with the National SUDS Working Group. DEFRA is consulting on options for the responsibility for ownership and maintenance of SUDS as part of the current consultation on Improving Surface Water Drainage.

This consultation was launched alongside the Government's Water Strategy in February 2007 and will close on 30 April 2008.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1180-1W, on waste management: fees and charges, what powers local authorities have to require payment for the provision of bin bags; and what steps local authorities may take in instances of non-payment; [199505]

(2) whether residents may utilise bin bags from other sources without incurring the local authority charge in areas where local authorities charge for the provision of bin bags as waste receptacles. [199506]

Joan Ruddock: As I stated in my reply of 30 October 2007, the Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 46, allows waste collection authorities to require occupiers to place waste for collection in receptacles of a kind and number specified. Bin bags are considered a 'receptacle' under the Act. Waste collection authorities may:

(i) provide the receptacles free of charge;

(ii) provide the receptacles and ask the occupier to pay for them;

(iii) require the occupier to provide the receptacles himself if he does not agree to pay for them within a specified period; or

(iv) require the occupier to provide the receptacles himself from the outset.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1180-1W, on Waste Management: Fees and Charges, what obligation there is upon the relevant waste collection authority to collect domestic waste put out in receptacles other than those provided by the local authority in those areas where local authorities make a charge for the provision of waste receptacles. [199507]

Joan Ruddock: Under section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities (LAs) have a general duty to collect household waste. Section 46 of that Act gives LAs powers to determine arrangements for collection, such as the size, number and placing of receptacles for collection. As DEFRA advised in a letter of August 2005 to LAs, where an authority uses its section 46 powers to prescribe such arrangements and a resident does not comply with those requirements, an LA has no further duty to collect their waste, other than the duty to keep relevant land clear of litter and refuse.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have *(a)* held discussions with and *(b)* expressed an interest to his Department on levying new charges for the collection of household waste. [199584]

Joan Ruddock: My Department is currently considering the appropriate process for waste collection authorities to express an interest in running a pilot waste incentive scheme. Timings for this process will be subject to parliamentary progress on the Climate Change Bill. In the meantime, we continue to encourage and welcome authorities making inquiries on the implications of the legislation.

As is to be expected with any policy development, my officials and I have had a range of meetings with a variety of stakeholders on the powers provided in the Climate Change Bill for up to five local authorities to pilot waste incentive schemes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether joint waste authorities will have powers to impose new charges for the collection of household rubbish. [199656]

Joan Ruddock: Powers provided in the Climate Change Bill allow up to five local authorities to pilot incentives to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling.

A joint waste authority (JWA) would be able to put forward a proposal to pilot a waste incentive scheme in its area if it had responsibility for waste collection. A JWA would only be set up following a unanimous request from member local authorities and a local public consultation. A consultation on draft regulations and draft guidance regarding proposals for JWAs was published on 17 March 2008.

Waste Management: Domestic Wastes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which waste collection authorities have introduced alternate weekly collections and subsequently reinstated weekly collections of residual household rubbish. [199583]

Joan Ruddock: The following table represents our best understanding of which waste collection authorities, having introduced alternate weekly collections, have subsequently reinstated weekly collections of residual household rubbish. However, due to the often rapid changes in this area, it is unlikely to be completely up to date.

Local authorities that have reverted back to weekly collections

Region	*Local authority*	*Comment*
North-west	Blackburn with Darwen	
North-west	Bolton MBC	From August 2007
North-west	Bury MBC	Rolled out to 14,000 households
Eastern	Chelmsford	
Eastern	East Cambridgeshire	Trial withdrawn autumn 2007
Yorkshire and Humber	Leeds city	Trial in 1994 on two collection rounds. Withdrawn after six months
London	London borough of Sutton	
West midlands	Nuneaton and Bedworth	Scheme pulled after 1 month due to delay in awarding dry recycling contract
South-west	Plymouth	
South-east	Southampton city	Service rolled out to 26,000 households (2 collection rounds) - reverted back in 2004

Waste Management: Prisons

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements there are on waste collection authorities to provide free waste collection services to prisons. [199568]

Joan Ruddock: There is no requirement on waste collection authorities to provide free waste collection services to prisons.

Waste from all penal institutions falls under paragraph 16 of schedule 2 of the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992, and it is therefore classified as a type of household waste for which a charge for collection may be made.

Water Companies: Fines

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the receipts from fines issued to water companies by Ofwat are distributed. [200074]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat has powers to impose financial penalties on water and sewerage companies. These are set out in the Water Industry Act 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003. The statutory provisions Ofwat operates under when considering financial penalties state that the money received from the company's fine must be paid to the Consolidated Fund operated by HM Treasury. This money is then spent on public services.

World War II: Medals

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to enable the Women's Land Army Award to be given posthumously. [199901]

Jonathan Shaw: The Women's Land Army and Timber Corps Veterans Badge will be awarded to those members who were alive on the date the announcement was made (6 December 2007). They may also be awarded to the spouses and descendants of those who died on or after that date.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the length of time taken to provide Land Army badges to people who have applied for them through hon. Members. [198558]

Jonathan Shaw: There has been a high volume of interest in the Women's Land Army badge and all applications will be processed as quickly as possible.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what percentage of staff in the Government Equalities Office have been making additional voluntary contributions to their pension since the Office's inception. [193587]

Barbara Follett: Since the formal establishment of the Government Equalities Office on 12 October 2007 one member of its staff (1.6 per cent. of the total employed by the Department) has made additional voluntary pension contributions.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what payments her Department has made to Ipsos MORI since its establishment; and for what purposes. [194326]

Barbara Follett: No payments have been made to Ipsos MORI by my Department, the Government Equalities Office.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by the Government Equalities Office since its establishment. [197523]

Barbara Follett: Since its establishment, the Government Equalities Office has not awarded any contracts to Rackspace for hosting its IT server functions and applications.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

China: Tibet

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment the Law Officers have made of whether the actions taken by the People's Republic of China in relation to the self-determination movement in Tibet comply with international law. [199399]

The Solicitor-General: In accordance with the long-standing convention adhered to by successive governments neither the fact that the law officers have been consulted nor the substance of any advice given is normally disclosed outside of Government.

Crown Prosecution Service: Manpower

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General what the average length of service of chief inspectors of the Crown Prosecution Service has been since the inception of the post. [199391]

The Solicitor-General: There has been only one Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service since the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate Act came into force on 1 October 2000.

David Howarth: To ask the Solicitor-General how many times the contract of the Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service has been extended without a competitive process since the inception of the post. [199392]

The Solicitor-General: The Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service was originally appointed on 1 October 2000 and his appointment expired on 21 March 2004. There then followed a series of short extensions of his appointment during a period when the Government's policy on criminal justice system inspection was under review and there was the prospect of (i) a merger between HMCPS Inspectorate and the new Inspectorate for the Unified Court Administration; and then (ii) a merger of all five criminal justice system Inspectorates. In the event, the then Police and Criminal Justice Bill was amended so the planned merger of all five Inspectorates did not proceed. In April 2007, the Chief Inspector's appointment was extended by one year. This appointment has recently been extended again by a further two years.

Crown Prosecution Service: Standards

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* categories and *(b)* aspects of the South London Crown Prosecution Service's performance (i) improved and (ii) deteriorated between 2005 and 2007. [199339]

The Solicitor-General: The HM CPS Inspectorate's Overall Performance Assessment (OPA) reports are based on 13 aspects of performance. There is no assessment based on categories.

Of the 13 aspects assessed by HM CPS Inspectorate in 2007 for CPS London, South Sector, one aspect had improved since 2005, and four aspects declined. The remaining eight aspects remained stable, although the 'direction of travel' in one of these ('Delivering Change') was one of significant improvement.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* categories and *(b)* aspects of the South London Crown Prosecution Service's performance were assessed as good in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2007. [199340]

The Solicitor-General: The HM CPS Inspectorate's overall performance assessment (OPA) reports are based on 13 aspects of performance. There is no assessment based on categories.

Of the 13 aspects assessed by HM CPS Inspectorate in 2005 for CPS London, South Sector, three aspects were rated as good. In 2007, there were no aspects rated as good.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and *(b)* South London CPS's rate of discharged committals was in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2007; and if she will make a statement. [199341]

The Solicitor-General: A discharge is recorded in magistrates courts where a case is listed for committal to the Crown court for trial but the committal does not go ahead, and the defendant is discharged under section 6(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980.

The number of discharged committals recorded in each of the last three years is shown in the table for the CPS nationally and for CPS London, South Sector. In addition to the total number, the rate of discharged committals is also shown as a percentage against all other outcome types. For example, during 2006-07, 2,325 defendant cases nationally resulted in a discharge, which represented 0.2 per cent. of completed cases.

	CPS Overall Discharged Committals	*Percentage*	*CPS London South Sector Discharged Committals*	*Percentage*
2004-05	3,444	0.3	412	0.6
2005-06	2,420	0.2	344	0.5
2006-07	2,325	0.2	293	0.5

OLYMPICS

Departmental Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether personal data for which her Office is responsible is *(a)* stored and *(b)* processed overseas; and if she will make a statement. [176008]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 522W.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what guidance she has provided to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) on providing access for the public to its *(a)* register of interests and *(b)* register of gifts and hospitality; how she monitors the ODA's procedures for complying with (i) that guidance and (ii) the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in publishing such information; and if she will make a statement. [198823]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is subject to a Management Statement and Financial Memorandum ("The Management Statement"), approved by myself and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, which sets out the rules and guidelines relevant to the exercise of the ODA's functions, duties and powers.

The Management Statement provides that the Chairman must ensure that a Code of Practice for Members of the ODA is in place based on the Cabinet Office's model "Guidance on Codes of Practice for Board Members of Public Bodies." The Code commits the Chairman and other Board Members to "The Seven Principles of Public Life" and includes a requirement for a comprehensive and publicly available register of Board Members' interests.

The Management Statement also provides that ODA must operate at all times with the highest ethical standards and practices in accordance with the requirements set out in the ODA's Employee Handbook, and its Code of Conduct and Business Ethics. The Code provides guidance on a wide range of issues including gifts and hospitality.

Compliance monitoring is primarily a matter for ODA's internal audit. However, the Department remains involved in this process, through its attendance at ODA Audit Committee meetings.

In accordance with its Management Statement and its commitment to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the ODA has

made its gifts and hospitality register and register of Board Members' interests publicly available. The ODA has now increased accessibility by making these available on its website. Copies are also available from the House Library.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics with reference to the answer given to Lord Holme of Cheltenham in the House of Lords on 14 March 2007, *Official Report* [Lords], columns 135-36WA, on Olympic Games 2012: construction, what progress has been made in ensuring there is a social and economic legacy as well as a physical legacy for local people following the 2012 Olympics. [197425]

Tessa Jowell: Specific initiatives, such as the London Employment and Skills Taskforce (LEST) Action Plan and London Business Network, have been developed to ensure local people and businesses are able to benefit from the opportunities being presented by the Olympics. For example, 77 local businesses have already been awarded contracts to supply the Olympic Delivery Authority. As legacy planning develops, we will continue to work with private and public sector delivery agencies to ensure that other opportunities are identified to deliver our commitment to transform the heart of East London.

In addition, the development of the Legacy Masterplan Framework (LMF) will set the context for the transformation of the Olympic Park to its post-Games uses, providing world-class sporting facilities set within a new 110 hectare park, along with the creation of a new urban district, linked with its surroundings, which will provide over 9,000 new homes, 12,000 jobs and other social facilities for local people. The London Development Agency and the newly appointed masterplanning team have started the process to develop the LMF and will engage closely with local people and businesses to ensure the masterplan reflects their ideas.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether there will be any ministerial involvement in the London Olympic Torch Relay. [199026]

Tessa Jowell: I greeted the Beijing Organising Committee on the evening of 5 April, when they brought the flame into the UK. In addition, both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and I attended the relay on 6 April, at No. 10 with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, and then later at the Southbank Centre.

Olympic Games 2012: Broadcasting

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the potential financial benefits to the London Development Agency of legacy use of the Olympics international broadcast centre/media and press centre. [199661]

Tessa Jowell: As the land owner and the Legacy Client for the Olympic Park, the London Development Agency is eligible for—but not guaranteed—an appropriate financial return, taking account of usual overage, for its land input to the International Broadcast Centre and Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC). The overage is subject to a number of conditions based on financial market conditions and rental/sales projections and will be linked to the profitability of the regeneration scheme. An independent overage valuation is being undertaken currently with findings of this valuation yet to be established. Overage returns, in accordance with the established MOU between the Government and the Mayor of London, will be directed to both the LDA and to the benefit of Lottery good causes.

The receipt of overage will give the LDA a financial interest in maximising the legacy value of the IBC/MPC, both in commercial and amenity terms, and will contribute to ensuring a vibrant and productive future for the venue both in its own right and in the context of the wider Park.

Olympic Games 2012: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Henley of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 47W, on Olympic Games 2012: training, how many of the level one training places were for courses in construction; and how many of those qualifying from those courses have been offered jobs on projects involved with construction work for the Olympics. [195898]

Tessa Jowell: Pursuant to my answer of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 47W to the hon. Member for Henley a further 666 skills training places have been offered by the London Development Agency, bringing the total for the period January to December 2007 to 1,835.

Improvements to the LDA's monitoring systems since April 2007 have allowed it to track the outcomes for individuals receiving this training from that date. For the period April to December 2007, 1,083 skills training courses were delivered to 956 individuals. Of these, all were unemployed at the time of training, 286 subsequently obtained employment, of which 80 have been offered jobs on the Olympic site.

Provisional figures indicate that approximately three quarters of the 1,083 courses have been construction related. 12 of these were level 2. The remaining courses have provided training for security and hospitality industries alongside site-based office roles.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Demonstrations

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has commissioned research through *(a)* focus groups and *(b)* other market research on the opinions of people in Northern Ireland on the resolution of the parades disputes. [196530]

Paul Goggins: The Department has not commissioned any such research.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department since 1997. [193433]

Mr. Woodward: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his Department's website. [200027]

Mr. Woodward: The most recent redesign and implementation of the Northern Ireland Office website was carried out in March 2007 and cost £4,185.94.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198283]

Paul Goggins: As there have been no Northern Ireland Acts of Parliament since July 2007, no criminal offences have been created.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997. [198321]

Paul Goggins: Acts of Parliament sponsored by my Department since May 1997 have repealed the following offences.

Repealing Act	*Offence*	*Statutory reference of offence*
Terrorism (Northern Ireland) Act 2006	Wilfully obstructing HM Forces or constable exercising power under this section	Section 87 of Terrorism Act 2000
	Failure to stop when required under this section; refusing to answer question; failure to answer to best of knowledge and ability question under this section	Section 89 of Terrorism Act 2000
	Interfering with works executed re section 91 or 92; interfering with any apparatus etc. used under those powers	Section 93 of Terrorism Act 2000
	Interfering with road closure works etc.; executing certain bypass works; possessing etc. materials for executing bypass works; occupant knowingly permitting above on his land	Section 94 of Terrorism Act 2000
	Failure to stop vehicle when required under part VII	Section 95 of Terrorism Act 2000
	Failure to comply with regulations made by Secretary of State to preserve peace or maintain order	Section 96 of Terrorism Act 2000
	Collecting, recording, publishing, communicating or eliciting information about a person, which is likely to be of use to terrorists, possessing document or record with such information	Section 103 of Terrorism Act 2000
	Contravening restraint order	Paragraph 37, schedule 4 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Obstructing search under this paragraph	Paragraph 19, schedule 5 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Contravening order made under this paragraph	Paragraph 20, schedule 5 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Failure to comply with requirement under this schedule; wilfully obstructing search of premises hereunder	Paragraph 10, schedule 10 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Failure to stop when required under paragraph 6 of this schedule	Paragraph 11, schedule 10 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Obtaining (increased) compensation by deception; knowingly making false or misleading statement; making statement he does not believe to be true; knowingly failing to disclose material fact	Paragraph 12, schedule 12 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Providing or offering to provide security services for reward without licence	Paragraph 2, schedule 13 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Publishing or causing to be published an advertisement for the provision of security services by someone who does not hold a licence	Paragraph 3, schedule 13 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Paying money to someone re security services when they do not hold a licence	Paragraph 4, schedule 13 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Making false or misleading statement when applying for a security licence	Paragraph 6, schedule 13 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Failure to comply with paragraph 13 or 14 of this schedule	Paragraph 15, schedule 13 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Failure to comply with requirement to produce records about person employed as security guard	Paragraph 16, schedule 13 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Keeping record of person employed as security guard which is false or misleading	Paragraph 17, schedule 13 to Terrorism Act 2000
	Failure to surrender to custody while on bail for a scheduled offence	Paragraph 1, schedule 2 to Justice (NI) Act 2004
Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2004	Failure of person on bail to present himself to court	Section 26(d) of Prison Act (NI) 1953
Northern Ireland Act 1998	Discrimination by public authority on grounds of religion or political opinion	Section 19 of Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973
	Public authority requiring person to take oath / make declaration on appointment (etc.)	Section 21 of Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973

Repealing Act	*Offence*	*Statutory reference of offence*
Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1998	Escaping or failing to return as required to detention under interim custody order or detention order; rescuing, assisting, harbouring such escapee etc.	Paragraph 13, schedule 3 to Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1996
Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998	Unlawful possession of arms or ammunition; assuming dress or name of constable	Section 25 of Constabulary (Ireland) Act 1836
	Obtaining pension by fraud	Section 9 of Constabulary and Police (Ireland) Act 1883
	Pretending to be member of RUC	Section 20 of Criminal Justice Act (NI) 1953
	Assault on, or obstruction of, a constable	Section 7 of Criminal Justice (Misc. Provisions) Act (NI) 1968
	Disclosure of information contravening this article	Article 18 of Police (NI) Order 1987
	Disclosure of information contravening this paragraph	Paragraph 15, schedule 1 to Police (NI) Order 1987
	Disclosure of information contravening this article	Article 28 of Police (Amt)(NI) Order 1995
Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998	Organising a procession (etc.) where requirements not satisfied	Article 3 of Public Order (NI) Order 1987
	Knowingly taking part in public procession as member of unregistered (etc.) band	Article 6 of Public Order (NI) Order 1987
	Failure to comply with constable's requirement to surrender alcohol/state name and address	Article 6A of Public Order (NI) Order 1987
	Endeavouring to break up lawful public procession	Article 7(1) of Public Order (NI) Order 1987

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many day's sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198957]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the number of days lost due to sick absence, per staff year in each of the last five years within the Northern Ireland Office. These figures have been taken from information published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

	Number of days lost due to sick absence
2002-03	13.7
2003-04	14.0
2004-05	12.6
2005-06	11.2
2006-07	11.8

District Policing Partnerships

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the district policing partnerships. [194760]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Policing Board has a statutory requirement to assess the effectiveness of district policing partnerships in performing their statutory duties. To fulfil this requirement the Board undertakes an annual performance assessment of each DPP against a performance management framework. The framework requires a number of key performance indicator targets to be met in relation to the DPP statutory duties.

The Policing Board also commissions the Central Survey Unit in the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to conduct the Policing Board module in its Omnibus Survey twice a year and the biennial District Policing Partnership (DPP) Public Consultation Survey. These surveys meet the Policing Board's statutory obligations under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 to "assess the level of public satisfaction with the performance of the police and district policing partnerships".

The Policing Board makes its annual assessment of the effectiveness of district policing partnerships (DPPs), using a range of performance indicators and targets.

Information reported to the Board on the performance of DPPs during 2006-07 confirms that overall DPPs are fulfilling their statutory responsibilities:

- The targets that assess the performance of DPPs in identifying local policing priorities for input to the local Policing Plan and NI Policing Plan were achieved by 23 of the 26 DPPs;
- The targets that assess the performance of DPPs in monitoring police performance were achieved by all but one DPP;
- The targets that assess the performance of DPPs in engaging with the community to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime were achieved by 23 of the 26 DPPs;
- The targets measuring the performance of DPPs in acting as a forum for discussion on policing were achieved by 24 of the 26 DPPs.

The targets that assess the effectiveness of DPPs in consulting with the public were taken from the 2006 NISRA DPP Public Consultation Survey and the results were assessed against baseline results from the same survey carried out in 2004. Results were compared for 24 DPPs and the four Belfast sub-group areas. Dungannon and South Tyrone did not establish a DPP until December 2004 and no baseline was available for the 2006-07 assessment.

- 21 DPPs/Belfast sub-groups increased the survey respondents who had heard of the DPP;
- Six DPPs/Belfast sub-groups increased the percentage of survey respondents who think that the DPP does a good job;
- 15 DPPs/Belfast sub-groups achieved the target to increase the percentage of survey respondents who are confident that the DPP is addressing local policing problems;

one Belfast sub-group showed an increase in the percentage of NISRA survey respondents who had heard of DPPs and are prepared to contact their DPP.

It is the Policing Board's view that DPPs have made an important contribution to increased confidence in policing. Through working in partnership with the police to prevent crime DPPs have also contributed to a 15 per cent. reduction in recorded crime in the last five years.

Hillsborough Castle: Official Hospitality

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of receptions held at Hillsborough Castle in each of the last five years, broken down by event. [194759]

Mr. Woodward: The costs of receptions held at Hillsborough Castle are only available for the last three financial years and are as follows:

	£
2005-06	126,073.39
2006-07	237,295.10
2007-08	211,436.95

These figures cover a large number of events and receptions in line with my wish, and that of my predecessors, to make Hillsborough Castle as accessible as possible to a cross section of the community. These include people from the emergency services, voluntary groups, charities and local community groups. The largest of these events is the annual garden party, attended by senior members of the royal family.

Homosexuality

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prosecutions have been brought under homophobic hatred legislation in Northern Ireland. [196702]

Paul Goggins: The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 allows for enhanced sentencing where a crime is hate motivated.

The following table lists the number of cases considered by the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland to have been aggravated by hostility on the basis of sexual orientation.

	Number of defendants	
	2006	2007
Summary prosecution	42	24
Indictable prosecution	14	13
Total	56	37

Note
2007 data are provisional and may be subject to change at a later date.

Inquiries

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many documents have been passed by (*a*) Republican and (*b*) Loyalist paramilitary organisations to official inquiries into their respective operations in the last 28 years. [197275]

Paul Goggins: An exercise of this nature, involving a detailed search of records over a 28-year period, would require the allocation of significant and disproportionate resources.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many documents have been passed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to official inquiries into the operations of (*a*) the Royal Ulster Constabulary and (*b*) the PSNI, since the inception of the PSNI. [197277]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has provided the following answer:

"The following table sets out details of the number of documents provided to public inquiries by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. I am unable to provide information in relation to the Saville Inquiry as to do so would incur disproportionate costs. I am also unable to provide figures which differentiate between Royal Ulster Constabulary and PSNI documents as this could be done only at a disproportionate cost."

Public inquiry	Number of documents
Billy Wright	24,361
Rosemary Nelson	9,774
Robert Hamill	696

Insolvency

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individuals were insolvent in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [197274]

Paul Goggins: Following the restoration of devolution on 8 May 2007, responsibility for insolvency and bankruptcy in Northern Ireland has been a matter for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland (DETI). The information is not maintained by DETI in the form requested, but statistics are available on the number of individuals adjudicated bankrupt and the number of individual voluntary arrangements (IVA) that have been made under the insolvency legislation. These are set out in the following table and cover those of the last five financial years that fell during direct rule.

Financial year	Individuals adjudicated bankrupt in Northern Ireland	Number of IVAs registered with DETI
2006-07	1,008	736
2005-06	892	668
2004-05	685	479
2003-04	582	360

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199659]

Mr. Woodward: My Department (excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs) has not made any payments to JP Morgan in the period specified.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199640]

Mr. Woodward: My Department (excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs) has not awarded any contracts to Karian and Box in the period specified.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent estimate is of the costs of training a police constable in the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI); and what the starting salary is for a police constable in the PSNI. [197273]

Paul Goggins: I am advised that the estimated cost of training a police constable in the Police Service of Northern Ireland, taking account of the cost of the student officer's gross salary, is £33,564.

The starting salary of a Constable (Student Officer) in the Police Service of Northern Ireland is £21,534, rising to £24,039 on attestation.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Vehicles

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the Police Service of Northern Ireland last purchased police cars; how many were purchased; and how much the consignment cost. [197272]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland has advised that 17 cars were ordered on 21 March 2008 at a cost of £206,654.89.

Police vehicles are ordered over the course of the year as demand requires, so the number ordered and the value will vary on each occasion.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by his Department in each of the last nine years. [197517]

Mr. Woodward: My Department (excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs) did not award any contracts to Rackspace in the last nine years.

Sheridan Group

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what steps his Department took to investigate allegations made in the House by the hon. Member for Belfast, East (Mr. Robinson) on 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 957-58, of terrorist-related activity by the Sheridan Group; and if he will make a statement; [191378]

(2) when he expects to answer question 191378, on the Sheridan Group tabled on 27 February 2008. [200170]

Paul Goggins: I apologise for the delay in responding. All allegations of criminality drawn to the attention of my Department are referred to the PSNI. In this case the Chief Constable advised that the PSNI had no evidence to suggest that the Sheridan Group had been engaged in criminal activity.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199596]

Mr. Woodward: My Department (excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs) has not made any payments to Zurich Financial Services in the period specified.

PRIME MINISTER

Iraq Conflict: Inquiries

Adam Price: To ask the Prime Minister whether he plans to hold an inquiry on the Iraq war in the current Parliament. [200210]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) during my National Security statement on 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 932.

Railways

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to travel by rail on official business. [199561]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 551W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 697W, on anti-social behaviour, what assessment her Department has made of the proportion of local authorities that have processes in place to respond to local petitions from members of the public. [199151]

Mr. Dhanda: On 27 December 2007 the Government published a consultation on "Local Petitions and Calls for Action". Paragraph 19 of the consultation document proposes a duty on local authorities to respond to local petitions where the subject of the petition relates to the functions of the local authority, or other public services with shared delivery responsibilities with the local authority. The consultation closed on 20 March.

A number of local authorities have indicated in their response to the consultation that they have established

processes for handling petitions. As the consultation document stated, it is the Government's ambition for

"everyone, no matter where they live, to have the confidence of knowing that their concerns will be taken seriously"

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 697W, on anti-social behaviour, what plans she has to (*a*) issue guidance and (*b*) consult on the draft guidance, on councillor calls to action. [199152]

Mr. Dhanda: On 27 December 2007 the Government published the "Local Petitions and Calls for Action Consultation", which sought views on the implementation of the Councillor Call for Action. The consultation asked what matters ought to be excluded from the Councillor Call for Action process and in paragraph 41 invited input on what guidance should be provided.

The consultation closed on 20 March.

Arson: Death

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were killed by (*a*) arson and (*b*) suspected arson in each year since 1997. [198359]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not collect information on arson. The following table shows the number of people killed, in England, as a result of deliberate fires. The figures include fires where deliberate ignition is merely suspected or where the fires has been recorded by the attending Fire and Rescue Service as "doubtful".

Fatalities in deliberate fires[1], England 1997 to 2006

	Total	*Deliberate*	*Doubtful*
1997	98	79	19
1998	84	75	9
1999	92	75	17
2000	91	73	18
2001	67	59	8
2002	90	81	9
2003	98	89	9
2004	78	73	5
2005	93	86	7
2006	97	93	4

[1] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average Band D council tax fire precept is in 2008-09. [198877]

John Healey: The average Band D council tax precept for all fire authorities in England in 2008-09 is £59.80.

Council Tax: Parish Councils

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the estimated gross revenue from parish council precepts is in England in 2008-09; [198879]

(2) what the gross revenue from parish council precepts was in England in each year since 1997-98. [198880]

John Healey: The total value of local precepts issued for each financial year since 1997-98 are shown in the following table. The figures represent the value issued by local precepting authorities, or anticipated by the relevant billing authority.

Financial year	*Value (£ million)*
1997-98	144
1998-99	154
1999-2000	165
2000-01	181
2001-02	193
2002-03	210
2003-04	226
2004-05	242
2005-06	260
2006-07	282
2007-08	299
2008-09	323

The data are as reported on Budget Requirement forms submitted annually by all billing authorities in England to Communities and Local Government. The figure for 2008-09 was published in the Statistical Release 'Council Tax levels set by local authorities in England 2008-09' on 27 March 2008. A copy of the release is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax0809.htm

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties in (*a*) Barnsley, (*b*) Doncaster, (*c*) South Yorkshire and (*d*) England there are in each council tax band. [199357]

John Healey: Details of the number of domestic properties in each council tax band in each local authority area in England, in each Government Office region and in England as a whole, are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/dwelling.htm

The data are as at 30 March 2008 and are provided by the Valuation Office Agency.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 613W, on council tax: valuation, if she will place in the Library copies of the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board (England) minutes for its meetings between 1 January 2005 to 21 November 2005. [193960]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1285W. These minutes relate to internal discussion and advice to Ministers on the formulation and development of Government policy.

Council Tax: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to Table 6 of Local Government Finance statistics on council taxes 2008-09, if she will clarify the figures listed for (*a*) Ryedale's and (*b*) Hart's average Band D precepts on council tax, excluding parish precepts, in relation to the figures set by each council. [198875]

John Healey: The Band D council tax figures that appear in table 6 of the Statistics Release 'Council tax levels set by local authorities in England—2008-09' are derived from figures submitted to the Department by authorities on their Budget Requirement forms. A copy of the Budget Requirement form can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfforms/forms/brlform0809.xls

The column in table 6 headed 'Average council tax for the authority excluding parish precepts (Band D)' includes special expenses (that is amounts charged to part, rather than the whole, of an authority's area):

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctax0816.xls

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at how many events held by her Department (*a*) wine and (*b*) Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment her Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196950]

Mr. Dhanda: Hospitality for departmental events is supplied through Communities' contracted facilities management service which includes provision of catering. Since April 2005 there have been 59 events where they have supplied wine, however Fairtrade wine has not been provided at any of these events.

Her Majesty's Government are committed to improving market access to producers in developing countries through increased participation in fair and sustainable supply chains.

Communities' hospitality menu is kept under regular review. As part of this, Fairtrade wine has recently been added as an option.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether confidential or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from her Department since 1997. [193435]

Mr. Dhanda: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Film

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many films have been produced in video, DVD and other digital formats by her Department in the last 36 months. [198865]

Mr. Dhanda: In this period, the Communications Directorate produced eight films supporting the Department's policies, for purposes including display at conferences and exhibitions.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by her Department and its predecessors since May 1997. [198289]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Overseas Visits

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the (*a*) destination and (*b*) purpose was of each overseas visit undertaken by staff in her Department in the last 12 months. [198892]

Mr. Dhanda: In the 12 months to 31 December 2007 there have been 388 overseas visits undertaken by Communities and Local Government staff. Of the 388 visits, 362 were to Europe; four to Africa, 12 to North America, one to Japan, four to New Zealand and five to Asia (including the Middle East).

The purpose of these journeys was to represent the Department and provide expert advice on policy/subject issues.

All travel by staff employed by Communities and Local Government is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for her Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196455]

Mr. Dhanda: There are a number of categories of workers which might be considered as non-permanent.

Some of staff our staff are employed on fixed term contracts and are considered as Departmental employees under the standard Office for National Statistics definitions. The following table shows the numbers of such staff for each month at the different rates of hourly pay.

Bands defined by hourly rates of pay

Civil Service Grade	Industrial grades	4 4	4O	EO	HEO	SEO	Grade 7	Grade 6	Other
Min (£)	6.55	5.65	6.00	7.88	10.65	13.00	17.54	17.54	25.70
Max (£)	10.26	9.07	10.80	13.79	17.57	21.65	26.80	32.22	71.96

Number employed each month : full-time equivalent basis

Civil Service Grade	Industrial grades	4 4	4O	EO	HEO	SEO	Grade 7	Grade 6	Other
29 February 2008	6	1	36	23	21.4	13	12	4	14.61
31 January 2008	7	1	37	19	21	11	13	5	14.2
31 December 2007	8	1	39	20	19.6	11	13	6	10.5
30 November 2007	9	1	40	18	19.6	11.6	13	6	14.2
31 October 2007	9	1	43	19	20.6	4.6	11	5	12
30 September 2007	8	1	44	19.83	17.6	3.6	11	5	11.8
31 August 2007	8	1	47	19.83	15.6	3.6	11	5	10.8
31 July 2007	8	1	47	22.11	16.6	2.6	12	5	11.8
30 June 2007	8	1	41	19.83	14.6	2	12	5	11.8
31 May 2007	8	1	40	17.83	15.6	2	14	5	12.8
30 April 2007	8	1	34	18.83	13	1	13	4	13.8
31 March 2007	7	1	28	16	15	4	14	4	13.8

These figures include Communities and Local Government staff who work in the Government Office network and the Department's executive agencies, apart from the Planning Inspectorate for whom figures were not available.

The Department also makes use of temporary staff from employment agencies. Such staff are not paid from the Departmental payroll and as such are not classified as Departmental employees under the standard Office for National Statistics definitions. As 29 February there was 237 such temporary staff employed by the Department and its executive agencies. This figure excludes the Government Office network and the Planning Inspectorate for whom the information was not available in the required format. The hourly rates of these staff cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance is issued to members of her Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if she will make a statement. [196741]

Mr. Dhanda: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Library of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library an electronic copy of the most recent edition of her Department's staff handbook. [199142]

Mr. Dhanda: Our staff handbook has been developed as an interactive publication delivered through the Department's intranet. It is not held in a format which allows it to be easily exported and therefore could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many working days were lost by her Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198944]

Mr. Dhanda: The numbers of days recorded as lost to stress-related illness in each month are presented in the following table. The information is available in the required format for the last 18 months only. The figures exclude our Executive Agencies and Communities staff working in the Government Office network for which information is not collected centrally. The figures refer to sickness absence where the primary cause is recorded as 'stress, tension'.

Month	Days lost
2006	
October	118
November	106
December	67
2007	
January	71
February	75
March	45
April	17
May	49
June	69
July	138
August	85
September	106
October	88
November	90
December	47
2008	
January	126
February	90
March	79

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in her Department in each of the last five years. [198955]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table shows the average working days lost (AWDL) per staff year for the Department and its predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The figures have been previously published by Cabinet Office in their series of reports Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service. During this period reporting shifted from a calendar year to a financial year basis, and most recently to a rolling 12 month basis whereby figures for the past 12 months are produced on a quarterly basis. The table makes clear the distinction.

	Basis	Department	AWDL per staff year
2007	Calendar year	Communities and Local Government	6.4
2006-07	Financial year	Communities and Local Government	6.2
2005-06	Financial year	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	6.1
2005	Calendar year	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	5.7
2004	Calendar year	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	4.6
2003	Calendar year	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	6.0

Calendar years run from January to December. Financial years run from April to March.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's staff took more than (*a*) five, (*b*) 10, (*c*) 15, (*d*) 20, (*e*) 25, (*f*) 30, (*g*) 35 and (*h*) 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198964]

Mr. Dhanda: The following table provides the requested information in respect of the 12 months to 31 December 2007. Our records prior to this do not allow for disaggregation into the requested format. The figures exclude our executive agencies and Communities staff working in the Government office network for which information is not collected centrally. The figures refer to sickness absence where the primary cause is recorded as "stress, tension".

Band	AA	AO	EO	HEO	SEO	Grade 7	Total
(a) more than 5		1	2	3	2	1	9
(b) more than 10		2		2			4
(c) more than 15		3			1		4
(d) more than 20				2			2
(e) more than 25	1				1		2
(f) more than 30							0
(g) more than 35		1			1		2
(h) more than 40		1	0	1	1		6
Total	1	8	5	8	6	1	29

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what (*a*) 0800, (*b*) 0845 and (*c*) 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) her Department and (ii) agencies which report to her Department. [200121]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government and its agencies has one non-geographical telephone number to provide information to homeowners in relation to energy performance certificates (0845 365 2468). A third party manages this service on behalf of the Department. The Department does not derive any revenue from this service.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by her Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195891]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government's travel policy stipulates that business must be settled by telephone or video-conferencing before staff consider travelling. The Department's Sustainable Operations Policy also requires staff to consider the most sustainable option for conducting business, and to use the tele- or video-conferencing systems provided wherever practical instead of travelling. We will be concentrating on increasing the usage of the existing systems in the coming year as a key approach to meeting the Department's new air travel reduction target.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hours (*a*) in total and (*b*) on average per employee were worked by civil servants in her Department in the last year for which records are available. [195823]

Mr. Dhanda: In the financial year 2006-07 we estimate that 3,670,000 hours were worked by civil servants in Communities and Local Government. This equates to 1,300 hours per employee. It should be noted that many staff will not have been in post for the duration of the year, or did not work on a full-time basis, or both.

The estimates are derived from the information on available staff years published by Cabinet Office in their report Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service.

Digital Mapping

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government Department is the lead body for the development of the Digital National Framework. [198197]

Mr. Dhanda: The activities of the Digital National Framework (www.dnf.org) are agreed by an Expert Group formed of officials representing local and central Government, non-Department Government bodies and the private sector. Their aim is to promote linkages across national and local datasets, which have a geographic component, to support the sharing of information about a common location. The majority of their resource comes from "in kind" contributions of individual members, supplemented by limited financial sponsorship to cover promotional activities and some technical documentation. Therefore there is no single body taking the lead of the Digital National Framework.

East of England Regional Assembly

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to seek the abolition of the East of England Regional Assembly. [199931]

Mr. Dhanda: On 31 March 2008 the Government published 'Prosperous Places: Taking forward the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration'. This confirms that regional assemblies will not continue in their current form and seeks views on reforms that would streamline the regional tier.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether carbon offsets will be included in calculations to determine whether an eco-town *(a)* is carbon neutral and *(b)* has zero-carbon status. [198712]

Caroline Flint: As we set out in the consultation document 'Eco-towns—Living a greener future', published on 3 April, eco-towns should use innovative design and a range of low and zero carbon energy sources to reduce the demands on energy in the home and other buildings.

At the scale of 5-20,000 homes, eco-towns have the critical mass necessary to trial and develop new or existing technologies to achieve zero carbon across the whole development. Zero carbon means that over a year, the net carbon emissions from all energy use within the buildings on the development are zero.

Eco-Towns: Planning Permission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider including heat grids and biomass-based tri-generation systems in evaluating the bids for eco-towns. [199700]

Caroline Flint: We are currently consulting on the potential locations for eco-towns and the broader objectives and benefits of these new settlements. The consultation document, 'Eco-towns—Living a greener future', was published on 3 April and sets out some innovative approaches that bidders are proposing for more sustainable living. We want to encourage these, and this might include heat grids and biomass-based tri-generation systems.

Eco-Towns: Transport

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department has estimated the percentage of residents in eco-towns who will be expected to travel to work by *(a)* rail, *(b)* bus, *(c)* bicycle, *(d)* car and *(e)* on foot; [199974]

(2) whether her Department has estimated how far residents of the new eco-towns will be expected to travel to work on average. [199975]

Caroline Flint: We are currently consulting on the potential locations for eco-towns and the broader objectives and benefits of these new settlements. The consultation document, 'Eco- towns—living a greener future', was published on 3 April and sets out what needs to be achieved in terms of sustainable transport. Each location will need its own approach, but will need to demonstrate how it will meet the criteria.

Energy: Conservation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate how many homes in each metropolitan authority in Tyne and Wear would be rated F or G for energy performance. [196110]

Caroline Flint: No research has been undertaken upon which an estimate could be made of how many homes in each metropolitan authority in Tyne and Wear would be rated F or G for energy performance.

Fire Alarms: Standards

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of *(a)* battery-operated and *(b)* hard-wired smoke alarms were found to be defective in dwelling fires in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [198356]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number and percentage of fire alarms which failed to operate in dwelling fires, in England, as recorded by Fire and Rescue Services, is presented in the table:

Smoke alarm failures in dwelling fires[1] by type of alarm, England, 1997-2006

Year and Alarm type	*Total*	*Alarm operated*	*Alarm failed to activate*	*Percentage failed*
1997				
Total	15,844	12,192	3,652	23
Battery-powered	7,754	4,884	2,870	37
Mains-powered	7,994	7,263	731	9
Other and unspecified	96	45	51	53

Smoke alarm failures in dwelling fires[1] by type of alarm: England, 1997-2006

Year and Alarm type	Total	Alarm operated	Alarm failed to activate	Percentage failed
1998				
Total	17,531	13,091	4,440	25
Battery-powered	8,108	4,661	3,447	43
Mains-powered	9,325	8,372	953	10
Other and unspecified	98	58	40	41
1999				
Total	20,072	14,888	5,186	26
Battery-powered	9,156	5,290	3,867	42
Mains-powered	10,827	9,556	1,271	12
Other and unspecified	89	42	48	54
2000				
Total	21,284	15,731	5,552	26
Battery-powered	9,595	5,396	4,198	44
Mains-powered	11,597	10,287	1,310	11
Other and unspecified	92	48	44	48
2001				
Total	21,647	15,682	5,964	28
Battery-powered	10,189	5,721	4,467	44
Mains-powered	11,370	9,906	1,464	13
Other and unspecified	88	55	33	38
2002[2]				
Total	20,442	15,153	5,288	26
Battery-powered	9,395	5,458	3,936	42
Mains-powered	10,929	9,615	1,314	12
Other and unspecified	118	80	38	32
2003[2]				
Total	22,079	16,644	5,434	25
Battery-powered	10,057	6,112	3,945	39
Mains-powered	11,896	10,471	1,425	12
Other and unspecified	126	61	64	51
2004[2]				
Total	22,779	17,257	5,523	24
Battery-powered	10,147	6,179	3,969	39
Mains-powered	12,540	11,013	1,527	12
Other unspecified	92	65	27	29
2005				
Total	23,691	18,179	5,512	23
Battery-powered	9,998	6,212	3,786	38
Mains-powered	13,566	11,884	1,682	12
Other and unspecified	127	83	44	35
2006				
Total	23,435	18,038	5,399	23
Battery-powered	9,994	6,426	3,569	36
Mains-powered	13,294	11,510	1,784	13
Other and unspecified	147	102	46	31

[1] Figures for 1997-2004 and for Q2-Q4 2006 are based on sampled, weighted data.
[2] Excluding incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were rescued alive by the fire and rescue service *(a)* from fires, *(b)* from fires in dwellings and *(c)* having been trapped or injured by industrial machinery in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [198056]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of people rescued alive by the Fire and Rescue Service, in England, from fires in total and in dwellings from 1997 to 2006 has been deposited in the Library of the House. Please note that these data are based on a weighted sample and that figures for 2006 are provisional and subject to change.

Information on incidents involving personnel trapped or injured by industrial machinery attended by Fire and Rescue Services is not available.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the use of targeted response vehicles to replace fully staffed, fully equipped fire appliances in certain circumstances. [198896]

Mr. Dhanda: Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) are used as an extra resource by Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) at specified times and locations to provide a more flexible and increased service in specific areas. Effective use of new midi fire appliances or TRVs crewed with three firefighters can, in certain circumstances, provide a better service for local communities. As well as tackling small fires, using TRVs in identified 'hot spots' can act as a deterrent to miscreants and free up staff for major incidents and community safety work.

FRAs are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an integrated risk management plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances—evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resource accordingly.

It is not the role of Ministers to intervene in the operational proposals of an individual FRA's IRMP; that is rightly the decision for elected members of the authority concerned to determine following full consultation with the local community.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* railway accidents were attended by the Fire Service and *(b)* people were rescued alive from railway accidents by the Fire Service in each year since 1994. [199036]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information covers the number of railway accidents attended by fire and rescue services. Details of any associated rescues are not held centrally.

Railway incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England

	Number
1994-95	96
1995-96	93
1996-97	75
1997-98	131
1998-99	92
1999-2000	67
2000-01	108
2001-02	92
2002-03	97
2003-04	69
2004-05	75
2005-06	84

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many persons were rescued alive from fires in dwellings by each fire service in each year since 1994. [199037]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of people rescued from dwellings by Fire and Rescue Services, in England, is provided in the following table:

Table 1 Rescues from fires in dwellings by FRS personnel[1] by year, England, 1994 to 2006

FRS area	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	2,591	2,780	2,829	2,894	2,972	3,180	4,133	3,431	3,927	3,676	3,201	3,173	3,367
England - Non-Met counties	1,316	1,517	1,418	1,497	1,463	1,573	2,431	1,774	2,164	2,024	1,722	1,663	1,918
Avon	53	47	45	52	61	54	76	98	56	46	31	66	79
Bedfordshire	49	44	14	17	16	24	23	52	26	30	27	62	46
Berkshire	16	55	25	34	20	38	38	37	30	72	33	38	49
Buckinghamshire	10	17	11	13	26	37	40	16	20	37	16	20	27
Cambridgeshire	15	16	12	32	20	28	38	30	38	61	65	32	33
Cheshire	34	36	38	27	54	34	111	116	67	62	53	63	70
Cleveland	44	46	62	43	34	36	82	54	49	68	45	37	44
Cornwall	9	8	13	13	10	15	12	12	17	12	17	10	6
Cumbria	13	19	28	34	32	40	23	18	13	24	29	25	20
Derbyshire	29	58	45	35	61	38	44	28	43	42	70	43	39
Devon	61	110	70	76	83	59	147	100	60	94	54	87	75
Dorset	29	33	22	19	31	20	71	45	37	79	22	7	27
Durham	7	20	20	23	23	25	19	15	23	43	29	23	47
East Sussex	59	53	69	81	54	58	171	58	115	83	118	78	40
Essex	73	46	69	72	86	61	68	85	72	79	50	52	33
Gloucestershire	26	44	25	21	23	29	23	41	18	72	31	23	28
Hampshire	142	56	58	43	88	36	75	67	112	137	116	89	132
Hereford and Worcester	19	12	20	54	33	17	36	29	22	26	28	24	14
Hertfordshire	15	30	77	39	36	36	61	31	54	48	30	47	49
Humberside	39	78	71	52	70	67	73	90	75	89	89	97	153
Isle of Wight	0	7	5	5	8	2	0	4	7	9	4	4	1
Kent	153	100	50	68	66	66	161	55	85	39	39	58	137
Lancashire	66	125	104	133	83	118	182	113	173	176	158	138	153
Leicestershire	31	39	67	52	24	47	62	58	68	30	40	42	40
Lincolnshire	9	27	18	33	36	39	18	12	19	23	35	15	22
Norfolk	21	24	28	54	27	42	24	28	32	51	33	30	39
North Yorkshire	24	16	25	14	36	36	44	51	40	42	29	47	36
Northamptonshire	28	43	51	60	49	61	72	46	42	92	39	47	18
Northumberland	7	6	16	11	5	8	14	6	54	9	11	13	13
Nottinghamshire	81	84	38	92	57	122	159	91	93	115	114	93	96
Oxfordshire	20	24	27	37	23	31	46	17	97	23	19	23	12
Shropshire	2	17	3	17	13	17	26	13	38	3	25	15	8
Somerset	3	20	13	19	12	30	79	39	97	25	54	21	88
Staffordshire	27	34	30	38	45	60	53	55	34	71	48	48	65
Suffolk	15	13	56	7	17	17	104	55	29	10	22	46	22
Surrey	31	34	30	10	10	13	53	20	22	29	51	31	47
Warwickshire	18	15	10	7	25	22	46	11	65	26	9	14	43
West Sussex	28	31	31	31	30	45	39	52	196	28	25	32	29
Wiltshire	10	32	21	27	38	43	18	25	26	18	15	23	37
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Rescues from fires in dwellings by FRS personnel[1] by year, England, 1994 to 2006

FRS area	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England Met Counties	1275	1,263	1,411	1,398	1,509	1,607	1,702	1,657	1,763	1,652	1,479	1,510	1,449
Greater Manchester	179	233	195	201	269	234	282	244	271	281	251	275	217
Merseyside	128	103	152	177	167	202	180	160	126	117	104	117	93
South Yorkshire	131	46	56	31	65	80	81	81	86	105	105	94	98
Tyne and Wear	122	84	94	91	120	102	115	139	107	115	162	136	103
West Midlands	204	215	231	261	259	289	267	254	276	263	172	196	147
West Yorkshire	147	191	138	150	160	162	178	145	211	171	183	196	159
Greater London	364	391	545	487	469	538	599	634	686	599	502	496	632

[1] Rescue figures are based on sampled, weighted data.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many road accidents the Fire and Rescue Service attended in each fire authority area in each year since 1994; and how many people were rescued from their vehicles in each year. [199038]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, for the period 1995 to 2006, has been deposited in the Library of the House. This information includes the number of incidents where people were extricated from vehicles.

Information on the number of people rescued from these incidents is not centrally held.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many incidents involving flooding the Fire and Rescue Service attended in each year since 1994; and how many people were rescued from flooding in each year. [199039]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Services: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many attacks there were on fire crews in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [187115]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government have only collated figures relating to attacks on firefighters since 2004, so data are not available for the last five years. The following figures are based on returns to the Department from Fire and Rescue Authorities.

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Bedfordshire	1	4	4
Cambridgeshire	0	29	15
Essex	0	17	17
Hertfordshire	0	1	0
Norfolk	1	2	4
Suffolk	0	4	3
Total	2	57	43

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many attacks there were on fire crews in *(a)* Cleveland, *(b)* North East England and *(c)* Stockton South constituency in each of the last three years. [188968]

Mr. Dhanda: Figures are not collected for the Stockton, South constituency. The following figures are based on returns to the Department from Fire and Rescue Authorities.

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Cleveland	62	96	91
Durham	0	28	48
Northumberland	0	10	7
Tyne and Wear	2	33	98
Total	64	167	244

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the reduction in fire control centre staff by 112 in the South West on performance standards in Fire and Rescue Services in the area in Gloucestershire. [200062]

Mr. Dhanda: The most recent strength figure (March 2007) for staff employed in the South West Fire and Rescue Authorities is 179.69. The number of staff employed by each Fire and Rescue Authority including those in the South West is a matter for them and consequently the total figure fluctuates around this mark. Likewise, the number of staff employed by the Regional Control Centre in Taunton is a matter for them.

The South West Regional Control Centre will ensure that the South West region, including Gloucestershire, has a fully resilient Regional Control Centre that is part of a fully networked national system. This network will provide a first class, resilient control service, whereby each Regional Control Centre will provide support to each other, in the event that one or more Regional Control Centres becomes unavailable.

The performance standards that each Regional Control Centre will meet are presently under discussion but will not be less than those currently achieved. In addition service delivery and firefighter safety will be enhanced through bringing all controls up to the standard of the highest currently in use.

Every Regional Control Centre will be able to mobilise any Fire and Rescue unit anywhere in England, which is currently not possible. This new network and the associated Firelink communications project will deliver a more efficient and resilient control service.

Decisions about exact staffing levels will be a matter for the South West Fire Control Service Ltd. to decide. The Fire and Rescue Authorities included in this company are: Avon, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly and Wiltshire.

Floods: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have not yet returned to their homes due to flood damage from summer 2007; and what assessment she has made of the availability of the *(a)* plumbers, *(b)* electricians, *(c)* plasterers and *(d)* other essential workers necessary to complete repairs. [197946]

John Healey: The latest figures provided by local authorities indicate that between 6,400 and 6,700 households are still displaced.

We have not carried out such an assessment. Insurance companies have given assurances that there are sufficient resources available in the construction industry to deal with repairs to homes affected by the floods.

Housing: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what target she has set for housebuilding in Castle Point constituency over the next planning period; and what the *(a)* process and *(b)* anticipated timing is for finding sites for these houses. [199369]

Mr. Dhanda: The Proposed Changes to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England propose a target of 4,000 net additional homes in Castle Point between 2001 and 2021. Of these, 1,114 had been built by the end of March 2007, and planning permission existed for a further 463. General locations for the 2,423 homes still to be identified will be determined through the preparation of Castle Point's Core Strategy, which is due to be adopted next spring. More detailed guidance will be provided through site allocation documents for Canvey Island and for Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley (both due to be adopted in 2010).

Housing: Standards

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix for 2007; and if she will make a statement. [199371]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information collected from local authorities in the 2007 Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix was published on the 18th March 2008 on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/localauthorityhousing/dataforms/357553/hssa200607/

Housing: Trade Unions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the *(a)* Housing and Communities Agency and *(b)* OfTenant will maintain voluntary recognition established by the Housing Corporation to (i) Unison and (ii) Unite for collective bargaining purposes; and if she will make a statement. [199987]

Caroline Flint: Staff will transfer from the Housing Corporation to the Homes and Communities Agency and the social housing regulator as though they were transferring under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006, with their existing terms and conditions of service. The Housing Corporation's current voluntary recognition agreement with Unison and Unite will transfer to the Homes and Communities Agency and the social housing regulator and will apply to the staff transferred from the Housing Corporation. As the Homes and Communities Agency will inherit staff from a number of transferring bodies with a variety of different staff representation arrangements, it will develop a set of proposals after creation for a unified approach to staff representation. These will then be used to ballot staff on the issue on the basis of continuous and close involvement of the unions and the staff side.

As the social housing regulator will inherit staff only from the Housing Corporation, it will continue the current recognition arrangements of the Housing Corporation.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessors paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199589]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department (as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) was formed in 2002 and no payments have been made to JP Morgan since then. Information prior to this date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value was of each contract awarded by her Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199635]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has formally awarded no contracts to Karian and Box since the formation of its predecessor department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, in 2002. The Department co-branded the Karian and Box survey 'A comprehensive view of local government communications today: LG07 study 2007'.

Information prior to 2002 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Lighting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1378W, on lighting, whether switching off street lighting at night is deemed to be a service cut, according to the methodology used by her Department. [199284]

Mr. Dhanda: It would depend on the circumstances. As with any action reported as an efficiency gain, a local authority must assess whether service quality has been maintained and provide evidence to that effect as part of their Annual Efficiency Statement.

Local Area Agreements

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on hon. Members' involvement in the development of local area agreements. [198801]

John Healey: Each local authority responsible for preparing a local area agreement has a duty to consult "such...persons as appear to it to be appropriate" (Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Section 106(2)(a)(ii)).

Draft statutory guidance on how to fulfil this duty was issued for consultation on 20 November 2007. The relevant passages are at paragraphs 4.8 and 5.7 - 5.12 (Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities), which can be accessed on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/statutoryguidance

Local Authorities: Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* mode and *(c)* mean salary package is for a chief executive of a (i) borough council and (ii) county council, including bonus entitlements. [199386]

John Healey: Central Government do not collect the information requested. However, the Local Government Employers conducts an annual survey of chief executive and chief officer salaries and workforce numbers. The results of this survey are available on their website at:

http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageId=119009

Local Government Finance: Children

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she received from local authorities on the adequacy of the children's social services formula used in the 2008 to 2011 local government funding settlement in assessing the needs of children in urban areas; and what account she took of such representations. [199297]

John Healey: During consultation on the 2008-09 settlement, local authorities representing urban areas expressed a range of views about the children's social services formula that was phased in from 2006-07. Most local authorities that expressed a view favoured the full implementation of the new children's formula, which better reflects the current patterns of relative need than the formula it replaced.

The House approved the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2008-09, including full implementation of this formula, on 4 February 2008.

Local Government: Migration

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that local authorities are able to meet costs arising in relation to *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term international migration. [199303]

Mr. Dhanda: In terms of Government funding, we have been able to provide a fair and affordable settlement for local government in a tight spending round, providing an average real terms increase in Government grant of 1.5 per cent. per year over the next three years.

In the longer term the Office for National Statistics are leading a programme of work to improve the population and migration statistics which will deliver improvements in time to incorporate the results in calculating the next three-year local government settlement.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the annual cost to local authority employers of the Local Government Pension Scheme as a result of the *(a)* recent and *(b)* planned changes. [198926]

John Healey: The new-look Local Government Pension Scheme, which came into effect on 1 April, was planned as the basis of a future service cost of 19.5 per cent. of payroll, formed of 6.3 per cent. of pay from employees, and 13.2 per cent. of payroll from employers. The actual costs for local authority employers are emerging from the results of the 2007 scheme valuation exercise. The information is not yet fully available centrally.

To maintain the stability of scheme costs, and achieve a fair and equitable balance between the provision of current and future benefits, and their cost for members, employers and taxpayers, new arrangements for sharing future cost-pressures and risks will be in place by 31 March 2009 to feed into the next, 2010, valuation exercise.

Minister for the East of England: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 715W, how many times the Minister for the East of England: Essex, has visited the area administered by Essex county council since her appointment; and for what reasons. [198841]

Mr. Dhanda: The Minister for the East of England has not yet visited the area administered by Essex county council. She will be visiting Chelmsford on July 7 for a meeting with Essex county council and other county partners.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislation governs the setting of yearly multipliers for non-domestic rates. [198915]

John Healey: Schedule 7 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 prescribes the formulae by which non-domestic rating multipliers are set each year and sets out the process to be followed, including in relation to notifying authorities of the multipliers.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use the Valuation Office Agency is making of Prior Agreements for the 2010 business rates valuation. [198922]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is keen to make the rating system more transparent. Prior agreement seeks to involve ratepayers and their representatives actively in the rating revaluation process by exchange of information, discussion and — where possible — agreement of a consistent approach to the valuation.

Prior agreement works best where the property type is of a discrete nature and where the number of different occupiers is limited. The VOA will look at the possibilities for prior agreement in these circumstances.

Planning: Hillingdon

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice her Department has provided to the London borough of Hillingdon in the development of its local planning policies, framework and guidance, with particular regard to *(a)* the proposed development of the third runway and *(b)* a sixth terminal at Heathrow airport. [197789]

Mr. Dhanda: The London borough of Hillingdon has been advised that in order for the council to submit a sound core strategy (as part of the Local Development Framework), it must develop some strategic spatial development options for the borough and that it is not possible to do this without recognition of Heathrow as a key driver of economic development within the area.

However, it is recognised that the council would not wish to produce a Local Development Framework that sets out a strategy based only on expansion at Heathrow (beyond T5) and therefore advice on a possible approach has been given. The approach is for the council to consider appropriate strategic spatial options for development in the borough that take as a starting point a range of scenarios for the future development of the airport, including for example, additional capacity by addition of a third runway. This approach would allow the core strategy strategic spatial options to take account of the impact of these scenarios on future development patterns for housing and employment land within the borough.

The council has been advised that it is not appropriate for realistic strategic spatial options, that are not supported by the council, to be excluded from consideration, particularly in relation to the expansion of Heathrow (beyond T5) which is Government policy.

It is ultimately for the council to decide how to take forward the preparation of the core strategy.

Property: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency's Value Significant Code FC records a property as being *(a)* inside a conservation area and *(b)* outside but adjoining a conservation area. [198895]

John Healey: Value significant codes (VSC) allow the Valuation Office Agency to record electronically property features that may have a positive or negative effect on value. The value significant code FC is recorded for properties both within a conservation area and outside but adjoining or in close proximity to a conservation area. A VSC does not necessarily signal that a property's council tax band should be altered.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what types of amenity or positive facility are currently treated by the Valuation Office Agency as qualifying for a classification of Value Significant Code FO. [198923]

John Healey: Value significant codes (VSC) allow the Valuation Office Agency to record electronically property features that may have a positive or negative effect on its value. Examples of the use of the code FO might include properties whose value is enhanced due to their proximity to open fields, a village green or extensive landscaped grounds. Other VSCs may indicate that a property's value is affected negatively, for example with no mains drainage or located on an unadopted road. Presence of this, or any other, VSC does not necessarily signal that a property's council tax band should be altered.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties in England are classified by the Valuation Office Agency with the Value Significant Code OS. [199141]

John Healey: The VOA has not undertaken a comprehensive exercise to gather value significant coding information on all domestic dwellings in England.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account the Valuation Office Agency takes of the location of a property on a gated estate when revaluing it for the purposes of *(a)* non-domestic rates and *(b)* council tax. [199252]

John Healey: When assessing a rateable value for non-domestic rates or a banding for council tax, the focus is on the market value of a property, whether or not it is located on a gated estate.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the presence of a traveller encampment near to a property has a value significant code used by the Valuation Office Agency for the valuation of a domestic or composite hereditament. [198876]

John Healey: There is no such specific code.

Public Libraries: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many public libraries in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales were on the Valuation Office Agency's 2005 Rating List in the last period for which figures are available. [199265]

John Healey: As at 31 December 2007 the number of Libraries recorded were:

England: 2,921

Wales: 255

Regeneration: Manton

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 31 March, if she will break down the £400,000 of private funding attracted by Manton neighbourhood management pathfinder by *(a)* funder and *(b)* regeneration activity supported. [199122]

Mr. Dhanda: Listed are details of the additional, non neighbourhood Management funding, totalling £408,000 secured by the Manton Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder.

Funding Source and Amount	*£*	*Regeneration Activity Supported*
WREN	150,000	Development of Manton Park
Al Housing	100,000	Development of Manton Park
Bassetlaw District Council	25,000	Development of Manton Park
Bassetlaw PCT	10,000	Support for local participatory activity
Coalfield Regen Trust	48,000	Grant to support holistic work with Children
Notts Police	75,000	Crime reduction activity

Regional Empowerment Consortia

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been provided to the Regional Empowerment Consortia by her Department; and for what purpose. [198867]

Mr. Dhanda: For 2007-08, the Community Development Foundation received £1,175,749 from the Department for Communities and Local Government to support nine independent Regional Empowerment Consortia with their work in supporting improvement in the quality and effectiveness of community empowerment practices undertaken by local and regional partners.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her response to the examination in the public report on the *(a)* South West and *(b)* East Midlands regional spatial strategies will be published. [198868]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State's Proposed Changes, which constitute the response to the Examination in Public Panel Report, for the South West and East Midlands are due to be published in spring 2008.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on development of each of the regional spatial strategies; what the timetable for implementation of each is; and if she will make a statement. [198869]

Mr. Dhanda: The progress and timetable for the implementation of the RSSs are as follows.

	Date of implementation
North East	
Proposed Changes Consultation	Spring 2008
Issue of final RSS	Summer 2008
North West	
Proposed Changes Consultation	Spring 2008
Issue of final RSS	Summer 2008
Yorkshire and Humber	
Issue of final RSS	Spring 2008
East Midlands	
Proposed Changes Published	Spring 2008
Proposed Changes Consultation	Summer 2008
Issue of final RSS Autumn	Summer 2008
West Midlands (Phase 2)	
Consultation on Draft RSS ends	Winter 2008
EiP	Spring 2009
Panel Report	Summer 2009
Proposed Changes Published	Summer 2009
Proposed Changes Consultation	Autumn 2009
Issue of final RSS	Winter 2009
East of England	
Issue of final RSS	Spring 2008
South East	
Proposed Changes Published	Summer 2008
Proposed Changes Consultation	Summer 2008
Issue of final RSS	Winter 2009
South West	
Proposed Changes Published	Spring 2008
Proposed Changes Consultation	Summer 2008
Issue of final RSS	Autumn 2008

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers her Department and the regional government offices have to intervene in local authority targets setting the context of local area agreements. [198871]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1157-1158W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role she plays in approving or amending the final version of the regional spatial strategies of each government office region in England outside London. [198894]

Mr. Dhanda: The role the Secretary of State plays in approving and amending the final RSS is outlined in Planning Policy Statement 11 Regional Spatial Strategies.

The Secretary of State receives the Examination in Public Panel Report and produces Proposed Changes which are subject to an eight-week consultation period. Having considered representations made, the final RSS incorporating any further changes is published together with a statement of reasons for any changes made.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the names and addresses are of each Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership; and how much funding is allocated to each in 2008-09. [199140]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is tabled as follows:

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership	*Allocation for 2008-09 £*
West Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Regional Partnership Centre Albert House Quay Place Edward Street Birmingham B1 2RA	5,327,000
Capital Ambition London Councils 59½ Southwark Street London SE1 0AL	5,702,000
North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Waterside Drive Off Swan Meadow Road Wigan Lancashire WN3 5BA	5,952,000
Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership 18 King Street Wakefield WF1 2SQ	4,753,000
South East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Tandridge District Council Station Road East Oxted Surrey RH8 0BT	7,190,000
Lift SW Suite 5 Stowey House Bridport Road Poundbury Dorchester DT1 3SB	5,678,000
Improvement East Flempton House Flempton Bury St. Edmonds Suffolk IP28 6EG	5,890,000
East Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership 47 Loughborough Road West Bridgford Nottingham NG2 7QP	5,303,000
North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership c/o Association of North East Councils Guildhall Quayside Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 3AE	4,203,000

Regional Planning and Development: North West

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes to green belt designation the most recent version of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy proposes. [198873]

Mr. Dhanda: The most recent version of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy is the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Draft RSS "The North West Plan". These proposed changes are the subject of a consultation exercise which runs from 20 March until 23 May 2008.

The proposed policy on green belts, RDF4, states that overall the general extent of the green belt will be maintained.

The policy allows local development frameworks to provide for detailed changes in green belt boundaries to accommodate the expansion of Manchester Airport and Liverpool John Lennon Airport; and to provide for an inter-modal freight terminal at Newton-le-Willows. The policy also requires that, subject to the agreement of the North West Regional Assembly, any other local detailed boundary changes should be examined through the local development framework process.

Unitary Councils

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for each of the new unitary councils to become operational. [198890]

John Healey: The Structural Change Orders, which were recently approved by both Houses, provide for the establishment of unitary authorities for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Cornwall, Durham, Northumberland, Shropshire and Wiltshire on 1 April 2009.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding from the public purse is being provided to each of the new unitary councils to assist their restructuring. [198891]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1684W.

Valuation Office: Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the minutes of the Valuation Office Agency's Council Tax Revaluation Programme Board for the CTR2007 project. [183223]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1285W. These minutes relate to internal discussion and advice to Ministers on the formulation and development of Government policy.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what these payments were for. [199660]

Mr. Dhanda: Only one payment has been made to Zurich Risk Services (which is part of the Zurich Financial services Group) since the Department (as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) was formed in 2002. Information prior to this date could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The amount paid was £3,612.40 excl. VAT in February 2008. This was the first payment made in respect of a contract for six monthly inspections of Fire and Rescue Service equipment to be used for mass decontamination of people and urban search and rescue.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Health Education

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage programmes promoting sex education and providing contraceptives in Africa. [197281]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) works with partner governments to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services and commodities through DFID funded country programmes.

DFID is helping nine developing countries including South Africa, Uganda and Kenya to strengthening curricula for gender education, including sex education, by funding a £35 million programme called 'transitions to adulthood'. DFID also supports the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in encouraging the development of life skills programmes for school children and out of school youth, which cover issues relating to safe sex and responsible sexual behaviour.

DFID has recently announced £100 million over five years to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to improve access to family planning and reproductive health supplies. DFID is also one of the largest supporters of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), providing £100 million in 2007. GFATM supports both sex education and condom distribution as part of its broader strategy to fight AIDS.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which UK bilateral aid programmes are underway in (*a*) Mozambique, (*b*) Sudan, (*c*) Ethiopia and (*d*) Rwanda; and what the (i) duration and (ii) cost is of each. [198893]

Gillian Merron: The following tables show all the UK bilateral aid programmes with a value of £500,000 or more currently under way in Mozambique, Sudan, Ethiopia and Rwanda.

(a) Mozambique

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	Commitment From	Commitment To
Non-specific	Direct Budget Support	215	2008	2013
Governance	Support to Reform of the Public Financial Management System	11.3	2003	2009
	Support To Public Sector Reform	1.5	2007	2011
	Revenue Reform (Tax Authority)	3	2008	2010
Civil Society	Support To Civil Society (Co-Funding)	5	2007	2011
Social	Social Protection Cash Transfer Programme	1.5	2008	2008
Education	Education Sector Common Fund	46	2006	2015
Health	Mosquito Bed Nets	8.58	2005	2010
	Health Sector Support Common Fund	17	2007	2011
	National Aids Council	0.5	2008	2008
	MONASO (Mozambiquan HIV/AIDS NGO)	1.65	2006	2010
	RENSIDA (National Network of HIV/AIDS NGOs)	0.55	2006	2011
Infrastructure	Community Land Fund	2.1	2006	2010
	Roads Sector Common Fund	19.7	2007	2016

(a) Mozambique

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	From	To
Disasters and Humanitarian	Flood Rehabilitation	0.5	2007	2008
Other	Projects Below £500,000	3.036	n/a	n/a

(b) Sudan

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	From	To
Multilateral	Basic Service Fund	19.53	2006	2008
	Multi Donor Trust Fund	49.6	2005	2008
Education	Training Scheme Phase II	1.4	2005	2008
	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Southern Sudan Go To School	1.78	2008	2008
	UNICEF Education Project, Abyei	2	2008	2009
Health And Welfare	HIV/Aids Sero-Behavioural Survey	0.5	2008	2009
Public Administration	Strategic Development Fund	6	2007	2010
	Support Fifth Sudan Population Census	2.8	2007	2010
	Supporting Legislative and Electoral Processes	0.95	2007	2009
Water and sanitation	UNICEF Water Sector Support	1.2	2006	2008
Sudan Emergency	Common Humanitarian Fund	40	2006	2008
	Solidarites Emergency Project	1.8	2006	2008
	International Medical Corps Upper Nile Project	0.8	2006	2008
	Integrated Human Programme, Darfur	3.3	2006	2008
	Emergency relief in West Darfur, (Medair, NGO)	1.6	2006	2008
	NGO Safety and Security Training	1.2	2008	2009
	Tearfund 2007 relief and rehabilitation programme West Darfur	0.6	2007	2008
	Action Contre le Faim (ACF) 2007 North Darfur	1.6	2007	2008
	Health nutrition and water and sanitation services in Kutum and Abyei (GOAL, NGO)	1.3	2007	2008
	International Rescue Committee Humanitarian support	1.6	2007	2008
	Building Livelihoods	2.2	2007	2009
	Darfur Peace and Stability Fund	5	2007	2009
	World Food Programme Emergency Road, Bridge Building and HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme, South Sudan	3.2	2008	2009
	Sudan International Committee of the Red Cross 2008 Appeal	5	2008	2008
Sudan Conflict/ Peace	Support to Safety, Security and Justice	9.7	2004	2008
	Support to Abuja Talks	0.85	2005	2008
	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Strategic Partnership	12.1	2006	2008
	BBC World Service Trust	0.9	2006	2008
	Support to Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Transformation Process	0.6	2007	2008
	Support to Security Sector Reform	0.5	2007	2008
	Threat and Risk Mapping	2.7	2007	2010
	Support to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration	0.65	2008	2009
	Community Security and Arms Control	1.7	2008	2010
	Justice and Police Development	7.25	2007	2012
	Joint Mediation Strategy Team	1	2008	2008
Other	Projects Below £500,000	1.76	n/a	n/a

(c) Ethiopia

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	From	To
Development of a Capable, Accountable and Responsive State	Public Sector Capacity Building Programme	25	2005	2009
	Democracy, Growth and Peace for Pastoralists	4.4	2006	2009
	Partnership Fund Phase II	2.4	2007	2008
	Civil Service Reform	4.4	2006	2011
	2007 Census Support	7	2007	2010
	Civil Society Support Programme	5.1	2007	2012
	Democratic Institutions Programme	5	2007	2012
Increasing Human Development	Protection of Basic Services	169	2006	2008
	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	75.1	2007	2011

(c) Ethiopia

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	From	To
	Social Marketing of Contraceptives	3.9	2005	2008
	Education Pooled Fund	0.9	2004	2009
	Teacher Development Programme	5.1	2004	2008
Enable Sustainable Development	Ethiopia Rural Travel and Transport Programme	5	2004	2009
	Productive Safety Net Programme	93	2005	2010
	Humanitarian Response Fund	4	2007	2008
	Support to the International Committee of the Red Cross	2	2007	2008
	Support to Policy Development in the Water Sector	0.5	2005	2009
Donor Coordination and Strategic Support	Strategic Fund	1	2006	2008
Other	Projects Below £500,000	2.25	n/a	n/a

(d) Rwanda

Sector	Programme	Commitment £ million	From	To
Non-sector specific	Ten year Development Partnership Agreement (DPA)	46	2006	2016
Health	Health Sector Budget Support	12	2008	2011
	HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment to Genocide survivors	4.25	2005	2010
	Support for the Disabled through VSO	0.8	2005	2009
Economic Planning	Support to National Institute of Statistics for Rwanda	5	2007	2010
Governance	Support to Rwanda Revenue Authority Phase 6 (RRA)	3.35	2007	2009
	Joint Support to Ministry of Finance	5	2006	2008
	Civil Service Reform	4.5	2006	2008
	Strengthening Oversight Institutions	5.4	2007	2011
Growth	Land Tenure Reform	3	2005	2008
	Institutional Development of Ministry of Agriculture	3	2007	2009
	Support to Science and Technology	0.7	2007	2008
	Joint Growth Analysis	0.9	2007	2009

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to investigate means of providing *(a)* in-country and *(b)* cross-border assistance to Chin state, western Burma. [198375]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) is already providing a significant amount of support to Chin State from inside the country. This includes support to livelihoods and community development activities through the United Nations Development Programme in every Township in Chin State; and support through the Three Diseases Fund for work on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. In addition we have regular discussions with Chin civil society groups about conditions in Chin State, and the prospects for provision of additional support.

Chad: Overseas Aid

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has for the *(a)* delivery and *(b)* distribution of humanitarian assistance in Chad; what the minimum security requirements are for these plans to be put into effect; and if he will make a statement. [197122]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) is planning to continue its humanitarian engagement with a further £5 million in 2008-09. DFID's support will focus in particular on internally displaced persons (IDP) and host populations. DFID will continue to support immediate relief interventions, to improve humanitarian co-ordination and look for ways to encourage early recovery. DFID is working with a range of implementers from the United Nations (UN) agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the Red Cross to ensure that the final distribution of assistance is carried out in a transparent and appropriately targeted way, with particular attention taken to ensure that partners are acting with independence and impartiality.

The relief initiatives supported by DFID are ongoing in spite of a security environment that makes access to vulnerable populations difficult. DFID has chosen partners that have a proven track record of delivery even in the most insecure areas at the Chad/Sudan border. The European Union Force (EUFOR) is mandated to protect IDPs, host populations and aid workers, and to promote the conditions for IDP return; as EUFOR deploys, we expect that it will become easier to deliver aid. DFID is making provision to allow the expansion of relief and early recovery efforts if and when the security environment is improved.

Chad: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives abroad have had on (i) the humanitarian situation in Chad, (ii) plans to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Chad and (iii) co-ordination of a post-conflict humanitarian response in Chad; with whom such discussions were held; and if he will make a statement. [197123]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State for International Development chairs regular ministerial meetings on Africa that cover a wide range of subjects, including Chad. The Department for International Development (DFID) is continuing to work with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to refine the UK's wider approach to Chad and the region.

Externally, DFID officials continue to be involved in discussions about Chad on a number of fronts, both in the UK, in Europe and in N'Djamena. The UK leads an informal donor/United Nations (UN) contact group in Geneva, which includes all the major donors engaged in Chad, as well as the key UN agencies active in the humanitarian response. DFID is using this forum for building consensus among donors to improve humanitarian coordination and intervention.

Other discussions relate to the development of a comprehensive humanitarian protection approach, the relationship of humanitarian actors with European Union forces (EUFOR), and the targeting of aid in the border areas. Recently, discussions have focused on the development of a coherent post-conflict response. DFID is now working to stimulate the UN's planning in this area, and to ensure that the UK's own planning is complementary to the plans being put forward by European partners.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197159]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have visited one of the listed venues in a ministerial capacity since my appointment as Secretary of State for International Development. This was the Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, to deliver a speech at the 'Women Deliver' event.

My predecessor, the right hon. Member for Leeds, Central (Hilary Benn), visited the Queen Elizabeth Centre in London on three occasions. In March 2005 he attended an event on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI); in October 2005 he delivered a speech at the 'Tackling Health Inequalities' event; and in January 2007 he attended the 'Moving Young Minds' event. Hilary Benn also attended one event at the Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London for the National Policy Forum in June 2006.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many public consultations were held by his Department in each of the last three years; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198640]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to consulting effectively with the public and interested groups. DFID guidance on how to consult is based on the Cabinet Office's Code of Practice on Consultation. Public consultations are administered independently by the consulting policy or country team, using this departmental guidance. There is therefore no central record of the number held for the last three years, or of the number of respondents to each, and so it would be of disproportionate cost to provide these details.

Developing Countries: Diseases

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to fund research into *(a)* vaccines, *(b)* microbiocides, *(c)* drugs and *(d)* diagnostics for (i) guinea-worm disease, (ii) river blindness, (iii) lymphatic filariasis, (iv) schistosmiasis, (v) intestinal helminths, (vi) leishmaniasis and (vi) sleeping sickness; and what recent discussions he has had with the World Health Organisation on tackling these diseases. [197733]

Gillian Merron: The 2006 Department for International Development (DFID) White Paper referred to the need for a substantial increase in DFID funding for drug and vaccine development. More details about plans to fund research will be available when DFID's new research strategy is launched. New funding will be awarded following open competition, so it is not currently possible to identify exactly which areas will be supported.

DFID is in close and regular contact with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The International Health Partnership (IHP), which is being led by the WHO and the World Bank, aims to help develop and put in place country health plans that include tackling these diseases.

Developing Countries: Females

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to improve women's *(a)* access to education, *(b)* political empowerment and *(c)* access to family planning resources in developing countries. [195744]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government will spend £8.5 billion on education in our partner countries over the period 2006-07 to 2015-16. We prioritise girls' education by supporting our partner governments in putting gender equality at the heart of their own education programmes and by supporting education skills and literacy programmes which target women and girls. DFID is also taking a lead on raising awareness of the importance of girls education with our international partners and is supporting the Global Campaign for Education in its efforts to promote education for girls.

Women's political participation is promoted by supporting civic and voter education projects and skills and leadership training for female candidates and women's groups. These activities have resulted in better representation of women within political parties and in local government and national parliaments.

Between 2004 and 2008, the UK Government have provided £80 million in core resources and announced an additional contribution of £100 million over five years to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This will allow the UNFPA to improve access and supplies of family planning commodities in the developing world. DFID also works with partner governments to ensure access to family planning is prioritised in their health plans.

Developing Countries: Health Education

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the UK made to multilateral organisations working on sexual and reproductive health in developing countries in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [197279]

Gillian Merron: The total UK contributions to key multilateral organisations working in the area of sexual and reproductive health for 2006-07 were as follows:

	£ million
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	25.0
UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)	10.0
World Health Organisation (WHO)	59.0
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	24.7

These figures do not include funds channelled directly to the UN for specific country programmes.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to encourage European counterparts to increase their contributions to multilateral organisations working on sexual and reproductive health in developing countries. [197280]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government regularly encourage European counterparts to increase their investment in multilateral organisations working on sexual and reproductive health.

DFID recently pledged £100 million over five years to UNFPA's Reproductive Health Commodity Supply Programme, to improve the availability of family planning supplies in developing countries. To encourage other development partners to increase their support for UNFPA we are sharing the analytical work on this programme and which shaped our decision to support UNFPA, together with the performance monitoring framework by which we will judge the success of the programme.

At the recent UNFPA informal donors meeting the UK Government also lobbied their development partners for increased investment in sexual and reproductive health.

The UK was the first government donor to support the Safe Abortion Action Fund in 2007, with funding of £4 million. The UK's initial pledge has resulted in several other donors also contributing a further £3 million.

HIV Infection: Overseas Aid

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will ensure greater involvement of HIV-positive people in the development of his Department's HIV/Aids policies and practices. [199694]

Gillian Merron: Following a public consultation the UK Government are currently updating "Taking Action—The UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world". The updated AIDS strategy will continue to involve people living with HIV in developing and taking forward our AIDS response.

Latin America: Children

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to support the development of city-wide strategies for early intervention as a means of reducing the number of street children in cities in Latin America. [199544]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not allocated specific funding for city-wide strategies to stem the flow of street children in Latin America. DFID support for street children is delivered largely through non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of total aid spending by his Department was received by the 30 recipients in receipt of the greatest value of aid in 2006-07. [199068]

Mr. Malik: The 30 recipients in receipt of the greatest value of aid received 73 per cent. in total of Department for International Development (DFID) bilateral aid in 2006-07.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of aid from his Department to *(a)* India, *(b)* Tanzania, *(c)* Sudan, *(d)* Bangladesh, *(e)* Pakistan, *(f)* Afghanistan, *(g)* Ethiopia, *(h)* Nigeria, *(i)* Uganda, *(j)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(k)* Ghana, *(l)* Kenya, *(m)* Malawi, *(n)* Zambia, *(o)* Indonesia, *(p)* Mozambique, *(q)* Vietnam, *(r)* Iraq, *(s)* Nepal and *(t)* China in 2006-07 was classified as direct budgetary support. [199069]

Mr. Malik: Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS) is aid provided to a partner government to support poverty reduction programmes and spent using the Government's own financial management, procurement and accountability systems. PRBS includes General Budget Support which aims to help implement the Government's poverty reduction strategy; and Sector Budget Support which aims to achieve objectives within a particular sector or sectors.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) total bilateral programme in 2006-07 in the 20 countries listed was £1.65 billion. £448 million of this (27 per cent.) was delivered in the form of PRBS.

Details on the level of PRBS provided to each country and the proportion of DFID's total bilateral programme that PRBS represents in each country for 2006-07 are in the following table.

DFID Bilateral Programme, 2006-07

	Total DFID Bilateral Programme (£000)	Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS) (£000)	Proportion of total Bilateral Programme delivered as PRBS (percentage)
India	233,857	16,000	6.8
Tanzania	112,220	90,000	80.2
Pakistan	101,118	52,500	51.9
Ethiopia	90,497	69,883	77.2
Uganda	77,981	40,000	51.3
Ghana	68,831	45,753	66.5
Malawi	63,309	33,335	52.7
Zambia	61,369	23,300	38.0
Mozambique	56,273	36,800	65.4
Vietnam	52,401	34,500	65.8
Nepal	42,833	5,446	12.7

DFID did not provide PRBS to Sudan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Indonesia, Iraq or China in 2006-07.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of the press offices of (*a*) his Department, (*b*) its agencies and (*c*) its non-departmental public bodies was in each year since1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189685]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any agencies, and is responsible for two non-departmental public bodies—the Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board and the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, which do not have any press offices.

The figures up to 2003 do not cover all press office costs. Prior to 2003-04, press team staff costs can be identified but non-staff costs were not identifiable. Following changes to financial management systems, all press office costs can be identified from 2003.

The annual cost of the press office in DFID since 1996-97 is shown in the following tables.

	Annual cost for staff only (£)
1996-97	195,000
1997-98	243,000
1998-99	240,000
1999-2000	100,000
2000-01	150,000
2001-02	148,000
2002-03	191,000

	Total annual cost (£)
2003-04	404,000
2004-05	682,000
2005-06	563,000
2006-07	805,000

2007-08	Total quarterly cost (£)
1st quarter	236,000
2nd quarter	308,000
3rd quarter	315,000

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people who have left (*a*) Mogadishu and (*b*) Somalia because of the conflict there. [199446]

Gillian Merron: The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimate that 64,000 Somalis have been forced to leave their homes in Mogadishu during 2008. This is in addition to the 700,000 people displaced from Mogadishu during 2007.

UNHCR also estimate that since 1 January 2008, approximately 15,000 Somalis have sought asylum in neighbouring countries. Provisional UNHCR estimates are that as of the end of 2006 there were 464,253 Somali refugees.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the level of the assistance provided by (*a*) French and (*b*) Danish military forces to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [199208]

Gillian Merron: A key element in the operational response to the humanitarian situation in Somalia is the logistical effort to deliver food and other relief supplies to Somalia by sea but the threat of piracy in 2007 made delivery hazardous. The introduction of military escorts has been useful, with no incidents of piracy affecting escorted vessels.

Since December 2007 the French and Danish military forces have escorted in total 70,000 metric tonnes of humanitarian aid to Somalia. Consignments included relief materials for UNICEF and UNHCR in addition to World Food Programme food aid. The Dutch military have recently taken over escort duties.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions (*a*) he, (*b*) members of his Department and (*c*) UK representatives have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of (A) the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, (B) the Government of Ethiopia, (C) the European Commission, (D) the Governments of member states of the European Union and (E) the United States Administration, regarding (1) the provision of basic (aa) humanitarian and (bb) medical supplies and (2) the humanitarian situation in (v) Mudug region, (w) Galgadud region, (x) Nugaal region, (y) Bakool region and (z) Mogadishu; and if he will make a statement. [197173]

Gillian Merron: Officials at the Department for International Development, together with colleagues at the British high commission in Nairobi and the British embassy in Addis Ababa, are in regular contact with

the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, including the President and Prime Minister, and with the Government of Ethiopia. The discussions are varied, and the humanitarian situation has been regularly discussed, specifically on allowing agencies and NGOs unhindered access to areas in need.

Officials based in Nairobi meet regularly through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to co-ordinate humanitarian assistance. The United States of America, European Commission and member states of the European Union are all represented at these meetings.

The UK Government maintain regular contact with all parties the hon. Member lists. The Minister for Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), my right hon. Friend Lord Malloch Brown, raised humanitarian issues when he met President Yusuf in January 2008 and with Prime Minister Hussein and the Government of Ethiopia at the African Union summit in February 2008. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn)—former Secretary of State for DFID—met with President Yusuf last year and discussed the humanitarian situation.

Most of DFID's humanitarian assistance (which includes medical supplies) is not earmarked to regions within Somalia. This enables our implementing partners (e.g. the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Food Programme) to remain flexible and to react to changing circumstances on the ground. However, some of the NGOs that we support work in specific areas, e.g. a nutrition programme with the International Medical Corps (IMC) in Bakool and a nutrition, water and sanitation programme through Action Contre le Faim (ACF) in Galgadud.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199599]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development's central records do not show any payments being made to Zurich Financial Services since 1997.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reports she has received on *(a)* incidents involving the contamination of aircraft cabin air supply by fumes from engine lubricants and *(b)* the commercial aircraft types which have experienced a contamination of the cabin air supply from the fumes of engine lubricants. [199351]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest information is set out in the following table. It is taken from the Civil Aviation Authority's mandatory occurrence reporting scheme (MORS) database which contains reports of contaminated air events aggregated to include all UK operators. The nature of any potential contaminant is not recorded on the database, so the fumes could have come from sources other than engine lubricants e.g. chemical toilets or the galley. In 2007, there were 116 contaminated air events (reported to the CAA). These figures are out of 1.3 million airline flights—passenger and cargo operations—for the calendar year 2007.

Aircraft type	*Reportable occurrences involving contaminated air (2007)*
Boeing B757	47
Airbus A319	15
British Aerospace BAe146	12
Airbus A320	8
Boeing B777	6
Boeing B747	5
Various other aircraft types	23
Total	116

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations her Department has received on lubricant contamination of the air supply in aircraft cabins; what discussions she has had with British Aerospace and Civil Aviation Authority on this issue; and whether her Department plans to undertake research into the problem of contamination of cabin air on commercial aircraft. [199352]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are leading research in this area. In 2007 we commissioned a world first research project to try to capture substances released during transient "fume events." The first stage of this work was to identify and test equipment capable of sampling potentially harmful substances in cabin air. The report into this (first stage work) was published by Cranfield University on 21 February after peer review. It is published on the Department's website. The next phase of work is to use the equipment identified to capture real-time fume events; this work is being developed.

We have regular contact with the CAA about this. The Department has had no discussions with BAe or other aircraft manufacturers, but they did give evidence to the Committee on Toxicity enquiry, and a note of the meeting is on the internet at http://www.advisory bodies.doh.gov.uk/pdfs/annex5tox0621note.pdf

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to publish the results of her Department's research into cabin air sampling. [199882]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The first stage of research, into the capability of equipment to capture fumes in cabin air, was published on 21 February 2008, after peer review. It is on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/hci/cabinairtest.pdf.

We are confident we now have equipment capable of real time cabin air sampling. The second stage of research, to use that equipment on participating airlines, is being developed. We do not expect to be in a position to be able to publish results until 2009.

Airports: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which airports operate *(a)* a one-bag rule and *(b)* a two-bag rule; and what steps she is taking to standardise practice. [194543]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State announced that the one bag restriction imposed on UK airports would be lifted once individual airports had demonstrated sufficient screening capacity whilst also maintaining our security standards. Currently 31 airports are approved to allow each passenger to take more than one cabin bag through security at UK airports, but airports and airlines may retain cabin bag limits regardless of the restriction being lifted. We are actively encouraging the remaining airports to seek removal of the restriction and expect more airports to follow shortly.

The 31 airports where the restriction has been lifted fully are Aberdeen, Benbecula, Birmingham, Cambridge, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Farnborough, Gatwick, George Best Belfast City, Glasgow, Gloucestershire, Guernsey, Heathrow, Humberside, Inverness, Islay, Isle of Man, Kirkwall, London City, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Plymouth, Prestwick, Southampton, Southend, Stansted, Stornoway, Sumburgh and Wick.

Aviation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights there were *(a)* into and *(b)* out of UK airports in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; and what estimate she has made of the projected total number of flights (A) into and (B) out of UK airports in (1) 2008, (2) 2009, (3) 2010 and (4) 2011. [200055]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of flights into or out of UK airports in 2006 and 2007 is shown in the following table. The split of flights between arrivals and departures is almost exactly equal.

Outturn aircraft arrivals and departures at UK airports

	Thousand per annum *Flights into and out of UK airports*
2006	1,949
2007	1,992

Note:
Coverage of airports is as in CAA Airport Statistics table 5.1 and Transport Statistics Great Britain table 2.2

Source:
DfT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data

The coverage of air transport movements (ATMs) in the DfT aviation forecasting model, along with the methodology and forecast results, is set out in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' (2007), available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/.

This differs slightly from the coverage of the figures reported above, due to the forecasting model's base year data not including the smallest airports, domestic charter, and positional flights. The difference amounts to around an extra 67,000 flights per annum in 2007 in the CAA data.

The central forecast for flights into and out of UK airports from 2008 to 2011 is shown in the following table. Forecasts of aircraft flights split between arrivals and departures are not available. For the purposes of forecasting aviation CO_2 emissions, departures and arrivals are assumed to be split evenly, as per the outturn CAA data.

Forecast aircraft arrivals and departures at UK airports

	Thousand per annum *Flights into and out of UK airports*
2008	1,958
2009	2,035
2010	2,100
2011	2,166

Aviation: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the real terms cost of travelling by air was in each year since 1997, taking 1997 as the baseline. [195927]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the average UK one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic and international flights.

Average UK one-way air fare, 1997 prices

	£ *Average air fare*
1997	203
1998	192
1999	163
2000	158
2001	143
2002	129
2003	112
2004	107
2005	101
2006	103

Notes:
1. 'Fare' includes all taxes and charges.
2. Covers domestic and international scheduled flights, but excludes transfer and charter passengers.
3. Domestic component based on a sample of routes where sufficient data available.

Source:
DfT analysis of CAA and IPS data.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the UK volume of carbon dioxide emissions from aviation in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and what estimate she has made of the projected volume of carbon dioxide emissions from aviation in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011. [200056]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport published forecasts of UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions in November 2007 in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts'. This can be viewed at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/airpassdemandfullreport.pdf

Outturn UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions for 2006 were published in January this year by Defra and can be viewed at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm

These data show that UK aviation accounted for 37.9 $MtCO_2$ in 2006. Outturn emissions data for 2007 will not be available until early 2009.

Outturn emissions are calculated from aviation bunker fuel consumption data, which are closely related to fuel

used on departing flights. To ensure consistency with historic reported totals, and to avoid double-counting carbon dioxide emissions, DfT's forecasts reflect emissions from all domestic and international flights departing from UK airports. DfT forecasts for 2007-11 are shown in the following table:

UK Aviation emissions of carbon dioxide

	($MtCO_2$)
2007	39.0
2008	39.6
2009	41.0
2010	42.0
2011	43.0

Aviation: Fuels

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the effect on forecast unconstrained demand for airport capacity in 2030 as shown in the Future of Air Travel Progress Report of using the most recent cost of aviation fuel instead of the assumed figure of $42 per barrel; [198185]

(2) what estimate she has made of the effect on forecast unconstrained demand for airport capacity in 2030 as shown in the Future of Air Travel Progress Report of including the recent change in Air Passenger Duty. [198186]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The results of updating the forecasts of air passenger demand in 'The Future of Air Transport Progress Report' (2006) with the latest data, including the 2007 increase in Air Passenger Duty, were reported in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' (November 2007), which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

Table 2.9 (p. 37) shows the central forecast is for unconstrained air passenger demand to grow from 228 million passengers per annum (mppa) in 2005 to 495mppa in 2030.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the effect on forecast unconstrained demand for airport capacity in 2030 as shown in the Future of Air Travel Progress Report of assuming that the cost of aviation fuel will rise until 2030 at half the rate that it has risen in the last four years. [198188]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest forecasts of UK air passenger demand were reported in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts' (November 2007), which is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/

Table 2.10 (p.41) reports the effect of a set of sensitivity tests, whereby key inputs are varied within reasonable bounds, on demand. This includes varying the oil price projection in line with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's oil price range.

The impact of assuming that the cost of aviation fuel continues to rise until 2030, but at half the rate that it has risen in the last four years, is not available.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent price of aviation fuel in (*a*) dollars per barrel and in (*b*) pence per litre was, ignoring any hedging arrangements. [198191]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Aviation fuel price data are not officially collected. However, information on aviation fuel prices is available from sources such as:

www.platts.com

Based on daily wholesale prices reported by Platts, the price of aviation jet fuel in March 2008 averaged $133 per barrel, or 42 pence per litre.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the average proportion of airline costs fuel represents, calculated on the same basis as the figure given in the Future of Air Transport White Paper. [198251]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Table 2.3 of CAA's 'Airline Financial Statistics 2006-07' reports a breakdown of operating revenues and expenses for major UK airlines. This is available at:

http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=80&pagetype=88&sghd=13&fld=2006_2007

The data show that aircraft fuel and oil accounted for £4.0 billion (26 per cent.) of the £15.6 billion total operating expenses incurred by major UK airlines in 2006.

Biofuels: Asthma

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to commission research on the effects of biofuels on asthma. [199557]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have commissioned and published various pieces of research into the effects of biofuels on air quality. These include an evaluation of the impacts of vegetable oil fuel on the emissions of two light duty diesel vehicles available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/research/cqvcf/dftbiofuelsevaluationofemiss3823

and an evaluation of the potential impact of bioethanol on emissions of a wide range of air pollutants available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/research/ethanolemissionstestingmainr3843

The Government have not commissioned any research specifically on the effects of biofuels on asthma, but a recent Department of Health call for research on the health effects of air pollution included a call for studies on the health effects of biofuels, as transport fuels or for domestic heating. In addition, the Department of Health provides programme funding to the social medicine and health services research unit at Imperial college which conducts epidemiological studies on asthma, including on air pollution.

Bridges: River Wear

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations she has received from Sunderland council on proposals to build a new bridge over the River Wear between Claxheugh and Castletown. [199709]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I met with the hon. Member for Houghton and Washington, East (Mr. Kemp) along with a delegation from Sunderland city council on 23 October 2007 to discuss a number of issues including the proposed Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor major local transport scheme. In addition, my officials met with officers at Sunderland city council on 4 April 2008 to discuss a number of issues relating to the business case for the proposed scheme.

Subject to officials receiving a response from the council on a number of outstanding matters, I hope to shortly be in a position to consider whether or not to grant initial programme entry for the scheme.

Bus Services: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department allocated to Halifax local authority for spending on bus services in each of the last five years. [198813]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Halifax is in the area covered by the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority (WYPTA) and the Department's support for bus services is allocated to WYPTA rather than to individual local authorities in the area.

In the last five years a total of £4.9 million was allocated to WYPTA in rural bus subsidy grant. In the same period WYPTA also received £5 million in funding from the Department's urban and rural bus challenge and Kickstart schemes. Four of the projects, totalling £2.4 million, supported under these schemes involve services in Calderdale district which includes Halifax.

Bus companies operating in and around Halifax also receive bus service operators grant from the Department. This is a payment equivalent to about 80 per cent. of the fuel duty operators incur in providing local bus services. However, as BSOG is a payment direct to operators, statistics are not kept of payments by local authority or geographical area.

Local authorities may also use funding from the Government's unhypothecated revenue support grant (formula grant) to support local bus services.

Bus Services: Nationalisation

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to bring local bus services back into public ownership. [198814]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have looked at various times at the issue of bus regulation, starting with the 1998 White Paper which led to the Transport Act 2000. There was also last year's review which has led to the proposals in the Local Transport Bill giving, among other things, more scope for local authority involvement in bus services.

On each occasion in the past, we concluded that constructive partnership between a largely private sector industry and local authorities is a better way forward than wholesale re-regulation in delivering the services needed by passengers. Indeed, we feel that the private sector strengths in management, innovation and investment are central to the future of the industry.

Car Sharing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which sites have been identified as potential high occupancy vehicle lanes. [197574]

Mr. Tom Harris: Following the completion of the advanced motorway signalling and traffic management feasibility study, the Highways Agency has been asked to consider measures to lock in the benefits of additional capacity in locations on the motorway network where it is to be provided, including HOV lanes. This work is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in her Department in each of the last five years. [198959]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The average number of days sick absence per staff year in the Department for Transport in each of the last five years is:

	Number
2007	11.0
2006	10.2
2005	10.4
2004	10.7
2003	10.2

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 373W, on departmental data protection, if she will include information assurance data on data loss incidents in previous years in her Department's next annual report. [199180]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is currently preparing its 2007 annual report. This report will include information assurance as part of the statement of internal control. It will also include summary details of significant breaches for 2007 and the previous three years, where consistent information is available.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* cross checks and *(b)* linkages (i) exist and (ii) are planned between the data records of individuals stored on databases maintained by (A) her Department and (B) other departments. [200102]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on cross-checks and linkages, both existing and planned, is shown in the following table. This does not include cross-checks and linkages with public sector bodies other than Government Departments and agencies (eg police, local authorities, or TfL).

	(i) Existing	(ii) Planned
(a) Cross checks	DSA's practical driving test booking system (Driving Test Control System—DTCS) links with the DVLA database of drivers' records for test entitlement checks, eg holder of a valid licence for the test being undertaken	DSA's new Testing and Registration system (TARS) will link to DVLA's database of drivers' records for test entitlement checks. This is a migration from the existing system and is expected to go live in May 2008
	DSA's DTCS/TARS system checks with Systems Application and Products to maintain driving test examiners' skills records	DSA's Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) database will link to DVLA's driver records to conduct the following CPC entitlement checks: 1. To confirm that a given driver licence number exists on the DVLA driver database 2. To confirm the driving entitlements of a given driver (for CPC purposes this is limited to considering bus and lorry vehicle categories) 3. To confirm whether the driver has CPC 'acquired rights' (this is based on the dates the driver obtained the above driving entitlements) When a driver achieves an initial (or renewed) CPC qualification, then the CPC database will transmit details of the new qualification to the DVLA driver database for the update of the relevant driver's records. This is expected to go live in September 2008
	DSA's theory test booking system checks the DVLA database of drivers' records for test entitlement checks	
	DVLA's Electronic Vehicle Licensing (EVL) system checks with the Department for Work and Pensions' database to check whether a customer is eligible for exemption from Vehicle Excise Duty (VED). EVL performs a similar check against Veterans' Agency data to verify customers' eligibility for exemption from VED	
	VOSA checks vehicle records against DVLA vehicles database on a case by case basis as required for targeted enforcement purposes	
	DVLA's Driver Validation Service provides registered Data Partners (such as HM Courts Service and HM Revenue and Customs) with online read-only access to the Drivers' database. Registered Data Partners make their enquiries via their desktop through a secure portal	
	DVLA's Drivers' Licensing system (D90) has a link to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) which allows a DVLA clerk to check the name/address details on a customer's application form matches those on his/her passport. (This check is initiated manually by the clerk, and is only performed if a customer signified his/her consent on their application form).	
	DVLA record the holders of instructor licences so that DSA can contact instructors who fail to declare driving convictions	
(b) Linkages	DVLA's on-line Drivers' Licensing System (DRP) links to Identity and Passport Service (IPS) to check whether an applicant has an electronic passport. Where an electronic passport is found, DRP retrieves the customer's photograph and signature from the IPS database. The IPS photograph and signature may then be re-used for printing on the driver's licence. (This check is initiated automatically when a customer applies for a first provisional licence on the web)	
	DVLA's DRP system has links to the Government Gateway in order to verify a customer's Government Gateway ID. (This check is performed automatically as part of web applications for driver's licences)	

Departmental ICT

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on IT projects since 2005; and what estimate she has made of the total likely expenditure on IT projects between 2005 and 2010. [200071]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the table below relates to the DFT's key IT projects that are monitored centrally which either start or finish between 2005 and 2010.

Department/agency	Project name	Start date	Expected completion date	Estimated costs (£ million)
DFT	Shared Services Programme	April 2005	April 2009	145
DVLA	Driver Licensing: Drivers Re-engineering Project (DRP) phase 2	August 2003	December 2008	103
DVLA	Smart Tachograph Project	July 2000	June 2005	15.1
DVLA	Vehicles System Software (VSS) Replatforming	January 2005	December 2007	13
DVLA	Driver Licence Upgrade (DLUP)	July 2004	November 2008	16
DVLA	Vehicle Integration Northern Ireland	August 2006	Second half 2009	21.3
DVLA	Driver Licence Ten Year Renewals Phase 1	July 2007	June 2008	13.1
DSA	Driving Test Control System (DTCS-T)	May 2006	Spring 2008	3.37
DSA	Driver CPC (Recording and Evidencing)	January 2007	August 2008	26.5
HA	Traffic Control Centre PPP service: providing co-ordinated real time information on traffic conditions across most strategic road network	August 2001	August 2011	160 over 10 years
HA	Electronic Service Delivery of Abnormal Loads (ESDAL)	April 2004	June 2009 development June 2011 operation	9.64 development 11.21 operation

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of her departmental website. [200030]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The new Department for Transport (DFT) website was launched on 26 January 2007. A new content management system was implemented and the project costs were £1.5 million.

These costs covered accessibility and usability testing; design of a new information architecture based on user feedback and testing; development of a new visual design; the design and build of the system; migration of content; and the purchase of an enterprise software licence. The enterprise software licence allows the Department to migrate other DFT sites to the same content management system without incurring further licence costs. This will help to reduce hosting and maintenance costs across the Department.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what (*a*) 0800, (*b*) 0845 and (*c*) 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) her Department and (ii) agencies which report to her Department. [200131]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following 0800, 0845 and 0870 telephone numbers for the public are currently in use by the Department for Transport and its agencies:

	Services provided	0800	0845	0870
DFT Central	Heathrow Consultation Line	0	1	0
DVLA	Information services, automated self services, technical helpdesks and reporting unlicensed vehicles	15	1	1
HA	HA Information Line (HAIL) and Central Switchboard for Traffic England phone service and publications	0	2	2
DSA	Related to practical and theory driving test bookings	0	0	4
MCA	MCA Infoline	0	0	1
VOSA	Public Hotline, Operator license credit card payment scheme and national number	0	1	2
VCA		0	0	0
GCDA		0	0	0

Will be terminated later in 2008 and replaced by 0300 numbers

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority: Telephone Services

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA) on the average time taken for callers to speak to the DVLA department of their choice; and if she will make a statement. [199016]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The average time taken to answer a customer (in seconds) once they have made an appropriate choice from within the Agency's interactive voice response units (IVR's) over the last six months is:

	Average time (seconds)
March 2008	76
February 2008	45
January 2008	33
December 2007	10
November 2007	10
October 2007	21

Driving Licenses: Lost Property

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving licences her Department and its agencies have (*a*) requested as proof of identity or for addition of points, (*b*) received and (*c*) had reported lost or stolen by (i) the Department or its agencies and (ii) the owner of the licence. [198996]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not request Licences as proof of identity.

(b) The vast majority of points that are recorded on Licences are recorded by either the Courts or a Fixed Penalty Office (FPO). Normally the only instance when a Licence would be requested is if the driver is unable to produce the Licence to the Court or FPO.

(c)

(i) The Department for Transport does not keep these figures.

(ii) Drivers who report a Licence lost or stolen do so by applying for a duplicate Licence. Duplicates may be applied for for other reasons e.g. damage, and our records do not differentiate between the reason for the issue of duplicates.

Driving: Epilepsy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving licences were *(a)* surrendered and *(b)* withdrawn following driving accidents caused by epileptic fits in each of the last five years. [199401]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data are not available in relation to instances when driving accidents have occurred. Data are only available on the overall number of licences surrendered to, or revoked by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on the grounds of epilepsy in calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006. The data are broken down to ordinary (car/bike) and vocational (lorry/bus) driving entitlement. The data relate to cases where in the majority of instances, the driver themselves have notified their condition to DVLA.

	Ordinary entitlement		*Vocational entitlement*	
	Revocation	*Surrender*	*Revocation*	*Surrender*
2004	1,645	1,290	385	37
2005	1,834	1,421	396	42
2006	1,725	1,327	324	27

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she last issued guidance on driving and epilepsy. [199402]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) issued guidance, including guidance on epilepsy and driving, in February 2008.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents caused by an epileptic fit on the part of a driver there were in 2007. [199403]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on the number of accidents caused by drivers with specific medical conditions is not collected. Figures relating to reported personal injury road accidents in 2007 will not be available until the end of June 2008.

Driving: Licensing

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have had their driving licence withdrawn on medical grounds in each of the last five years. [199455]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data are only available for calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006. The data are broken down to ordinary (car/bike) and vocational lorry/bus) driving entitlement. The data relate to drivers who have either had their current licences revoked, or applications for a licence refused.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*
Ordinary	24,256	26,245	25,525
Vocational	5,972	6,100	5,166

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the procedures used when someone has their driving licence returned following earlier withdrawal on health grounds; and whether she plans to review these procedures. [199456]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has been considering the effectiveness of all aspects of the system in place in Great Britain for ensuring that drivers are medically fit to drive.

The Department for Transport is currently preparing a public consultation on possible changes. A date has not yet been set for its publication.

Galileo

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many jobs she estimates will be created in the UK as a direct result of the Galileo project. [200184]

Ms Rosie Winterton: UKspace—the UK industry association for space—currently assesses that about 400 highly skilled engineers and technicians are working directly on Galileo and as many as 1,600 posts are dependent on Galileo in the wider supply chain and employment in the UK.

Developing the downstream products and applications for Galileo is where it is expected that the major part of the benefits will occur, and where most jobs are expected to be generated. However it is difficult to be specific about the number of jobs that will become dependent upon the Galileo system in the UK, at this time, as future growth in this sector will depend on the outcome of forthcoming procurement competitions.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what was the most recent review of the *(a)* costs, *(b)* risks, *(c)* revenues and *(d)* timetable of the Galileo project. [200187]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The European Commission's most recent review of the Galileo programme's costs, risks, revenues and timetable was published in its Communication of 26 September 2007 entitled: "Progressing Galileo: Re-Profiling the European GNSS Programmes" and the accompanying staff working document.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the UK's financial commitments to the Galileo project beyond the development phase. [200188]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There has been no political discussion of potential funding commitments for the public sector beyond 2013.

Galileo: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the potential cost to the UK of repairs to the Galileo European satellite navigation system. [200185]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding for the replenishment of the satellite constellation is included within the €6 billion (roughly £4.3 billion) the Commission estimated in 2007 would be required for the programme over the period 2013-30.

Discussions on how these funds might be sourced and what elements might come from private and public sources will not take place until the programme has advanced to a later stage. We expect the Commission to bring forward proposals for financing future phases of the programme in 2010.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of all recorded *(a)* delays, *(b)* cancellations and *(c)* diversions of passenger rail services under the Greater Western franchise in the last two years were attributable to (i) track and signalling infrastructure failures and (ii) engineering works for which Network Rail was responsible. [199318]

Mr. Tom Harris: Train performance data for the rail network are collected and processed by Network Rail. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of passengers forecast to use *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick Airports in (i) 2010, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2030 are forecast to be in transit between an international flight and (A) a domestic and (B) another international flight. [195975]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 20 March 2008]* The latest DfT aviation forecasting methodology and results were reported in 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO2 Forecasts' (2007), available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/.

The following table shows the forecasts for total and transfer passenger travel through Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

Forecast UK terminal passengers (million passengers per annum: mppa) and transfer shares of total

		Transfer passengers: mppa		Transfer passengers: percentage	
	Total passengers mppa	*Domestic to/from international*	*International to international*	*Domestic to/from international*	*International to international*
Heathrow					
2010	74	6	23	7	31
2020	94	4	25	4	27
2030	136	4	36	3	27
Gatwick					
2010	36	1	3	3	8
2020	38	1	3	2	8
2030	43	1	2	1	6

Note:
DfT forecasts of demand at each airport depend on capacity assumptions at all UK airports. These forecasts assume the central 'White Paper' case, including an extra runway and associated terminal capacity at both Stansted and Heathrow.

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings she or her Ministers have had with *(a)* local authority leaders and *(b)* residents' groups to discuss (i) Heathrow Airport expansion and (ii) the rehousing of potentially displaced people; and on what dates. [200200]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers held several meetings with local authorities and residents' groups both in the run up to and during the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation. I met with local authority leaders on 29 October 2007 and 16 January 2008 to discuss issues related to the potential expansion of Heathrow airport. This included the impacts of the proposals on those living near the airport but did not specifically address rehousing of displaced people.

My predecessor met with the Longford Residents' Association on 16 January 2006—with the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington (John McDonnell)—and I have since met with residents' groups on the following occasions to discuss development at the airport:

21 November 2007: No Third Runway Action Group, Harmonsworth and Sipson Residents' Association and Stanwell Moor Residents' Association;

30 January 2008: Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee meeting (includes Ealing Aircraft Noise Action Group) and

21 February 2008: Battersea residents—with the hon. Member for Battersea (Martin Linton).

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number of new homes required to house people displaced by a potential third runway at Heathrow Airport and *(b)* the likely costs of such homes. [200201]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation closed on 27 February. This stated that a third runway at Heathrow would require additional land, with loss of around 700 properties. If, following this consultation, policy approval is given for a third runway, BAA as the airport operator would be responsible for obtaining the necessary planning approvals, purchasing the additional land and compensating home owners. BAA has estimated that this would cost around £2 billion.

Heathrow: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what she estimates the annual emissions of carbon dioxide arising from the third runway at Heathrow will be. [188485]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The consultation document "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" published in November 2007 by the Department for Transport includes information on the climate change impacts of the three options which involve an additional runway at Heathrow. The consultation closed on 27 February 2008.

The latest UK air passenger demand and CO_2 forecasts are reported in DFT's "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts", November 2007, available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/airpassdemandfullreport.pdf.

In line with the Air Transport White Paper commitment, these forecasts assume that aviation meets its external climate change costs.

Table 17 on page 178 of the consultation document set out the carbon dioxide emissions under each option in total, on an annual basis, and the total climate change cost:

	Total CO_2 (million tonnes)	*Average CO_2 per year (million tonnes)*	*Total climate change costs (£ billion)*
Option 1—Heathrow third runway around 2020	180.8	2.6[1]	4.8
Option 2—Mixed mode at 480,000 ATMs around 2010, Heathrow third run way 2020	179.1	2.6	4.8
Option 3—MM at 480,000 ATMs around 2010, MM at 540,000 ATMs around 2015, Heathrow third runway around 2020	181.1	2.6	5.0

[1] For appraisal consistency this is expressed over 70 years, although the additional total emissions occur over 60 years. The equivalent figure over 60 years is 3.01 million.

The UK is continuing to press for the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). As the Heathrow consultation document states, under current proposals aviation emissions would effectively be capped at the average level over the period 2004 to 2006. This means that when the trading scheme is established, any additional aviation emissions above that level would lead to no increase in total emissions, since airlines would have to pay for the equivalent emissions reductions in other sectors.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its predecessors paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199612]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department was formed in May 2002. Since this date the Vehicle Certification Agency (VGA), an executive agency of the Department, has made payments totalling £1,587.31 to J. P. Morgan Chase & Co. These payments are in respect of bank charges on receipts and payments and some one-off set-up costs since 1 March 2005 for VGA's commercial banking services in the United States. The breakdown of annual spend in each year is as follows:

	Amount (£)
2005	735.24
2006	691.97
2007	70.10
2008 to date	90.00

Lighting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding the Highways Agency has allocated to research on *(a)* luminaire maintenance factors and *(b)* street lighting (i) in the last 12 months and (ii) the next 12 months. [199558]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency in partnership with other UK local highway authorities proposed a study in 2007-08 to investigate luminaire maintenance factors. This study is due to complete in 2008-09 for which the Agency has allocated a £13,000 contribution.

The Highways Agency allocated £393,000 in 2007-08 and £165,000 for 2008-09 to fund a range of road lighting assessment projects. These are part of the Agency's Efficiency Strategy for Road Lighting under the Sustainable Development Action Plan. This work will significantly reduce the Agency's carbon footprint, and capital and operational costs due to road lighting.

Lorries

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to improve training for drivers of left-hand drive lorries using UK motorways; and if she will make a statement. [199846]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no specific plans for the UK Government to train drivers of left-hand drive lorries. However, from September 2009 European directive 2003/59 EC requires all new lorry drivers across Europe to obtain an initial qualification—a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence—before being able to drive professionally. Additionally, all lorry drivers will need to undertake 35 hours periodic training every five years. So by 2014, all existing lorry drivers will also need to obtain the qualification.

M1: Road Works

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the roadworks between M1 *(a)* junction 1 and London Gateway services and *(b)* junctions 6 and 10 are taking place concurrently. [198736]

Mr. Tom Harris: Before scheduling the roadworks at Gateway services, the Highways Agency carefully considered the potential impact on road users. Based on the typical traffic flow over recent years on this part of the M1, and keeping the same capacity by ensuring all existing lanes are open during the day, any delay was assessed to be minimal.

It is normal practice to maintain a separation of at least 10 km between concurrent major roadworks on motorways, where possible. The Gateway services are more than 10 km from junction 6a.

Traffic flow at the Gateway services is half that at junction 6a, so many drivers will only experience one set of roadworks on the M1.

The Highways Agency concluded that the safety benefits from completing the roadworks between junctions 1 and the Gateway services justified putting them on at the same time as those between junction 6a and 10.

Both sets of roadworks are expected to be complete by the end of 2008.

M20: Noise

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of noise levels on the M20 between Maidstone and Ashford; what plans there are to resurface the road; and if she will make a statement. [199845]

Mr. Tom Harris: In 2002 the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) carried out a noise assessment on this section of the M20 on behalf of the Highways Agency. This was part of the Government's programme for prioritising the surfacing of concrete roads under the Ten Year Plan. The results of TRL assessment indicated that the noise levels on the section of the M20 between Junction 8 (Maidstone) and Junction 9 (Ashford) were three dB(A) more than predicted and therefore it qualified as a high priority site for resurfacing. There have been no further noise assessments on this section since 2002.

As the road surface on the M20 between Junction 8 and Junction 9 is still in a structurally sound condition there are no plans at the present time to resurface for at least five years.

M5

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* representations her Department has received and *(b)* assessment her Department has made of the safety of raised expansion joints on lane three of the M5, southbound between Junctions 1 and 2. [199862]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has not received any representations about raised expansion joints on this length of the M5.

The Agency makes regular safety inspections of the motorway network and these joints have not been identified as a particular problem.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has paid in compensation to motorists whose cars have been damaged by the surface of the road on the M5 in the last 12 months. [199863]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has not paid any compensation to motorists whose cars may have been damaged by the surface of the road on the M5 over the last 12 months.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's estimate is of carbon dioxide emissions from motor vehicles in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and what estimate she has made of the projected total carbon dioxide emissions from motor vehicles in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009, (iii) 2010 and (iv) 2011. [200059]

Jim Fitzpatrick: According to the emissions inventory published annually by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from road transport in 2006 were 120.3 million tonnes. Data for 2007 have yet to be published.

The Department for Transport forecasts road transport CO_2 emissions using the National Transport Model. This model produces forecast for 2010, 2015 and 2025, but not interim years. We, therefore, do not have a forecast of emissions for 2008, 2009 or 2011. Our 2010 forecast is for CO_2 to be 2 per cent. lower than it was in 2003 and so in the region of 116 million tonnes.

Motorcycles

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to mainstream motorcycling in line with the Government's motorcycling strategy announced in February 2005. [199462]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's Motorcycling Strategy includes a wide range of actions which aim to improve motorcycle safety and mainstream motorcycling. We regularly keep these actions under review, working with motorcycling industry and user groups through the National Motorcycle Council and its four sub-groups. We intend to publish progress on these actions together with details of revised actions later this summer.

Some examples of progress to date are as follows:

New guidance to local authorities on Use of Bus Lanes by Motorcycles;

Guidance to highway authorities on motorcycle-friendly infrastructure; and

Use of motorcycle-friendly crash barriers on parts of the HA network.

Motorways: Accidents

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the annual number of *(a)* crashes and *(b)* fatalities on the motorway network (i) with and (ii) without hard shoulder running. [194941]

Mr. Tom Harris: The analysis carried out to support the Advanced Motorway Signalling and Traffic Management Feasibility Study published by the Department for Transport on 4 March considered that safety rates were the same for motorways with and without hard shoulder running. Thus, the analysis assumed that there would be a slightly larger increase in accidents with hard shoulder running compared with doing nothing, as a result of an expected small increase in traffic flows.

The criterion adopted for the M42 pilot was that there should be no overall deterioration in safety after the introduction of hard shoulder running.

The initial six month analysis suggests that this goal may have been achieved and possibly bettered. However, a longer run of data is needed for firm conclusions to be drawn.

Maintaining road user safety is and will remain a top priority and a safety case would be produced for each future hard shoulder running scheme, covering any additional hazards or risks. This analysis might require different methods of operation, implementation and equipment provision to ensure achievement of the required safety levels.

Night Flying

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many night flights there were from each regional airport in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [198766]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Transport does not hold information about the number of night flights at regional airports.

Information about night flight movements will be held locally by the airport operator and this will vary in scope and detail from airport to airport. The statistics for night flights at East Midlands airport (EMA) which were set out in my answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 531-2W to the hon. Member, were provided, on request, to the Department by the airport operator.

Parking Offences

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely change in the number of successful prosecutions for illegal parking as a result of the recently announced changes to enforcement practices by local authorities. [198808]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Prosecutions are carried out by the police and the new parking regulations make no changes to their activities. 230 English local authorities have taken over from the police the enforcement of parking and that number increases each year. In those areas the number of penalty charge notices served by an individual local authority, and paid by motorists, will increase or decrease primarily according to local circumstances and local parking behaviour. The new regulations are aimed at improving parking behaviour, thereby improving traffic flows in the interests of other road users.

Public Transport: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her Department's strategy is for reducing the dependence of urban public transport on fossil fuels over the next 10 years. [188478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following publication of the Department for Transport's "Towards a Sustainable Transport System" in October 2007, we intend to look at the full range of options for putting transport on to a less carbon-intensive path.

More specifically, we have been considering with stakeholders whether changes to the existing arrangements for the subsidy of bus services, which are the main form of urban public transport, would increase the contribution of buses to delivery of our environmental and other objectives. A key consideration is whether particular subsidy changes would incentivise improvements to the fuel efficiency of the bus fleet and the use of environmentally friendly vehicles. We published on 13 March a consultation document, entitled "Local Bus Service Support—options for reform", which invites views on our proposals; and copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation which comes into effect in April 2008 will require the major oil companies and fuel suppliers that supply fossil fuels for road transport to ensure that a proportion of the road fuel supplied in the UK comprises renewable fuels such as biofuels. The level of the obligation will be 2.5 per cent. of total fuel supplied by the supplier in the first year (2008-09), rising to 3.75 per cent. in 2009-10 and 5 per cent. in 2010-11.

We are working with the rail industry to trial the use of biofuels which could, subject to satisfying concerns about carbon benefits and overall sustainability, reduce reliance on conventional fossil fuels. We will also keep under review the case for more strategic electrification of the rail network.

We also support the Commission's intention to legislate to improve the average g/km carbon dioxide emissions performance of passenger cars. This should reduce use of fossil fuels, both by encouraging use of other fuel sources and by encouraging more efficient use by those vehicles that continue to be powered by oil products. We have pressed the Commission to commit to a target of 100 g/km CO_2 average for 2020.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 745W, on Rackspace, which of her Department's websites Rackspace was contracted to host between 2005 and 2008. [199862]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Rackspace were used by the Department during the development of a secure site to be used by the 38 safety camera partnerships operating within the National Safety Camera Programme for England and Wales. The work was, however, cancelled before completion following the Secretary of State's announcement on 15 December 2005 that the national programme was to cease on 31 March 2007.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 745W, on Rackspace, what the value was of each contract awarded by her Department's predecessors and its agencies between 1999 and 2002. [199663]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Due to machinery of government changes that took place at the beginning of financial year 2002-03 the Department for Transport is unable to answer questions about contracts awarded by predecessor Departments without incurring disproportionate cost.

Railway Stations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* local authority areas and *(b)* constituencies do not have a railway station operating passenger services. [197524]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following council areas in England and Wales do not have a railway station on the national rail network operating passenger services:

Wansbeck
North Tyneside
South Tyneside
Derwentside
Teesdale
Richmondshire
Rossendale
Bury
North West Leicestershire
East Northamptonshire
Corby[1]
Gosport
East Dorset
West Somerset
Torridge
North Cornwall

[1] A new station is planned at Corby.

This information is not available on a constituency basis.

Railways

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage rail operators to provide direct rail services to London from more towns in Great Britain. [199372]

Mr. Tom Harris: New franchise agreements specify a minimum service level that takes account of demand and network capacity. Bidders can propose more services, where this is operationally practicable. There are also provisions to deal with the need for extra trains during the life of a franchise.

Railways: Overcrowding

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will hold discussions with East Midlands Trains on overcrowding at peak times on train services from Warrington station. [199460]

Mr. Tom Harris: I am aware that East Midlands Trains had problems at the start of the franchise with rolling stock availability for the Liverpool-Norwich route. It has put in place measures to ensure that as much rolling stock as possible is now available for use on the route.

East Midlands Trains is carrying out passenger counts to evaluate the overcrowding and to formulate plans to improve capacity. The refurbishment programme for Class 158 vehicles commences this summer and will provide a 13 per cent. increase in seating capacity.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the percentage of drivers *(a)* who had one or more accidents, *(b)* who had one or more accidents in their first year of driving and *(c)* aged 17 years who had one or more accidents in the last year for which figures are available. [199426]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available. However, the Department is shortly due to publish a research report on the experiences and attitudes of learner and new drivers, including their involvement in accidents. The research, in which "cohorts" of candidates taking the practical driving test completed a postal survey after their test, and if they passed, at 6, 12, 24 and 36 months subsequently, found that the highest accident rates occurred in the first six months after passing the practical test.

This rate was estimated to be equivalent to 0.44 accidents per year. The accident rate then dropped in the next six months to an equivalent of 0.24 accidents per year. The accident rates given include accidents involving low speed manoeuvring, for example in car parks and drives.

Roads: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of road there are in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster for which her Department is responsible. [199465]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State for Transport is only responsible for roads maintained by the Highways Agency. The current length of these roads in *(a)* Barnsley metropolitan borough council is 23.9 miles; and *(b)* Doncaster metropolitan borough council is 40.2 miles.

Speed Limits

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 23 October 2007 to the hon. Member for Cheadle, *Official Report*, columns 235-6W, on speed limits, if she will take steps

to establish how many (*a*) roads have a 20 miles per hour speed limit and (*b*) schools have 20 miles per hour zones outside them. [198818]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has recently commissioned a new research project on local road safety policy and practice, and some information about the implementation of 20 mph zones will be collected from local authorities as part of this study.

Speed Limits: Radar

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to restrict (*a*) the sale and (*b*) the use of devices to detect road-side police enforcement radar sites. [198478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Road Safety Act 2006 gives the Secretary of State the power to prohibit by regulations a vehicle being fitted with, or a person using a vehicle carrying, speed assessment equipment detection devices. The Government have always made clear that they do not intend to prohibit the use of purely GPS based devices which identify the location of cameras through publicly available information. It does however wish to prevent the carriage and use of devices which detect or interfere with the operation of speed measuring equipment through other means. The actual devices to be covered by the ban will be the subject of full public consultation before the associated secondary legislation is laid before Parliament.

Transport: Fuels

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what (*a*) evidence she has evaluated and (*b*) research she has commissioned, on the whole life carbon emission consequences of the replacement of fossil fuels by biofuels for transportation purposes; and if she will make a statement. [199413]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2005 the Government undertook a detailed feasibility study into the practicality of introducing an obligation for renewable transport fuel. As part of this study, the Government took into account a wide range of scientific evidence on the costs and benefits of biofuels including Government-funded studies by Sheffield Hallam university and the Central Science Laboratory considering the lifecycle benefits and impacts of biofuels. Research published by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in association with the European Council for Automotive Research and Development (EUCAR) and the Oil Companies' European Organisation for Environment, Health and Safety (CONCAWE) on biofuels and other potential future transport fuels was also taken into account.

In 2006, the Government commissioned the development of a carbon calculation methodology for biofuels to underpin the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). This included proposed default carbon saving assumptions for a variety of biofuels, taking account of evidence from a wide range of scientific studies.

In 2007, Defra commissioned AEA Technology to undertake a review of work on the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and environmental sustainability of international biofuels production and use. Their report is due to be published shortly.

The Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) is also currently leading a review of evidence of the wider environmental and economic effects of biofuels. Part of this review will include a study examining the evidence concerning the GHG emissions arising from land-change, cultivation of biofuels, agricultural practices and advanced biofuel technologies. An initial report from the RFA is expected by 27 June including recommendations for further work.

The Government will continue to take into account new scientific evidence on the impacts of biofuels as it becomes available, and will continue to tailor their biofuel policies accordingly.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what times unused network capacity is available on the West Coast Main Line for non-stop services between Milton Keynes and Euston and between Euston and Milton Keynes during (*a*) morning and (*b*) evening peak periods. [199543]

Mr. Tom Harris: The December 2008 timetable optimises the use of network capacity on the west coast main line and uses all of this capacity at peak times between London and Milton Keynes on the fast lines.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department and its predecessors paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199598]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department was formed in May 2002. Since this date the Department has made payments totalling £92,981 to Zurich Financial Services as follows:

	Amount (£)
2002	
Rent and service charges for a property in Carlisle	22,252
2003	
Rent and service charges for a property in Carlisle	29,669
2004	
Rent and service charges for a property in Carlisle	25,342
2005	
Rent and service charges for a property in Carlisle	15,718

HOME DEPARTMENT

Binge Drinking

14. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effects of the availability of alcohol on levels of binge drinking. [199735]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office's review of the alcohol industry's social responsibility standards document and the Department of Health's review of the links between alcohol pricing, promotion and harm will report later in the year and will form the basis of further action to tackle binge drinking and alcohol-related harms.

In addition, as announced in the publication of the first review of the Licensing Act 2003 in March, we will undertake further comprehensive research into post-midnight drinking patterns and their impact on crime and order, and will not hesitate to take the necessary action through new legislation and enforcement measures to tackle this.

Policing: Stop and Search

15. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to enable the police to carry out stop and searches more effectively. [199736]

Mr. McNulty: The Flanagan Review of Policing looked carefully at Stop and Search (and Stop and Account) effectiveness. In line with its views, the Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) will propose that, where effective hand-held IT is in use, the lengthy written record at point of contact will no longer be required.

This has the potential to save around 285,000 hours of officers' time per annum, better support intelligence-led policing and speed the process for the public. We are firstly piloting this approach in Stop and Account, with a view to rolling it out nationally later this year. We are also reviewing the guidance on the use of the Stop and Search powers under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

To boost effectiveness, and responding to crime recording management recommendations in the Flanagan Review of Policing, we are looking to combine work on Stop and Account and crime recording to determine how best to consider and use the information collected, and assess its impact on community engagement and confidence. Records obtained from stops should be used to enhance local intelligence.

Crime: York

16. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what change there has been in the number of crimes committed in York over the last three years. [199738]

Mr. McNulty: In the last three years total recorded crime in the York Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area fell from 23,080 to 20,935 offences. This represents a decrease of 9 per cent.

Illegal Immigrants

17. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of illegal immigrants in the UK. [199740]

Mr. Byrne: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994, no government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally.

By Christmas, our Border Information Systems will count in and out the majority of foreign nationals.

This, together with the fingerprinting of all visa applicants and the issuing of ID cards to foreign nationals creates a far more effective set of controls.

Policing: Information

18. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to improve the availability of information on local policing resources and performance to local communities. [199741]

Mr. McNulty: Since 2006 police authorities have had a statutory responsibility to produce an annual Local Policing Summary.

In addition, the publication of the Police Performance Assessments for 2007-08, will include assessments of local priorities and resources and efficiency.

The Government are committed to making consistent, monthly local information on crime available which will include data on crime and community safety issues and what local agencies are doing to tackle priorities.

Furthermore, from April 2008 every household across the country now has a dedicated police team to solve local problems. As we move into the next phase of neighbourhood policing, we will be consulting on a new Policing Pledge. Introduced everywhere later this year, it will set out a national standard on what people can expect from the police, underpinned in each area by a set of local priorities, agreed by people in each neighbourhood.

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

19. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reports she has received on the progress of police investigations into alleged breaches of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. [199742]

Mr. McNulty: We have received no reports from the police on the progress of investigations into alleged breaches of the 2000 Act. The regulation of electoral administration, party funding and campaign expenditure law are matters for the independent Electoral Commission working as appropriate with the police and others.

Police Bureaucracy

20. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to reduce police bureaucracy. [199743]

Mr. McNulty: In his recent Review of Policing, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, examined the issue of police bureaucracy.

Sir Ronnie's wide ranging recommendations have been accepted and work continues apace to remove unnecessary bureaucratic burdens from police officers.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's strong endorsement of Sir Ronnie's measures is clear evidence of our commitment to bear down on unnecessary bureaucracy in policing.

Crime: Rugby and Kenilworth

21. **Jeremy Wright:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Rugby and Kenilworth constituency in each of the last five years. [199871]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collect crime data specifically for constituencies. The Rugby and Kenilworth constituency comes within the combined Rugby and Warwick Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas. The number of violence against the person offences recorded in these combined CDRPs was as follows:

	Number
2002-03	2,511
2003-04	2,828
2004-05	2,902
2005-06	2,884
2006-07	3,311

Police Funding: Airports

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to bring forward legislation to reform the allocation of funding for policing at airports. [199729]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office and Department for Transport are jointly taking forward work to strengthen airport security planning at airports and establish a transparent funding process for policing costs. This work builds on the recommendations of the Independent Review of Airport Policing carried out by Stephen Boys Smith.

We understand the importance of these measures and are actively seeking to place them on a legislative footing at the earliest opportunity to introduce a more robust system that ensures that individual airports look at all the threats and risks, that appropriate mitigation is in place and that the airport operator meets the costs of any agreed uniformed police presence.

Domestic Violence

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to reduce the incidence of domestic violence. [199733]

Jacqui Smith: We have developed a national delivery plan to address domestic violence.

The plan includes the development of 98 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts, and national coverage of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences; these are now part of the Tackling Violence Action Plan 2008-11.

We are doubling the number of Specialist Domestic Violence Courts, rolling out Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences by 2011 and ensuring that vulnerable victims of domestic violence will have access to specialist support services.

We will be continuing to fund Independent Domestic Violence Advisers to support the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts in 2008-09.

We are committed to ensuring perpetrators are held to account and we are developing proposals for extending existing arrangements for managing violent offenders in order to manage proactively those individuals who are identified as being at risk of committing serious violence.

Animal Experiments

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to reduce the number of animals used in the testing of food additives. [199669]

Meg Hillier: The testing of food additives is carried out to satisfy the requirements of the Food Safety Act 1990, for which the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has responsibility, and is an example of specific legislative requirements under which procedures on animals are carried out. The number of animals used varies from year to year and depends on the requirements of industry and the regulators concerned. In the circumstances, it would not be appropriate to place a limit on such testing. However, the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires that the procedures authorised must cause the minimum possible suffering to the smallest number of animals of the least sentience and we will continue to ensure that these requirements are met in all categories of animal use, including the testing of food additives.

Case Resolution Directorate

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* running, *(b)* IT, *(c)* legal, *(d)* consultancy and *(e)* administrative costs for the Case Resolution Directorate have been; what they are expected to be in the next three financial years; and if she will make a statement. [196104]

Mr. Byrne: The costs associated with the Case Resolution Directorate from April 2007 to the end of February 2008 were as follows:

(a) running costs which encompass resource costs such as pay stood at £26.426 million;

(b) IT costs are managed centrally by Home Office IT and to isolate the Case Resolution element could be obtained only at disproportionate cost;

(c) Legal costs which are taken to mean legal fees, adverse costs and compensation stood at £0.211 million. Appeal costs are borne elsewhere in the Border and Immigration Agency.

(d) Consultancy costs stood at £0.771 million;

(e) Administrative costs (assuming to mean all non-pay costs, including training) stood at £1.451 million.

The total spend for the Case Resolution Directorate stood at £28.860 million.

The budget for the forthcoming three financial years have not yet been set.

Credit Cards: Theft

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to compel credit card companies to report the *(a)* theft and *(b)* misuse of credit cards to the police; and if she will make a statement. [198463]

Mr. Coaker: The financial industry, the police and the Home Office all recognised that the system for reporting and recording cheque, plastic card and internet banking fraud that applied prior to 1 April 2007 was both bureaucratic and did little to further the investigation and prosecution of offenders.

To combat this, the Home Office, with agreement from Association of Chief Police Officers and APACS (UK Payments Association), introduced a new system. From 1 April 2007, it became the responsibility of financial institutions to pass on directly to the police, via a single point of contact in each police force, those matters where an investigation could be pursued, to provide a greater chance of prosecuting offenders than before.

The changes to reporting and recording are intended to reduce the level of bureaucracy involved in fraud recording, and streamline the reporting and initial investigation of such frauds. A Home Office chaired group comprising representatives from the banks and law enforcement meets to keep these new arrangements under review and make changes where appropriate.

As part of work to implement the findings of the Fraud Review, new money has recently been allocated to establish a new National Fraud Reporting Centre which will equip law enforcement agencies with a powerful intelligence tool and help form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts to fraud threats for business and the public.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of victims of *(a)* violent incidents, *(b)* burglaries and *(c)* vehicle-related thefts were (i) unemployed, (ii) employed, (iii) students (iv) looking after a family home, (v) long-term or temporarily sick, (vi) retired and (vii) other unclassified in each police force area in each year since 1997; [199570]

(2) in how many and what percentage of violent incidents the victim was classified in ACORN categories *(a)* wealthy achievers, *(b)* urban prosperity, *(c)* comfortably off, *(d)* moderate means and *(e)* hard pressed in each police force area in each year since 1997; [199571]

(3) in how many and what percentage of *(a)* incidents of violence against the person, *(b)* burglaries, *(c)* vehicle related thefts, *(d)* incidents of vandalism and *(e)* thefts from the person the victim had a yearly income of (i) less than £10,000, (ii) between £10,000 and £20,000, (iii) between £20,000 and £30,000, (iv) between £30,000 and £40,000, (v) between £40,000 and £50,000 and *(f)* £50,000 and above in each police force area, in each year since 1997; [199572]

(4) in how many and what percentage of *(a)* violent incidents, *(b)* burglaries, *(c)* vehicle related thefts, *(d)* vandalism and *(e)* thefts from the person the victim was (i) an owner occupier, (ii) a social renter and (iii) a private renter in each police force area, in each year since 1997; [199573]

(5) how many and what percentage of *(a)* victims of burglary and *(b)* others owned (i) a burglar alarm, (ii) a deadlock, (iii) an outdoor sensor, (iv) an indoor sensor, (v) window locks, (vi) window bars and (vii) a security chain on the door in each police force area in England and Wales, in each year since 1997; [199574]

(6) in how many and what percentage of *(a)* violent incidents, *(b)* burglaries, *(c)* vehicle related thefts, *(d)* cases of vandalism and *(e)* cases of theft from the person the victim lived in (i) a semi-detached house, (ii) a detached house, (iii) a terraced house, (iv) a flat/maisonette and (v) other accommodation in each police force area, in each year since 1997. [199580]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available at police force area level.

The British Crime Survey is designed to examine variations in levels of victimisation by sub-groups of the population across England and Wales as a whole. Expanding the survey to provide similar estimates at police force area level could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Crimes of Violence: Drugs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of offenders involved in violent incidents were under the influence of *(a)* drugs and *(b)* drink in (i) England and Wales and (ii) each police force area in each year since 1997. [199398]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number and percentage of offenders involved in violent incidents that were under the influence of drugs or alcohol is not available.

However, the British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely collects information on the proportion of violent incidents in England and Wales, where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

According to the latest BCS (2006-07), the offender was thought to be under the influence of alcohol in 46 per cent. of violent incidents, and under the influence of drugs in 17 per cent. of violent incidents (see table 1 for figures for all available years since 1997). The sample size of the BCS is not sufficient to provide such estimates by police force area.

Table 1: Percentage of violent incidents where offender/s were thought to be under the influence of drink or drugs, England and Wales

	1997	1999	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Under influence of drink								
Yes	42	40	47	44	50	48	44	46
No	48	50	44	45	40	43	47	44

Table 1: Percentage of violent incidents where offender/s were thought to be under the influence of drink or drugs, England and Wales

	1997	1999	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Don't know	10	9	9	11	10	9	8	10
Unweighted base	946	1,052	1,340	1,455	1,465	1,529	1,567	1,658
Under influence of drugs								
Yes	18	18	21	20	19	18	23	17
No	53	55	56	52	50	52	53	56
Don't know	29	27	23	27	30	30	25	28
Unweighted base	946	1,052	1,340	1,455	1,465	1,529	1,567	1,658

Notes:
1. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
2. BCS violence in 1997, 1999, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005/06 includes common assault, wounding, robbery and snatch theft.
3. BCS violence in 2006-07 excludes snatch theft.

Crimes of Violence: Yorkshire and the Humber

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Haltemprice and Howden constituency in each of the last five years. [198645]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Woodhill Prison: Electronic Surveillance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many conversations between staff of the Independent Police Complaints Commission and Babar Ahmed, which took place at Woodhill Prison, were recorded; under what authorisation each such recording took place; and at what level such authorisation was given in each case. [197938]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* I have asked the chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission to write to the right hon. Gentleman.

Written Questions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer Question 182367, tabled by the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden on 22 January 2008, on identity cards; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [193582]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to my reply of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 610W.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 21 April 2008

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detoxification centres have been established in each police force area in England and Wales for those detained by the police in a drunk and disorderly condition in the last four years. [199324]

Mr. Coaker: Four alcohol arrest referral pilots were established in October 2007 in Ealing, Cheshire, and the cities of Manchester and Liverpool. Under the pilots, those arrested for alcohol related offences, including drunk and disorderly behaviour in a public place, attend advice sessions about safer drinking with the aim of reducing offending and health harms. Those who are found to require treatment, including detoxification, may be referred to other locally available services.

The pilots will be extended to up to 10 new areas in 2008-09.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions a respect squad has been used since Christmas 2007. [197367]

Mr. Coaker: The provision of expert advice and assistance in cases of antisocial behaviour is coordinated by the antisocial behaviour and crime prevention unit team at the Home office. It has had responsibility for the Respect Squad since the end of 2007 during which time no new cases have been allocated pending a decision about its future role. In the meantime the Home Office funds a website and phone line manned by experts providing advice to practitioners on difficult cases.

Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection. [195997]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available. Offences under this legislation are recorded in the following offence classifications as appropriate:

Wounding or other act endangering life;

Other offences against the State and Public Order; or

Disclosure, Obstruction, False and Misleading Statements

These offences cannot be separately identified from other offences within those classifications. As a result, information on the percentage which resulted in court proceedings and convictions for those offences cannot be provided.

Arrests

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were deemed to be unlawful in each year since 1995, broken down by police force area; and if she will make a statement. [197313]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of arrests were found to be wrongful in each year since 1995, broken down by police force area; and if she will make a statement. [197318]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of arrests which were later deemed to have been made following false allegations, in each year since 1995, broken down by police force area; and if she will make a statement. [197319]

Mr. Coaker: No estimates have been made centrally.

Baluchistan Liberation Army

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will publish the evidence provided by the Pakistani authorities which was taken into account by the Government when deciding to proscribe the Baluchistan Liberation Army; [197786]

(2) what evidence formed the basis for the Government's decision to proscribe the Baluchistan Liberation Army; [197787]

(3) what criteria were applied in the decision-making process which led to the proscribing of the Baluchistan Liberation Army; [197788]

(4) what the reasons were for the timing of the decision to proscribe the Baluchistan Liberation Army in 2006. [197790]

Mr. McNulty: In practice there are two stages to the Secretary of State's decision making process in determining whether to proscribe an organisation. Firstly, the Secretary of State must consider whether she believes the organisation is concerned in terrorism within the meaning of section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Section 3 provides that an organisation is concerned in terrorism if it:

(a) commits or participates in acts of terrorism;

(b) prepares for terrorism;

(c) promotes or encourages terrorism; or

(d) is otherwise concerned in terrorism.

If the outcome at the first stage of the decision making process is that the Secretary of State believes that the organisation is concerned in terrorism, she then has discretion as to whether or not to proscribe it. In exercising that discretion successive Secretaries of State have had regard to five factors in particular. They are:

(a) The nature and scale of an organisation's activities;

(b) The specific threat that it poses to the United Kingdom;

(c) The specific threat that it poses to British nationals overseas;

(d) The extent of the organisation's presence in the United Kingdom; and

(e) The need to support other members of the international community in the global fight against terrorism.

The Baluchistan Liberation Army was proscribed in 2006 because the Secretary of State believed the organisation to be concerned in terrorism and determined, as a matter of discretion, that it should be proscribed. More information about the Baluchistan Liberation Army's activities was listed in the explanatory memorandum accompanying the Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2006 (SI2006/2016), which added it to the list of proscribed organisations. These included nine bombings of railway stations in 2005 and the murder of Chinese engineers in February 2006.

The Government do not comment on the nature and source of the evidence underpinning proscription decisions.

Burglary

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving bogus callers were committed in each London borough in each year since 1997. [184173]

Mr. Coaker: Available recorded crime statistics on the number of distraction burglary offences at Basic Command Unit level, for the London region, are given in the following table.

The offence of 'distraction burglary' was added to the series in April 2003. Prior to this, this type of offence would have been recorded under the 'burglary in a dwelling' classification and could not be separately identified.

Distraction burglary: Number of offences recorded in London region[1]

Police Force Area	*Basic Command Unit*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Metropolitan Police	Barking and Dagenham	165	152	155
Metropolitan Police	Barnet	148	110	158
Metropolitan Police	Bexley	41	80	77
Metropolitan Police	Brent	149	140	149
Metropolitan Police	Bromley	63	118	150
Metropolitan Police	Camden	121	71	109
Metropolitan Police	City of Westminster	79	47	74
Metropolitan Police	Croydon	65	102	170
Metropolitan Police	Ealing	124	113	140
Metropolitan Police	Enfield	127	101	168
Metropolitan Police	Greenwich	121	137	173
Metropolitan Police	Hackney	147	98	107
Metropolitan Police	Hammersmith and Fulham	62	74	118
Metropolitan Police	Haringey	107	90	129
Metropolitan Police	Harrow	63	59	58
Metropolitan Police	Havering	109	101	169
Metropolitan Police	Heathrow	0	0	0
Metropolitan Police	Hillingdon	121	84	123
Metropolitan Police	Hounslow	132	77	127
Metropolitan Police	Islington	85	101	112
Metropolitan Police	Kensington and Chelsea	49	35	50
Metropolitan Police	Kingston upon Thames	28	23	67
Metropolitan Police	Lambeth	60	88	133
Metropolitan Police	Lewisham	169	178	193
Metropolitan Police	Merton	53	68	81
Metropolitan Police	Newham	198	144	114
Metropolitan Police	Redbridge	123	105	162
Metropolitan Police	Richmond upon Thames	51	38	69
Metropolitan Police	Southwark	244	122	164
Metropolitan Police	Sutton	36	46	81
Metropolitan Police	Tower Hamlets	163	122	101
Metropolitan Police	Waltham Forest	149	128	175
Metropolitan Police	Wandsworth	107	96	176
City of London Police		0	0	0
Total for London region BCUs		3,459	3,048	4,082

[1] This is comprised of the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police.

Cannabis

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to curtail the supply of cannabis seeds available to buy via the internet. [200034]

Mr. Coaker: Cannabis seeds are not illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, although the unauthorised cultivation of cannabis seeds and any subsequent supply and possession of cannabis is unlawful. As I stated in the House on 3 April 2008, the availability of cannabis seeds on the internet is a concern. This matter is kept under regular review, as is any issue associated with the unlawful production of illegal drugs.

Cannabis: Cafes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of her letter of March 27 2008 to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham on the cannabis cafe in Lancing. [198928]

Mr. Coaker: I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the House Library today.

Community Support Officers: Powers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers have been delegated to police community support officers in each police force area. [198612]

Mr. McNulty: The list of powers designated to police community support officers in each force area during 2006-07 is available at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-publications/publication/community-policing/PCSOs_Audit_Table_May_2007_1.pdf

Similar information for 2007-08 is currently being compiled. This will be published on the Home Office, Police Community Support Officers webpage in May 2008.

Crime: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 607W, on crime: Cambridgeshire, how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police officers per 1,000 of the population there were in each of the areas listed in each year since 1997; and what percentage of time was spent by police officers on (i) frontline policing and (ii) patrolling in each of the areas in each of those years. [196646]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The available data are given in Table 1.

(b) The available data are given in Table 2.

(i) The information requested has only been collected since 2003-04, and the available data are given in Table 3.

(ii) The information requested for the time spent by each force on patrol is not available as these data are collected by forces for internal management purposes only.

Table 1: Police Officer Strength[1] (FTE)[2] by Police Force 1997 to 2007, as at 31 March each year

Police Force	*1997[3]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003[3]*	*2004[3]*	*2005[3]*	*2006[3]*	*2007[3]*
Cambridgeshire	1,302	1,291	1,274	1,237	1,296	1,362	1,384	1,400	1,402	1,430	1,381
Cumbria	1,144	1,164	1,126	1,084	1,048	1,100	1,140	1,222	1,232	1,230	1,244
Devon and Cornwall	2,865	2,962	2,887	2,841	2,934	3,053	3,202	3,283	3,369	3,493	3,476
Durham	1,461	1,515	1,568	1,558	1,595	1,614	1,651	1,685	1,718	1,699	1,683
Gloucestershire	1,133	1,104	1,104	1,114	1,173	1,183	1,227	1,284	1,291	1,289	1,303
Lincolnshire	1,196	1,191	1,140	1,115	1,202	1,198	1,221	1,228	1,221	1,213	1,221
Norfolk	1,432	1,430	1,381	1,381	1,420	1,468	1,499	1,510	1,544	1,557	1,565
North Yorkshire	1,338	1,367	1,337	1,283	1,305	1,417	1,444	1,529	1,543	1,636	1,654
West Mercia	2,040	2,010	2,025	1,887	1,951	2,018	2,256	2,355	2,367	2,351	2,400
Wiltshire	1,154	1,156	1,151	1,118	1,120	1,157	1,158	1,217	1,222	1,219	1,204
Dyfed-Powys	1,005	1,002	1,026	1,040	1,055	1,132	1,149	1,160	1,174	1,182	1,177
North Wales	1,369	1,396	1,391	1,403	1,444	1,506	1,539	1,603	1,652	1,617	1,591

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Table 2: Police Officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007

	1997[3]	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003[3]*	*2004[3]*	*2005[3]*	*2006[3]*	*2007[3]*
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	196	196	187
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	256	256	255
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	219	219	216
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	288	288	285
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	200	209	209	219	229	228	228	229
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	183	183	183
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	193	193	191

Table 2: Police Officers[1] (FTE[2]) per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2007

	1997[3]	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[3]	2004[3]	2005[3]	2006[3]	2007[3]
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	216	216	217
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	202	202	205
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	196	196	192
Dyfed-Powys	212	210	215	217	219	234	237	236	237	237	236
North Wales	208	213	212	213	220	228	234	243	242	242	238

[1] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Table 3: Percentage of police officer time spent on frontline policing duties, from 2003-04 to 2006-07[1]

Police Force	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Cambridgeshire	61.1	60.3	70.7	63.0
Cumbria	59.9	61.0	59.1	61.9
Devon and Cornwall	67.1	64.0	63.1	60.8
Durham	60.7	59.0	59.5	57.8
Gloucestershire	64.6	68.1	66.5	67.8
Lincolnshire	55.3	64.4	66.5	63.8
Norfolk	61.0	62.9	66.8	65.9
North Yorkshire	63.0	64.1	66.7	61.1
West Mercia	63.6	62.8	64.5	64.3
Wiltshire	62.3	63.3	63.8	66.7
Dyfed-Powys	65.1	64.1	63.3	62.2
North Wales	63.9	63.4	61.4	63.9

[1] Data are available from 2003-04 onwards only.

Crime: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of crime in North Yorkshire was cleared up in each year since 1987. [197127]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is given in the following tables.

Offences which are 'cleared up' are referred to as detections.

Recorded crime statistics for North Yorkshire police force, 1987 to 2006-07

Table A: Detection rates for total crime in North Yorkshire police force—1987 to 1997

	Detection rate (%)
1987	34
1988	39
1989	35
1990	40
1991	36
1992	33
1993	30
1994	25
1995	23
1996	25
1997	26

Table B: Detection rates for total crime in North Yorkshire police force—1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]

	Detection rate (%)
1997-98	26
1998-99	33
1999-2000	31
2000-01	30
2001-02	26

[1] The offence coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. This will have had an effect on the number of detections recorded. Figures from that date are not comparable with those for 1997.
[2] The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). These rates are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table C: Detection rates for total crime in North Yorkshire police force—2002-03 to 2006-07[1,2]

	Detection rate (%)
2002-03	26
2003-04	28
2004-05	35
2005-06	35
2006-07	33

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002. These rates are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[2] It should be noted that non-sanction detections that contribute to the percentage change in detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detections rates over time are not fully comparable. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Crime: Young People

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 20 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 677W, on crime: young people, (1) whether any *(a)* handouts and *(b)* powerpoint presentations were prepared for this meeting; [173140]

(2) what date has been fixed for the follow-up seminar; [173141]

(3) if she will list the invitees for the follow-up seminar; [173142]

(4) if she will place a copy in the Library of the recommendations; [173143]

(5) whether any *(a)* agenda or *(b)* minutes was produced at the seminar. [173144]

Mr. Coaker: The Youth Crime Seminar on 8 November 2007 was held as a series of events on youth crime, as part of the preparation on the youth

crime action plan for publication summer 2008. The action plan aims to deliver results across youth crime prevention, youth justice as well as cross cutting themes on youth victimisation and youth violence. There were no formal minutes produced—instead, officials who were present took note of the points raised so that they could be fed into discussion during the development of the Youth Crime Action Plan. The seminar was followed up by the key Departments contacting those who attended as part of the work to get views and inputs into the Youth Crime Action Plan. A future date and attendees list for any forthcoming seminar has not yet been confirmed.

Crimes of Violence

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Rochford and Southend East constituency in each of the last five years; [199825]

(2) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in (*a*) Dudley South and (*b*) Plymouth Sutton constituency in each of the last five years. [199878]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Beckenham

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Beckenham constituency in each of the last five years. [198708]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in Bournemouth East constituency in each of the last five years. [198620]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Buckinghamshire

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Buckingham constituency in each of the last five years. [198373]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Chesham and Amersham constituency in each of the last five years. [199310]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in *(a)* Hastings and Rye and *(b)* Bexhill and Battle constituency in each of the last five years. [198846]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in Braintree constituency in each of the last five years. [199154]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes against the person were committed in each constituency in Gloucestershire in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [199013]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Havant

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Havant constituency in each of the last five years. [198492]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Huntingdon

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in Huntingdon constituency in each of the last five years. [198685]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Lincolnshire

Sir Peter Tapsell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Lough and Horncastle constituency in each of the last five years. [198702]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Newark

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Newark constituency in each of the last five years. [198442]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpoc.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: North East

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Beverley and Holderness, *(b)* Brigg and Goole and *(c)* Cleethorpes constituency in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [199249]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: North Yorkshire

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in Skipton and Ripon constituency in each of the last five years. [198704]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in St. Albans constituency in each of the last five years. [198705]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will

come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in West Suffolk constituency in each of the last five years. [198369]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Surrey

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in Esher and Walton constituency in each of the last five years. [198703]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in the (*a*) Vale of Clwyd, (*b*) Delyn, (*c*) Alyn and Deeside, (*d*) Wrexham, (*e*) Clwyd South, (*f*) Montgomeryshire, (*g*) Brecon and Radnorshire, (*h*) Ceredigion, (*i*) Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, (*j*) Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire, (*k*) Bridgend, (*l*) Aberavon, (*m*) Torfaen, (*n*) Vale of Glamorgan, (*o*) Cardiff North, (*p*) Llanelli, (*q*) Cardiff Central, (*r*) Swansea East, (*s*) Swansea West, (*t*) Cardiff South and Penarth, (*u*) Gower, (*v*) Neath, (*w*) Rhondda, (*x*) Islwyn, (*y*) Cynon Valley, (*z*) Cardiff West, (*aa*) Newport East, (*bb*) Newport West, (*cc*) Caerphilly, (*dd*) Ogmore, (*ee*) Blaenau Gwent, (*ff*) Pontypridd and (*gg*) Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney constituency in each of the last five years. [198830]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in (*a*) Clwyd West, (*b*) Ynys Mon, (*c*) Caernarfon, (*d*) Meirionydd Nant Conwy and (*e*) Conwy constituency in each of the last five years. [198848]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in each police authority area in Wales in each of the last five years. [199311]

Mr. Coaker: The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years, for the four police force areas in Wales, broken down by Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Copies of the statistics table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Licensed Premises

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* incidents of violence against the person and *(b)* police emergency call-outs resulting from incidents occurring (i) on and (ii) in the vicinity of premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises under the Licensing Act 1964 there were in each of the last five years in each police force area; and if she will make a statement. [198537]

Mr. Coaker: Information on incidents of violence against the person and police emergency call-outs resulting from incidents occurring on or near licensed premises is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent offences were committed in connection with licensed premises in each police area in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [198538]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises is not held by the Ministry of Justice.

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what performance standards she has set for the operation by Capita of the Criminal Records Bureau's information systems; and what arrangements she has made to ensure that errors in records held on the Police National Computer and supplied to employers by the Criminal Records Agency can be corrected. [198505]

Meg Hillier: The disclosure service operates as a contract between the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Capita Business Services based upon a public private partnership agreement. A contract schedule sets out the service levels for Capita to meet, which contains performance measures, including data quality. However, Capita are not responsible for the accuracy of information held on the Police National Computer (PNC). This is the responsibility of the police.

The CRB operates a process that enables an individual to challenge the information provided on a disclosure. In addressing such a dispute, the CRB will contact the relevant police force(s) to advise them of the issues raised by the applicant. Should the force confirm that the information originally held on PNC is incorrect, the CRB will issue an amended disclosure to the applicant and the employer/registered body free of charge.

Cycling: Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many fixed penalties were issued to cyclists for the offence of *(a)* carrying another person and *(b)* cycling on pavements, broken down by police force area in each of the last three years; and how many of the penalties were issued to cyclists aged over 14 years; [198466]

(2) how many on-the-spot fines for cycling on the pavement were issued by each police force in each year since the scheme was introduced. [198475]

Mr. Coaker: Information is not collected centrally on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for cycling offences.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 611W, on departmental correspondence, if she will make it her policy that Ministers in her Department sign all replies to letters from hon. Members addressed to a Minister. [195977]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: There are no plans to do so.

Detention Centres: Children

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Children's Commissioner for England on children held in immigration removal centres. [197674]

Mr. Byrne: I meet with the Children's Commissioner for England frequently, and I find his advice invaluable, especially around issues raised about the detention of children in immigration removal centres.

In addition, officials in the UK Border Agency also maintain a good working relationship with the Commissioner's office. At their regular meetings issues relating to the detention of children are often discussed.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what medical care and education services are provided to children in immigration removal centres. [197675]

Mr. Byrne: All immigration removal centres provide detainees, children and adults, with free, on-site health care services that are broadly equivalent to those national health service (NHS) general practitioners provide in the community. Detainees also have ready access to NHS secondary and tertiary health services, including paediatric services.

Two full-time qualified teachers provide educational classes for school age children at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre, which is the main centre for holding families with children. The education provision at Yarl's Wood is based on the national curriculum wherever possible and is delivered to three age-based groups. Children are assessed to determine literacy, numeracy and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) skill levels. Tuition covers core areas of English, numeracy, IT, art and craft and PE.

Families with children may also be detained at Tinsley and Dungavel House immigration removal centres, where programmes of structured activities are provided for children. Families with children usually

remain at these centres for no longer than 72 hours. If detention continues beyond three days, they are normally transferred to Yarl's Wood.

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of women with insecure immigration status left destitute after leaving a violent relationship in the latest period for which figures are available. [199964]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for the number of women with insecure immigration status left destitute after leaving a violent relationship are not available; as these data are not routinely collected by the Home Office.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding the Government has given to local authorities to support women with insecure immigration status trying to flee violence and access refuge in the latest period for which figures are available. [199965]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have not provided direct funding to local authorities to support women with insecure immigration status who are victims of domestic violence.

However, between 2003-04 and 2005-06 the Home Office provided a total of £145,000 to the Women's Aid Federation of England to bolster its Last Resort Fund to support victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds.

We will shortly be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive support for their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs.

Domestic Violence: Immigration

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial support is available to spouses and their dependants who are seeking leave to remain on basis of the domestic violence rule. [198370]

Mr. Coaker: Victims of domestic violence who apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) under the domestic violence rule may qualify for assistance under specific legislation and can also access housing related support services funded by the Supporting People Grant.

In February 2006 the Home Office wrote to all local authorities in England, outlining the position of women who have no recourse to public funds and how local authorities can help and support these women within existing legislation, for example, under the Children Act 1989, the NHS and Community Care Act 1990 and the Local Government Act 2000.

We will shortly be announcing details of a new scheme where victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive support for their housing and living costs. Under the new scheme victims of domestic violence whose applications for (ILR) are successful may qualify for a contribution towards these costs.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was provided to organisations providing support for victims of domestic violence in each year since 2001, broken down by organisation. [197862]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have funded a range of organisations which provide direct support to victims of domestic violence. The following table lists them:

Home Office Organisational Grant Funding for Domestic Violence

Organisation	*Amount (£)*
2007-08	
Broken Rainbow Helpline	60,000
Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence	15,000
IMKAAN	8,000
Mens Health Forum	37,300
Relate	47,900
Respect	240,000
Women's Aid	57,000
Women's Aid/Refuge	500,000
Total	965,200
2006-07	
Broken Rainbow Helpline	120,000
Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence	22,500
Men's Advice Line	57,200
Phones for Safety	30,000
Respect	180,000
Women's Aid/Refuge	250,000
Total	659,700
2005-06	
Broken Rainbow Helpline	120,000
Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence	4,000
Men's Advice Line	57,200
Phones for Safety	30,000
Respect	120,000
Women's Aid	142,000
Women's Aid—Last Resort	25,000
Women's Aid/Refuge	66,420
Total	564,620
2004-05	
Broken Rainbow Helpline	120,000
Various Violence Against Women Projects	6,000,000
Women's Aid/Refuge	60,000
Total	6,180,000
2000-03	
Various Violence Against Women Projects	8,055,000
Total	8,055,000

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what telephone hotlines supported by her Department are available to support and advise

victims of domestic violence; how these hotlines are publicised; and what funding from the public purse each organisation has received since 2001. [197863]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office provides funds to a matrix of national helplines including: the National 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline which was launched in December 2003; the Men's Advice Line and Enquiries (MALE); and Broken Rainbow, a service for victims of domestic violence within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Strategic funding for these helplines began in 2003-04 so figures prior to this are not available.

In relation to non-convicted perpetrators, the Home Office has also funded the RESPECT phoneline which offers advice to perpetrators.

The victim-focused helplines were publicised in the two recent ENOUGH Campaigns, undertaken in 2006 and 2007, which included print and radio media advertising within the specialist domestic violence court areas.

The funding provided to the helplines from 2003-04 is as follows.

National Domestic Violence Helpline

	Funding (£)
2007-08	500,000
2006-07	200,000
2005-06	66,420
2003-04 to 2005-06	[1]1.4 million
2003-04	60,000

[1] From the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Men's Advice Line and Enquiries (MALE)

	Funding (£000)
2007-08	120
2006-07	57
2005-06	57.2

Broken Rainbow

	Funding (£000)
2007-08	60
2006-07	120
2005-06	120
2004-05	120
2003-04	120

RESPECT Phoneline

	Funding (£000)
2007-08	120
2006-07	120
2005-06	120
2004-05	50

Since 2005-06, the Home Office has also contributed to the running costs of the joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Home Office unit which provides the Forced Marriage Helpline.

Forced Marriage Unit

	Funding (£000)
2007-08	100
2006-07	100
2005-06	100

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was provided to *(a)* the National Domestic Helpline, *(b)* the Women's Aid and *(c)* the Victim Supportline in each year since 2001. [197864]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for funding for the National Domestic Violence Helpline from 2001-03 are not available as it was first established as a single service in December 2003. £1.4 million was provided by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for the next three years. In 2005-06, responsibility for the helpline transferred to the Home Office as part of the National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence and £60,000 was provided in addition to £100,000 which was transferred from ODPM. In 2006-07 the Home Office provided £250,000 and this has now increased to £500,000 in 2007-08.

Figures for the funding for Women's Aid prior to 2003 are not available, but since 2003 they have been given the following funding:

	£
2007-08	37,000
2006-07	37,000
2005-06	115,000
2004-05	115,000
2003-04	190,000

Since 2001, Victim Support has allocated £200,000 of its annual grant in aid from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform to the running of its Victim Supportline.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were *(a)* stopped by police, *(b)* charged, *(c)* convicted, *(d)* fined and *(e)* cautioned for driving while using a mobile phone in each police force area in each year since the ban came into force. [198477]

Mr. Coaker: Information held on the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice from 2003 to 2005 (latest available) is provided in the table. As the majority of 'use of hand held mobile phone while driving' offences are dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty notice these are also included. 2006 data will be available later this year.

Written warnings[1], fixed penalty notices issued[2] and findings of guilt at the magistrates court[3] for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[4] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-05

Number of offences

	2003			
Police force area	*Written warnings*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Findings of guilt*	*Court imposed fines total*
Avon and Somerset	-	-	-	-
Bedfordshire	-	10	1	1

Written warnings[1], fixed penalty notices issued[2] and findings of guilt at the magistrates court[3] for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[4] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-05

Number of offences

2003

Police force area	*Written warnings*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Findings of guilt*	*Court imposed fines total*
Cambridgeshire	-	-	-	-
Cheshire	2	-	-	-
Cleveland	-	13	-	-
Cumbria	-	13	-	-
Derbyshire	-	13	-	-
Devon and Cornwall	-	345	-	-
Dorset	-	-	-	-
Durham	-	-	-	-
Essex	-	-	-	-
Gloucestershire	-	147	-	-
Greater Manchester	-	-	-	-
Hampshire	-	54	-	-
Hertfordshire	-	-	-	-
Humberside	-	-	-	-
Kent	5	15	-	-
Lancashire	-	34	-	-
Leicestershire	-	17	-	-
Lincolnshire	-	7	-	-
London, City of	-	45	-	-
Merseyside	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	-	681	-	-
Norfolk	-	17	-	-
Northamptonshire	-	1	-	-
Northumbria	3	56	-	-
North Yorkshire	-	5	-	-
Nottinghamshire	-	-	-	-
South Yorkshire	-	28	-	-
Staffordshire	-	12	-	-
Suffolk	-	42	-	-
Surrey	-	164	-	-
Sussex	-	-	-	-
Thames Valley	-	25	-	-
Warwickshire	5	-	-	-
West Mercia	-	-	-	-
West Midlands	-	144	-	-
West Yorkshire	-	-	-	-
Wiltshire	-	-	-	-
Dyfed Powys	-	-	-	-
Gwent	-	-	-	-
North Wales	-	-	-	-
South Wales	-	-	-	-
England and Wales	15	1,888	1	1

2004

Police force area	*Written warnings*	*Fixed penalty notices issued*	*Findings of guilt*	*Court imposed fines total*
Avon and Somerset	3	1,902	19	18
Bedfordshire	-	579	5	5
Cambridgeshire	1	219	6	6
Cheshire	-	2,689	1	1
Cleveland	11	1,066	3	3
Cumbria	1	528	24	23
Derbyshire	-	978	16	15
Devon and Cornwall	-	796	17	16
Dorset	-	521	-	-
Durham	-	504	1	1
Essex	-	2,431	25	25
Gloucestershire	-	632	1	1
Greater Manchester	2	8,166	65	64
Hampshire	-	2,032	15	15
Hertfordshire	1	2,526	6	6
Humberside	-	381	4	4

2004

Police force area	Written warnings	Fixed penalty notices issued	Findings of guilt	Court imposed fines total
Kent	-	1,707	-	-
Lancashire	-	1,719	16	15
Leicestershire	-	759	9	8
Lincolnshire	-	1,529	5	5
London, City of	-	137	5	5
Merseyside	7	1,836	20	10
Metropolitan Police	-	13,581	124	116
Norfolk	-	887	15	13
Northamptonshire	-	297	-	-
Northumbria	124	1,271	29	26
North Yorkshire	1	720	18	16
Nottinghamshire	-	653	7	6
South Yorkshire	-	1,978	12	11
Staffordshire	-	264	10	9
Suffolk	13	978	4	4
Surrey	11	2,213	7	7
Sussex	-	546	1	1
Thames Valley	2	3,716	21	20
Warwickshire	40	621	7	7
West Mercia	-	2,200	15	14
West Midlands	-	3,864	52	46
West Yorkshire	-	2,368	9	9
Wiltshire	-	700	19	18
Dyfed Powys	-	363	13	13
Gwent	-	517	-	-
North Wales	51	999	3	3
South Wales	198	1,603	12	11
England and Wales	466	73,976	641	596

2005

Police force area	Written warnings	Fixed penalty notices issued	Findings of guilt	Court imposed fines total
Avon and Somerset	1	2,502	39	38
Bedfordshire	157	944	13	13
Cambridgeshire	-	1,347	19	19
Cheshire	-	2,891	14	14
Cleveland	61	1,955	7	6
Cumbria	1	1,021	35	34
Derbyshire	-	1,501	49	48
Devon and Cornwall	-	1,482	25	24
Dorset	-	657	3	1
Durham	-	963	2	2
Essex	-	4,369	53	46
Gloucestershire	-	1,208	4	4
Greater Manchester	5	12,904	136	124
Hampshire	-	4,078	34	33
Hertfordshire	2	3,923	64	61
Humberside	5	1,202	22	21
Kent	7	4,829	-	-
Lancashire	62	3,079	46	39
Leicestershire	-	254	26	20
Lincolnshire	-	2,514	12	11
London, City of	-	1,647	12	12
Merseyside	-	5,684	23	14
Metropolitan Police	-	18,035	545	496
Norfolk	-	904	17	17
Northamptonshire	-	971	-	-
Northumbria	418	2,409	20	20
North Yorkshire	-	1,289	30	29
Nottinghamshire	3	1,637	24	18
South Yorkshire	1	3,978	21	17
Staffordshire	-	2,346	21	19
Suffolk	-	1,707	17	17
Surrey	-	3,575	82	82

2005

Police force area	Written warnings	Fixed penalty notices issued	Findings of guilt	Court imposed fines total
Sussex	-	1,105	2	1
Thames Valley	1	7,111	112	106
Warwickshire	34	918	13	8
West Mercia	-	5,246	50	48
West Midlands	-	5,065	88	79
West Yorkshire	-	4,272	38	36
Wiltshire	-	1,226	22	21
Dyfed Powys	-	628	13	13
Gwent	-	938	3	3
North Wales	-	424	13	12
South Wales	172	2,030	20	20
England and Wales	865	126,768	1,789	1,646

- = Nil

[1] Covers tickets paid where there is no further action.

[2] May include cases where a fixed penalty notice was originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[3] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for bringing drugs into the UK from *(a)* Jamaica, *(b)* Trinidad and Tobago, *(c)* Nigeria, *(d)* Ghana and *(e)* elsewhere in the world in each of the last three years. [197459]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* I understand that the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group, i.e. robbery, burglary, drugs offences etc. From data reported centrally they are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups nor the circumstances behind an arrest.

Entry Clearances: Deobandi Sect

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to ban members of the Deobandi sect from entering the United Kingdom. [188630]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 February 2008]:* Deobandism is a denomination within Islam. Deobandi communities make up a significant minority of the Muslim population in the United Kingdom.

The Home Secretary has the power to exclude individuals from the UK where she judges, on a case-by-case basis, that it is right to do so. There are no plans to target these powers against any denominational group within Islam.

Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many replica firearms were confiscated in each police force area in each of the last 10 years. [198591]

Mr. Coaker: The requested statistics are not collected centrally.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which offences fixed penalty notices may be imposed; and what guidance has been issued by her Department on circumstances in which such notices may be imposed. [198521]

Mr. Coaker: Fixed penalties are currently available for over 200 different road traffic offences.

The Home Office issued revised Guidance on the Operation of the Fixed Penalty System for Offences in Respect of a Vehicle in April 2006.

This is available on the Home Office website at the following link:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-publications/publication/operational-policing/HO_00395_GFinalVersion.pdf.

A detailed list of offences for which a fixed notice may be issued is included at Annex A of the guidance.

Forced Marriage: Victim Support Schemes

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources her Department has allocated to the support of victims of forced marriage for 2008-09; and what plans she has for funding in the next two financial years. [198799]

Mr. Coaker: During 2008-09 the Home Office will provide £121,100 to support the operation and running of the joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU). This is an increase of £71,100 on previous years' funding. In addition the Home Office will also provide funding for the series of regional events focused on so-called 'honour' based violence planned to take place between May and July.

Funding for the FMU will continue over next two financial years and funding will also be identified to support other initiatives under our national work programme to tackle honour based violence.

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those who were granted visas as migrant domestic workers applied to change their employers after they arrived in the UK in each of the last three years. [197985]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* In 2005 the UK Border Agency received 228 notifications of overseas domestic workers (ODWs) changing employer. In 2006 we received 126 notifications and in 2007 we received 289.

Forensic Science: Procurement

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice her Department has given to police forces and police authorities on the procurement of forensic science services. [198399]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* The procurement of forensic services is a matter for individual police forces. The National Policing Improvement Agency is, however, taking forward work to reform the procurement practices for forensic analysis services within the police service to assist forces.

Forensic Science: Registration

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the compulsory registration of forensic science practitioners; and if she will make a statement. [198532]

Meg Hillier: Mandatory registration with the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners was recommended in the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology Report "Forensic Science on Trial" (see recommendation 43 at paragraph 139), published 29 March 2005. The response of Her Majesty's Government to that recommendation was as follows:

"It would not be appropriate for the Government to mandate registration with a private organisation. The criminal justice system must have access to appropriate expert testimony to ensure it reaches the correct decision. The use of a mandatory registration scheme would prevent appropriate experts from giving testimony in a number of circumstances, for example where the required expert does not normally work within the forensic arena and is therefore not registered. Another example might be that the required expert may work within the forensic arena but, perhaps due to working in research and development, does not carry out sufficient casework to be registered. The required expert may not work within the UK, or expertise may be required in a subject which rarely comes before the court. It therefore seems more sensible to have a scheme whereby the registration is voluntary. Where someone seeks to appear as an expert witness in an area where registration is available but they are not registered, this will highlight to the judge the need to consider carefully whether their testimony should be admitted and, if so, on what basis."

My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, continues to endorse this view and has recently appointed Mr Andrew Rennison as the Forensic Science Regulator. The Regulator will provide advice on issues surrounding individual competence for forensic science practitioners—including registration. The Government will review the position in due course.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on retention of DNA profiles collected by the police from individuals. [198502]

Meg Hillier: The taking and retention of DNA samples are subject to the provisions contained in Part V of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984. PACE provides that samples may be retained for persons who have been arrested and detained at the police station for a recordable offence; and that profiles taken from these samples and placed on the database may be subject to speculative search. We consider that is a proportionate and effective threshold to help eliminate the innocent during the course of an investigation as well contributing to the detection and conviction of the guilty.

Homicide: Mentally Ill

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homicides were committed by patients with mental illness in each of the last 10 years. [199652]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not collected centrally by either the Home Office or Ministry of Justice.

Immigration: Children

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she gives to the UK's responsibilities under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in her determination of immigration policy. [197721]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Secretary takes the UK's responsibilities towards safeguarding the rights of all children very seriously. The Government have fully and actively supported the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child since the UK became a signatory in 1991. UK domestic law represents a well-developed framework based upon the importance of the welfare of the child. The Home Secretary announced on 14 January our intention to review the UK's immigration based reservation on the Convention, which is being carried out in the light of developments in child safeguarding policy and practice over recent years and the Government's intention to ratify Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Human Trafficking later this year.

Intelligence Services: Public Speaking

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 73W, on MI5, if she will instigate a practice of clearing the *(a)* timing and *(b)* content of speeches to be made by the Director General of the Security Service before delivery. [198395]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, sees no reason to make changes to the arrangements outlined in the earlier answer.

Internet: Crime

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of internet-related crime affecting the UK which originates in Nigeria. [199412]

Mr. Coaker: Due to the nature of the internet, it is impossible to give an accurate assessment of how much internet-related crime originates in a particular country. In the main, internet-related crime is facilitated by bogus websites and software and law enforcement experience is that most activity takes place in the United States and Eastern Europe.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British police officers are seconded to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; what their expected tour of duty is; and what arrangements have been made to cover their operational duties in the UK during their absence overseas. [198573]

Mr. McNulty: There are currently nine serving and six retired UK civilian police officers seconded to Iraq and nine serving and one retired UK civilian police officers seconded to Afghanistan, where they are working in advisory, mentoring and training capacities. The serving officers are from forces in England and Wales, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Ministry of Defence police. The length of their deployments varies from 12 to 18 months.

All the serving officers are volunteers who have gone to Iraq and Afghanistan with the consent of their chief constables, who will have been satisfied that their own operational requirements can be fully met during the officers' absence before agreeing to release them for overseas service.

Metropolitan Police

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance she has issued on Trusted Partners consulted by the Metropolitan Police Service National Community Tension Team; [190348]

(2) what checks are made by the relevant authorities on potential links between Trusted Partners and foreign governments; and what risk assessment is made in each case in relation to the sharing of confidential information; [190349]

(3) in relation to the Trusted Partner consulted in advance of the attempted arrest of General Almog in September 2005, what investigation has been conducted into the potential communication of information to Israeli diplomats by that Trusted Partner; [190350]

(4) whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Metropolitan Police have obtained assurances from the Israeli authorities on the co-operation of armed Israeli air marshals with UK police officers in the lawful execution of their duty on aircraft on British soil; [193486]

(5) pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2357W, on Israel, whether representations were made by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Metropolitan Police to the Israeli authorities following the attempted arrest of General Almog in September 2005 on the denial of police access to the El Al aeroplane at Heathrow Airport. [193489]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has not made any representations on the issues raised. The operational issues surrounding events in September 2005, including whether any consultation with members of the community or community representatives took place, are matters for the police.

Metropolitan Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the rate of Metropolitan Police officer abstractions was from each London borough for *(a)* counter-terrorism, *(b)* special operations and *(c)* public order event policing work in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [198509]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not hold any information centrally on the number of Metropolitan Police officer abstractions from *(a)* counter-terrorism, *(b)* special operations and *(c)* public order event policing work. Such data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Metropolitan Police: Stop and Search

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many searches of *(a)* persons and *(b)* vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 were carried out by each Metropolitan Police division in each of the last five years; and how many arrests were made as a result in each division for (i) possession of offensive weapons and (ii) other offences. [198472]

Mr. Coaker: Data collected centrally, by the Ministry of Justice, under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 are available at police force area level only. Information is given in the following table.

Searches of persons and vehicles[1] separately under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and resultant arrests, carried out by the Metropolitan police force, 2001-02 to 2005-06 (latest available)

		Persons only			*Vehicles only*[2]		
			Resultant arrests			*Resultant arrests*	
Period	*Total searches*	*Searched*	*For offensive weapons*	*For other reasons*	*Searched*	*For offensive weapons*	*For other reasons*
2001-02	6,065	6,000	89	144	65	—	—
2002-03	8,606	8,489	88	338	117	—	—

Searches of persons and vehicles[1] separately under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and resultant arrests, carried out by the Metropolitan police force, 2003-04 to 2005-06 (latest available)

		Persons only			Vehicles only[1]		
			Resultant arrests			Resultant arrests	
Period	Total searches	Searched	For offensive weapons	For other reasons	Searched	For offensive weapons	For other reasons
2003-04	4,359	4,348	29	122	11	—	—
2004-05	3,607	3,606	23	111	1	—	—
2005-06	5,584	5,581	50	149	3	—	—

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. Data given in the table are where a 'vehicle only' has been searched.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:
Stops/Searches collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Mugging: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* street robberies and *(b)* sanction detections for street robberies there were in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [195847]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. It is not possible to identify the location of offences of robbery from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

National e-Crime Unit

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the National e-Crime Unit to be launched. [197352]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The Government have received a business case from ACPO regarding the possible creation of a national electronic crime unit. The Government are considering the possible options for tackling this issue, and will be arranging a meeting with law enforcement agencies in the near future.

National e-Crime Unit: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the National e-Crime Unit will be partly funded by the private sector; and if she will make a statement. [197351]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The Government have received a business case from ACPO regarding the possible creation of a national electronic crime unit. The proposal is based on funding from central Government, the private sector and the European Union. The Government are considering the possible options for tackling this issue, and will be arranging a meeting with a number of law enforcement agencies in the near future.

National Identity Register

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* cross checks and *(b)* linkages there will be between individual information held on the National Identity Register database and other Government computer systems. [200069]

Meg Hillier: In order to maintain a necessarily high level of security, the National Identity Register will not be directly linked to any other Government computer system. In addition, the Identity Cards Act 2006 strictly limits the data that may be held on the register and the records will be created from information provided by the applicant not simply from existing Government data.

Cross checks will be performed on every application against various other information systems in order to establish an identity is genuine and belongs to the person claiming the identity, however no linkages will be created. Verification checks against the register will provide a secure and reliable means for proving identity and organisations will be able to verify identity information against the register following an accreditation process. However, no third party organisation will have direct access to the information on the National Identity Register and any request for the verification or provision of data will be made to the Identity and Passport Service in line with the provisions of the Identity Cards Act 2006 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pieces of personal information an individual will need to supply to complete a record on the National Identity Register database. [200110]

Meg Hillier: The only information that may be recorded in an individual's entry in the National Identity Register is that set out at section 3 and schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. The precise detail of the information that will be needed in an application has yet to be decided but is likely to be very similar to the information required for a passport application and will require approval by Parliament of secondary legislation in the form of regulations under the Identity Cards Act before the scheme is implemented.

Offences Against the Person Act 1861

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 in each year since 2002, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences *(a)* resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, *(b)* led to a conviction and *(c)* resulted in a sanction detection.[1] [196023]

1. *[Official Report, 13 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 6MC.]*

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available in the form requested.

Table 1 gives the number of offences recorded under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 since 2002 that are separately identifiable within police recorded crime statistics. It also gives the number of offences detected by means of a sanction detection. Table 2 shows the numbers of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for the years 2002 to 2006, and is taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and counts offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1: offences recorded under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and detected by means of a sanction detection

		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Offence	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*
17A	Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	1,316	297	1,428	370	1,450	397
17B	Sexual assault on a male child under 13	1,227	291	1,394	456	1,237	441
19C	Rape of a female aged 16 and over	8,192	1,578	8,725	1,843	8,228	1,744
19D	Rape of a female child under 16	3,014	868	3,153	932	2,853	805
19E	Rape of a female child under 13	970	276	1,388	496	1,524	553
19F	Rape of a male aged 16 and over	444	46	438	70	413	58
19G	Rape of a male child under 16	322	99	292	116	261	83
19H	Rape of a male child under 13	297	94	364	129	458	148
20A	Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	15,087	2,967	17,158	4,413	16,887	4,355
20B	Sexual assault on a female child under 13	4,391	1,151	4,647	1,632	4,249	1,494
21	Sexual activity involving child under 13	1,510	405	1,950	629	1,937	636
22B	Sexual activity involving child under 16	2,546	696	3,283	1,124	3,210	1,058
22A	Causing sexual activity without consent[1]	239	57	744	596	224	58
23	Incest or familial sexual offences	713	178	966	330	1,344	406
70	Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder	104	11	139	29	163	43
71	Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	99	28	124	84	101	51
72	Trafficking for sexual exploitation	21	8	33	23	43	22
73	Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature	682	562	463	385	361	265
88A	Sexual grooming	186	49	237	101	322	125
88B	Other miscellaneous sexual offences	11,593	2,217	11,363	2,769	10,212	2,652

[1] The increase in 2005-06 was accounted for by a large number of offences that were dealt with by the Norfolk constabulary.

Table 2: number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for abandoning children and concealment of birth, England and Wales 2002-06[1,2]

	Offence	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
		Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Proceeded against	Found guilty
12	Abandoning children aged under two years	4	—	9	1	4	—	4	—	4	2
15	Concealment of birth	—	—	4	4	1	—	3	3	3	3

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Offensive Weapons: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* warnings, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* charges were issued for possession of knives in each of the last 10 years, in each police authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber, broken down by age category; and if she will make a statement. [197435]

Mr. Coaker: The number of offenders issued with final warnings and cautions, and the number of defendants 'proceeded against' at magistrates courts, for offences involving the possession of knives in each police force area in the Yorkshire and the Humber area by age group for the years 1997 to 2006 is shown in tables 1 to 4. Court proceedings data for 2007 will not be available until the autumn of 2008. Charging data are not held centrally, so information on the number of individuals proceeded against has been provided in lieu of charging data.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Table 1: The number of offenders issued with final warnings and cautions, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to possession of knives, by certain age groups, in Humberside police force area, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Final warning	Total cautioned[2]	Proceeded against
Age 10 to 17			
1997	Nil	6	9
1998	Nil	10	8
1999	Nil	9	13
2000	Nil	5	18
2001	4	7	18
2002	1	4	18
2003	Nil	2	13
2004	Nil	4	18
2005	3	22	23
2006	3	12	37
Age 18 to 20			
1997	Nil	2	9
1998	Nil	4	12

Table 1: The number of offenders issued with final warnings and cautions, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to possession of knives, by certain age groups, in Humberside police force area, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Final warning	Total cautioned[2]	Proceeded against
1999	Nil	2	13
2000	Nil	1	17
2001	Nil	2	6
2002	Nil	3	18
2003	Nil	1	19
2004	Nil	1	22
2005	Nil	4	20
2006	Nil	13	18
Age 21 and over			
1997	Nil	2	42
1998	Nil	1	44
1999	Nil	6	54
2000	Nil	3	30
2001	Nil	1	37
2002	Nil	2	45
2003	Nil	Nil	47
2004	Nil	5	81
2005	Nil	18	80
2006	Nil	25	80

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. The total figure of reprimands and final warnings makes up cautions.
[3] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139(1) and (6): Have blade/article which was sharply pointed in public place
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139AU): Having an article with a blade or point on school premises
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Table 2: The number of offenders issued with final warnings and cautions, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to possession of knives, by certain age groups, in North Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Final warning	Total cautioned[2]	Proceeded against
Age 10 to 17			
1997	Nil	3	9
1998	Nil	5	3
1999	Nil	4	6

Table 2: The number of offenders issued with final warnings and cautions, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to possession of knives, by certain age groups, in North Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Final warning	Total cautioned[2]	Proceeded against
2000	1	10	13
2001	6	9	11
2002	3	9	11
2003	3	5	11
2004	6	14	16
2005	4	9	11
2006	2	9	20
Age 18 to 20			
1997	Nil	1	8
1998	Nil	2	6
1999	Nil	3	12
2000	Nil	2	10
2001	Nil	Nil	10
2002	Nil	6	7
2003	Nil	6	11
2004	Nil	2	25
2005	Nil	5	11
2006	Nil	7	9
Age 21 and over			
1997	Nil	3	30
1998	Nil	2	30
1999	Nil	5	34
2000	Nil	5	31
2001	Nil	7	43
2002	Nil	3	47
2003	Nil	7	41
2004	Nil	4	48
2005	Nil	11	58
2006	Nil	8	41

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. The total figure of reprimands and final warnings makes up cautions.
[3] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139(1) and (6): Have blade/article which was sharply pointed in public place.
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A(1): Having an article with a blade or point on school premises.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Table 3: The number of offenders issued with final warnings and cautions, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to possession of knives, by certain age groups, in South Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Final warning	Total cautioned[2]	Proceeded against
Age 10 to 17			
1997	Nil	4	12
1998	Nil	2	14
1999	2	3	18
2000	2	12	23
2001	3	17	28
2002	3	13	40
2003	5	13	37
2004	7	24	29
2005	19	49	34
2006	20	48	45
Age 18 to 20			
1997	Nil	Nil	11
1998	Nil	Nil	14
1999	Nil	1	10
2000	Nil	3	17
2001	Nil	Nil	27
2002	Nil	2	38
2003	Nil	2	22
2004	Nil	5	26
2005	Nil	10	33
2006	Nil	17	25
Age 21 and over			
1997	Nil	Nil	45
1998	Nil	Nil	44
1999	Nil	Nil	59
2000	Nil	2	51
2001	Nil	1	93
2002	Nil	3	115
2003	Nil	2	150
2004	Nil	9	108
2005	Nil	34	127
2006	Nil	58	89

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. The total figure of reprimands and final warnings makes up cautions.
[3] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139(1) and (6): Have blade/article which was sharply pointed in public place.
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A(1): Having an article with a blade or point on school premises.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Table 4: The number of offenders issued with final warnings and cautions, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to possession of knives, by certain age groups, in West Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Final warning	Total cautioned[2]	Proceeded against
Age 10 to 17			
1997	Nil	Nil	15
1998	Nil	5	7
1999	3	6	16
2000	1	13	12
2001	5	12	21
2002	5	13	25
2003	2	11	23
2004	3	13	49
2005	3	33	31
2006	8	28	33

Table 4: The number of offenders issued with final warnings and cautions, and the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to possession of knives, by certain age groups, in West Yorkshire police force area, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Final warning	Total cautioned[2]	Proceeded against
Age 18 to 20			
1997	Nil	Nil	8
1998	Nil	2	11
1999	Nil	1	10
2000	Nil	Nil	16
2001	Nil	4	23
2002	Nil	4	22
2003	Nil	2	28
2004	Nil	6	26
2005	Nil	11	32
2006	Nil	11	22
Age 21 and over			
1997	Nil	Nil	30
1998	Nil	1	47
1999	Nil	5	59
2000	Nil	7	54
2001	Nil	4	72
2002	Nil	7	110
2003	Nil	9	87
2004	Nil	14	126
2005	Nil	28	151
2006	Nil	29	159

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. The total figure of reprimands and final warnings makes up cautions.
[3] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S. 139(1) and (6): Have blade/article which was sharply pointed in public place
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A(1): Having an article with a blade or point on school premises
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS, Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Organised Crime

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on tackling serious and organised crime in the last 12 months. [197647]

Mr. Coaker: The Serious Crime Act 2007 introduced a number of provisions for tackling organised crime more effectively. These included the creation of Serious Crime Prevention Orders, a new offence of encouraging or assisting crime, measures to improve data sharing to prevent and detect fraud, improvements in the law relating to the proceeds of crime and the merger of the Assets Recovery Agency into the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA).

£35 million of additional funding is being provided for improving protective services over the next three years specifically targeted at supporting collaborative work and strengthening police forces' ability to combat serious organised criminal networks. This funding will help continue work initiated by the Association of Chief Police Officers maintaining the 10 Regional Intelligence Units and enabling the East Midlands Special Operations Unit to continue its work to tackle serious and organised crime in its area.

SOCA will report on its achievements during 2007-08 in its annual report, due to be published in May, and the creation of the UK Border Agency from 1 April will improve the Government's response to organised crime by strengthening the UK's border controls.

Police

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her definition of a front line police officer is. [198614]

Mr. McNulty: Frontline police officers are those who are directly involved with the delivery of core operational policing. Examples of roles considered as front line include: Burglary, CID, Firearms, Community Safety, Dogs, Drugs, Foot/Car/Beat Patrol, Neighbourhood Policing, Hate Crime, Mounted Police, Special Branch, Marine, Air, Underwater, and Vice.

Police Cautions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of cautions were found to be unlawful in each year since 1995, broken down by police force area; and if she will make a statement. [197317]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of cautions were found to be inappropriate in each year since 1995, broken down by police force area; and if she will make a statement. [197988]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reprimands given in each year since 1995 were found to have been *(a)* unlawful and *(b)* inappropriate, broken down by police force area; and if she will make a statement. [197991]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police Custody: Young People

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children aged *(a)* 10, *(b)* 11, *(c)* 12 and *(d)* 13 years were held in custody (i) on remand and (ii) after being convicted in connection with a breach of an anti-social behaviour order in (A) 2004, (B) 2005 and (C) 2006; and what the average length of detention was in each year. [198336]

Mr. Coaker: The data are not collected centrally. Home Office and Youth Justice Board Guidance states that custody for young people who breach their antisocial behaviour order should be used as a last resort.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful cases have been brought by members of the public against police forces for (i) malicious prosecution, (ii) false imprisonment and (iii) assault in the last five years; and how much compensation was paid in each successful case. [198613]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how population growth is taken into account when calculating the total resource allocation formula for police forces. [198534]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to his question on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 764-65W.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population was raised from police precepts in each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 1996-97; [198575]

(2) how much was raised from police precepts in each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 2006-07. [199397]

Mr. McNulty: Information is set out in the following tables.

	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
Police authority	*Council tax requirement: £ million*	*Resident population million*	*Council tax requirement: £ million*	*Resident population million*	*Council tax requirement: £ million*	*Resident population million*
Avon and Somerset	22.27	1.45	25.56	1.46	27.24	1.47
Bedfordshire	8.28	0.55	9.50	0.55	10.23	0.55
Cambridgeshire	10.1	0.69	11.71	0.70	11.23	0.70
Cheshire	14.90	0.98	17.12	0.98	18.31	0.98
Cleveland	7.19	0.56	8.60	0.55	7.62	0.55
Cumbria	8.05	0.49	9.23	0.49	11.58	0.49
Derbyshire	13.20	0.95	15.09	0.95	17.01	0.96
Devon and Cornwall	23.91	1.53	26.80	1.54	25.81	1.54
Dorset	14.00	0.68	16.60	0.68	18.65	0.68
Durham	7.66	0.60	8.55	0.60	8.32	0.60
Dyfed-Powys	7.00	0.48	8.24	0.48	10.25	0.48
Essex	25.91	1.57	29.25	1.58	34.14	1.59
Gloucestershire	8.72	0.97	10.05	0.56	11.43	0.56
Greater Manchester	33.81	0.55	40.17	2.52	42.04	2.52
Gwent	8.19	2.53	8.67	0.55	9.68	0.55
Hampshire	27.87	0.55	31.76	1.75	31.06	1.76
Hertfordshire	15.47	1.74	17.59	1.01	20.24	1.02
Humberside	11.65	1.00	13.44	0.55	13.60	0.55
Kent	25.24	0.88	28.70	1.55	27.20	1.55
Lancashire	19.45	1.54	22.86	1.41	23.13	1.41
Leicestershire	12.50	1.41	14.50	0.92	17.13	0.92
Lincolnshire	12.86	0.92	13.40	0.62	15.51	0.63
Merseyside	23.10	0.62	27.03	1.39	29.08	1.39
Metropolitan	159.99	40	181.83	7.01	222.26	7.06
Norfolk	11.49	0.77	13.03	0.77	14.02	0.78
North Wales	10.70	0.65	11.24	0.65	13.61	0.66
North Yorkshire	12.09	0.73	13.42	0.73	13.42	0.73
Northamptonshire	18.40	0.60	21.25	0.61	19.36	0.62
Northumbria	11.73	1.42	12.99	1.42	12.84	1.41
Nottinghamshire	13.69	1.02	14.92	1.02	16.39	1.02
South Wales	18.36	1.21	19.49	1.21	22.39	1.21
South Yorkshire	16.18	1.28	18.87	1.28	19.80	1.27
Staffordshire	15.45	1.04	17.71	1.05	23.59	1.05
Suffolk	9.84	0.66	11.30	0.66	11.66	0.66
Surrey	14.33	1.03	15.04	1.04	22.47	1.04
Sussex	25.59	1.45	29.06	1.46	28.98	1.47
Thames Valley	35.67	2.04	40.62	2.06	39.51	2.07
Warwickshire	8.10	0.49	9.17	0.50	11.01	0.50
West Mercia	17.23	1.12	19.66	1.13	21.05	1.14
West Midlands	33.79	2.61	38.56	2.59	36.65	2.59

Police authority	1996-97 Council tax requirement (£ million)	1996-97 Resident population (million)	1997-98 Council tax requirement (£ million)	1997-98 Resident population (million)	1998-99 Council tax requirement (£ million)	1998-99 Resident population (million)
West Yorkshire	26.86	2.07	31.84	2.07	31.83	2.07
Wiltshire	10.27	0.59	11.78	0.59	13.56	0.60
England and Wales Total	832.84	51.40	947.02	51.56	1,034.32	51.71

Police authority	1999-2000 Council tax requirement (£ million)	1999-2000 Resident population (million)	2000-01 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2000-01 Resident population (million)	2001-02 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2001-02 Resident population (million)
Avon and Somerset	30.58	1.48	34.42	1.49	37.42	1.49
Bedfordshire	11.34	0.56	12.50	0.56	13.29	0.57
Cambridgeshire	12.30	0.70	14.91	0.71	16.48	0.71
Cheshire	19.36	0.98	21.21	0.98	22.64	0.98
Cleveland	9.86	0.55	10.39	0.55	11.17	0.55
Cumbria	12.61	0.49	13.70	0.49	14.90	0.49
Derbyshire	19.75	0.96	21.58	0.96	23.20	0.97
Devon and Cornwall	28.87	1.55	32.18	1.57	34.16	1.58
Dorset	20.67	0.69	22.72	0.69	24.92	0.69
Durham	8.67	0.59	9.13	0.59	9.86	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	12.64	0.48	14.94	0.49	16.06	0.49
Essex	36.13	1.60	40.19	1.61	42.48	1.62
Gloucestershire	13.83	0.56	15.76	0.56	16.80	0.56
Greater Manchester	45.02	2.52	47.07	2.52	48.88	2.52
Gwent	10.75	0.55	13.66	0.55	15.45	0.55
Hampshire	33.64	1.77	34.71	1.77	37.50	1.78
Hertfordshire	22.01	1.02	28.08	1.03	30.16	1.04
Humberside	14.28	0.87	15.85	0.87	22.73	0.88
Kent	29.81	1.56	31.92	1.57	34.80	1.58
Lancashire	25.19	1.41	27.56	1.41	30.18	1.42
Leicestershire	18.06	0.92	19.42	0.92	21.85	0.93
Lincolnshire	16.31	0.63	17.50	0.64	18.67	0.65
Merseyside	31.41	1.38	33.16	1.37	35.33	1.37
Metropolitan	241.32	7.15	248.19	7.23	324.57	7.32
Norfolk	17.02	0.79	19.30	0.79	22.60	0.80
North Wales	15.72	0.66	18.79	0.66	20.04	0.66
North Yorkshire	15.07	0.74	16.00	0.74	17.04	0.75
Northamptonshire	20.32	0.62	21.22	0.63	22.87	0.63
Northumbria	14.01	1.40	15.44	1.40	17.17	1.39
Nottinghamshire	18.72	1.02	19.97	1.02	21.66	1.02
South Wales	26.17	1.21	32.52	1.21	34.80	1.20
South Yorkshire	20.19	1.27	21.17	1.27	22.63	1.27
Staffordshire	25.83	1.05	27.51	1.05	31.46	1.05
Suffolk	12.63	0.67	13.90	0.67	15.46	0.67
Surrey	25.71	1.06	36.92	1.06	38.91	1.06
Sussex	30.62	1.49	32.24	1.49	34.58	1.50
Thames Valley	44.45	2.08	47.87	2.09	51.66	2.10
Warwickshire	12.78	0.50	14.04	0.50	15.68	0.51
West Mercia	23.41	1.14	29.78	1.15	32.04	1.16
West Midlands	38.45	2.58	41.28	2.57	43.31	2.57
West Yorkshire	33.47	2.07	36.20	2.07	37.87	2.08
Wiltshire	15.05	0.60	16.83	0.61	18.71	0.61
England and Wales Total	1,133.97	51.93	1,241.74	52.13	1,401.94	52.35

Police authority	2002-03 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2002-03 Resident population (million)	2003-04 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2003-04 Resident population (million)	2004-05 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2004-05 Resident population (million)
Avon and Somerset	43.44	1.50	58.63	1.51	66.34	1.52
Bedfordshire	15.04	0.57	18.03	0.57	20.91	0.58
Cambridgeshire	23.10	0.72	28.04	0.73	32.56	0.74
Cheshire	25.91	0.99	31.32	0.99	34.99	0.99
Cleveland	15.53	0.55	19.54	0.55	22.38	0.55

Police authority	2002-03 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2002-03 Resident population (million)	2003-04 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2003-04 Resident population (million)	2004-05 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2004-05 Resident population (million)
Cumbria	16.63	0.49	21.84	0.49	25.75	0.49
Derbyshire	28.47	0.97	34.88	0.98	38.69	0.98
Devon and Cornwall	41.21	1.59	58.23	1.60	65.77	1.62
Dorset	28.11	0.70	33.80	0.70	37.90	0.70
Durham	11.38	0.59	14.14	0.59	16.37	0.60
Dyfed-Powys	17.49	0.49	22.41	0.50	26.12	0.50
Essex	46.84	1.62	56.51	1.63	60.82	1.64
Gloucestershire	19.42	0.57	29.64	0.57	33.03	0.57
Greater Manchester	52.25	2.52	69.77	2.53	75.48	2.54
Gwent	17.68	0.55	22.42	0.56	26.38	0.56
Hampshire	48.16	1.79	62.80	1.80	70.86	1.80
Hertfordshire	33.93	1.04	41.36	1.04	47.67	1.04
Humberside	25.46	0.88	30.67	0.88	35.86	0.89
Kent	42.83	1.59	55.88	1.60	63.03	1.61
Lancashire	33.13	1.42	39.56	1.43	45.90	1.43
Leicestershire	27.89	0.93	31.02	0.94	35.88	0.95
Lincolnshire	19.94	0.66	22.32	0.67	24.32	0.67
Merseyside	39.32	1.37	42.25	1.36	46.24	1.37
Metropolitan	361.38	7.36	443.75	7.38	521.32	7.42
Norfolk	27.45	0.80	33.70	0.81	38.99	0.82
North Wales	23.62	0.67	31.31	0.67	37.96	0.67
North Yorkshire	22.04	0.76	27.74	0.76	32.24	0.76
Northamptonshire	24.06	0.64	26.56	0.64	28.14	0.65
Northumbria	24.56	1.39	43.58	1.39	48.95	1.40
Nottinghamshire	26.52	1.02	34.37	1.03	38.13	1.03
South Wales	36.74	1.21	42.75	1.21	48.39	1.22
South Yorkshire	26.88	1.27	34.38	1.27	37.97	1.28
Staffordshire	33.99	1.05	43.07	1.05	47.52	1.05
Suffolk	19.07	0.67	25.67	0.68	28.65	0.68
Surrey	45.44	1.06	63.75	1.06	69.79	1.07
Sussex	41.11	1.50	57.89	1.51	63.44	1.51
Thames Valley	59.17	2.10	86.13	2.11	98.62	2.12
Warwickshire	18.98	0.51	22.07	0.52	24.10	0.53
West Mercia	42.97	1.17	49.66	1.17	57.87	1.18
West Midlands	47.17	2.58	54.53	2.58	61.33	2.58
West Yorkshire	47.79	2.09	56.08	2.10	64.72	2.11
Wiltshire	20.73	0.62	25.19	0.62	27.85	0.63
England and Wales Total	1,622.83	52.56	2,047.19	52.79	2,329.19	53.04

Police authority	2005-06 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2005-06 Resident population (million)	2006-07 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2006-07 Resident population (million)	2007-08 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2007-08 Resident population (million)
Avon and Somerset	70.31	1.53	74.38	1.54	80.39	1.55
Bedfordshire	22.10	0.58	23.38	0.59	24.75	0.59
Cambridgeshire	34.60	0.75	36.73	0.75	39.40	0.76
Cheshire	37.02	0.99	39.43	1.00	42.56	1.00
Cleveland	23.83	0.55	25.14	0.55	26.50	0.55
Cumbria	26.79	0.50	28.31	0.49	29.89	0.49
Derbyshire	40.90	0.98	43.12	0.99	45.63	0.99
Devon and Cornwall	70.09	1.63	74.18	1.64	78.64	1.65
Dorset	40.54	0.70	42.84	0.71	45.35	0.71
Durham	17.38	0.60	18.38	0.59	25.11	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	28.04	0.51	29.86	0.51	31.80	0.51
Essex	64.76	1.65	69.09	1.65	73.23	1.66
Gloucestershire	34.63	0.58	36.69	0.58	38.92	0.58
Greater Manchester	81.09	2.55	85.79	2.54	90.79	2.55
Gwent	28.51	0.56	30.11	0.56	32.00	0.56
Hampshire	75.00	1.81	79.28	1.82	84.04	1.83
Hertfordshire	50.33	1.05	53.43	1.06	56.62	1.06
Humberside	37.80	0.89	39.92	0.89	42.23	0.89
Kent	66.95	1.62	70.89	1.63	75.16	1.65

Police authority	2005-06 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2005-06 Resident population (million)	2006-07 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2006-07 Resident population (million)	2007-08 Council tax requirement (£ million)	2007-08 Resident population (million)
Lancashire	49.45	1.44	52.28	1.44	58.56	1.44
Leicestershire	38.19	0.95	40.46	0.95	42.95	0.96
Lincolnshire	26.24	0.68	27.96	0.69	29.71	0.70
Merseyside	48.90	1.37	51.48	1.36	54.15	1.36
Metropolitan	560.49	7.51	607.42	7.51	648.96	7.56
Norfolk	41.26	0.82	44.02	0.83	47.44	0.84
North Wales	42.43	0.68	45.02	0.68	48.49	0.68
North Yorkshire	33.70	0.77	35.95	0.77	38.23	0.77
Northamptonshire	29.59	0.65	30.46	0.66	31.90	0.66
Northumbria	50.56	1.41	52.17	1.39	54.18	1.39
Nottinghamshire	40.38	1.04	42.59	1.04	45.00	1.04
South Wales	52.90	1.22	56.54	1.23	59.93	1.23
South Yorkshire	40.05	1.29	42.30	1.28	44.71	1.28
Staffordshire	50.34	1.05	53.36	1.05	56.40	1.05
Suffolk	30.23	0.69	31.98	0.69	34.08	0.70
Surrey	73.81	1.08	78.66	1.08	83.21	1.08
Sussex	67.11	1.52	70.99	1.53	75.64	1.54
Thames Valley	104.19	2.14	110.77	2.14	117.82	2.15
Warwickshire	25.51	0.53	27.02	0.53	28.59	0.53
West Mercia	60.72	1.19	64.29	1.19	67.95	1.19
West Midlands	64.57	2.59	68.00	2.59	71.58	2.59
West Yorkshire	68.96	2.12	73.22	2.12	77.82	2.13
Wiltshire	29.63	0.63	31.61	0.64	33.64	0.64
England and Wales Total	2,479.85	53.38	2,639.50	53.45	2,813.97	53.68

Note:
Population figures sourced by DCLG from ONS (2006/07 and 2007/08 figures are projected)
Source:
DCLG - from English Police Authorities/WAG - from Welsh Police Authorities

Police: Football

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she has on the amount spent by each football league club in England on policing of football grounds in each of the last five years for which figures are available, and what information she has on the average amount spent by each club per game for policing in each of those years. [199326]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collated centrally.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many football supporters were arrested or detained by police at the ground of each *(a)* Premier League, *(b)* Championship and *(c)* Nationwide league club in each of the last three years. [199327]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office gathers and publishes annually comprehensive statistics on football-related arrests and football banning orders. Tables detail the number of arrests by club supported, by competition and by the type of offence. Full details for the last three football seasons can be found on the Home Office website at the following page:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/reducing-crime/football-disorder/.

Police: ICT

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in the integration of police IT systems. [198572]

Mr. McNulty: The Police Service has established policy and standards which enable integration, notably the Management of Police Information, a statutory code of practice introduced in 2005 to ensure that all police operational information is managed in a consistent way. The Association of Chief Police Officers Information Systems Strategy for the Police Service, which was adopted in 2006, sets out the standards used to specify, acquire and operate nationally-compatible Police information systems.

Police Information Technology (IT) systems are integrated with Criminal Justice partners; the Criminal Justice System Exchange provides IT services to enable common case information to be shared. Additionally, common solutions integrate the data from police forces to provide national information resources. Last year saw the completion of the National Firearms Licensing Management System and ViSOR, a United Kingdom-wide system used to store and share information and intelligence on those individuals who have been identified as posing a risk of serious harm to the public.

The IMPACT Nominal Index, operational since 2005, allows police officers to establish whether any forces in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland hold information about a person of interest. The next phase of IMPACT, the Police National Database, is now in procurement and will provide a single access point for searching across all of the forces' main operational information systems.

Police forces are implementing information systems where master filing eliminates data redundancy in incident recording, investigations, case preparation and intelligence:

each item of data, such as a suspect's name, is recorded in the system only once. Collaborations on regional crime, such as East Midlands Special Operations Unit, are using the secure Police National Network (PNN3), to which all forces connect, to give officers access to intelligence sources in each of the participating forces.

In his Review of Policing, Sir Ronnie Flanagan identifies further areas for the development of common approaches to operational processes and procurement which will set new challenges for the management of information systems across the Police Service. At the time of publication of the Review, my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, commissioned the National Policing Improvement Agency to carry out a review of police IT and report to the National Policing Board (NPB) on 6 May. The report will form the basis for our future strategy for the more effective delivery of policing, supported by excellent IT systems.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civilian staff have been employed in England and Wales, broken down by police force area in each year since 1997; and how many of these civilians have been employed in a post formerly occupied by a uniformed officer. [176057]

Mr. McNulty: Figures for number of police staff (formerly known as civilians) as at 31 March by police force area have been published each year since 1998 in the Home Office Statistical Bulletins "Police Service Strength, England and Wales". They are accessible online at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html

The following tables contain, for each bulletin from 1998 to 2007, references to the table and page numbers containing these data, together with the actual figures for 1997.

The Home Office does not collect figures on the number of police staff employed in posts formerly occupied by police officers.

Table A: Actual data, 1997, number of police staff in England and Wales by police force area, 1997 to 2007

	Police staff (FTE)[1]
Avon and Somerset	1,438
Bedfordshire	484
Cambridgeshire	607
Cheshire	735
Cleveland	609
Cumbria	451
Derbyshire	723
Devon and Cornwall	1,159
Dorset	615
Durham	583
Essex	1,199
Gloucestershire	435
Greater Manchester	2,612
Hampshire	1,316
Hertfordshire	818
Humberside	718
Kent	1,384
Lancashire	1,126
Leicestershire	755
Lincolnshire	521
City of London	347
Merseyside	1,343
Metropolitan Police	13,493
Norfolk	603
Northamptonshire	554
Northumbria	1,365
North Yorkshire	519
Nottinghamshire	1,003
South Yorkshire	1,291
Staffordshire	763
Suffolk	522
Surrey	727
Sussex	1,149
Thames Valley	1,825
Warwickshire	376
West Mercia	942
West Midlands	2,739
West Yorkshire	2,234
Wiltshire	475
Dyfed-Powys	322
Gwent	452
North Wales	476
South Wales	1,206
England and Wales	53,011

[1] Number of full-time equivalent staff, rounded to the nearest whole number.

Table B: References to published data sources, 1998 to 2007

Edition of Home Office Statistical Bulletin, "Police Service Strength England and Wales"	*Table number*	*Page number*[1]
31 March 1998	6	11
31 March 1999	6	12
31 March 2000	6	13
31 March 2001	6	13
31 March 2002	6	13
31 March 2003	8	19
31 March 2004	8	18
31 March 2005	8a	19
31 March 2006	10a	21
31 March 2007	10a	22

[1] This is the page number of bulletin, which may differ slightly from the download file page number.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether police will be taken away from their normal duties to police the procession of the Olympic Torch through London on 6 April; [197369]

(2) what estimate she has made of the likely cost of policing the procession of the Olympic Torch through London on 6 April; [197370]

(3) what steps are being taken to allow peaceful protests during the procession of the Olympic Torch through London on 6 April. [197374]

Mr. McNulty: The role of the police in policing processions and demonstrations is to preserve the peace, to uphold the law, facilitate lawful protest and to prevent the commission of offences. Police tactics and decisions to achieve these objectives are a matter for the independent operational judgement of chief officers of police.

The Metropolitan Police Service had an appropriate operational plan in place to police the Olympic torch relay. The Metropolitan Police anticipated that some officers would be abstracted from their core roles. The costs of the operation will not be finalised until after the event. These costs will be reported to the Metropolitan Police Authority in line with any other large-scale policing operation.

Police: Parish Councils

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are funded *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part by parish councils. [198576]

Mr. McNulty: Police officers are funded by a combination of Government grant and council tax. We do not collect data on how many police officer posts are funded by parish councils or any other local authority.

Police: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost of employing a fully-trained *(a)* police constable and *(b)* police community support officer was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [198489]

Mr. McNulty: It has been estimated that the average pay and pay related cost of employing a full time police officer (of rank sergeant or below) in 2006-07 was approximately £45,830, and the average pay and pay related cost of employing a full time police community support officer in 2006-07 was approximately £26,426.

The cost of training and non-pay related costs such as premises, supplies and transport are not included in this estimate.

Police: Photography

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* press photographers taking photographs of police officers in public places. [197887]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* There is no Home Office policy on members of the public or press photographers taking photographs of police officers in public places.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many roadside checks of *(a)* speed, *(b)* use of seat belts and child restraints, *(c)* vehicle safety and roadworthiness and *(d)* influence of alcohol or drugs were carried out by each police force during each of the last 12 months. [198479]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested on roadside checks is not collected centrally. The conducting of roadside checks to deal with traffic offences is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police.

Police: Rural Areas

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the use of mobile police units in policing rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [198593]

Mr. McNulty: The use of mobile police units is a matter for each police authority and the chief officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Sick Leave

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days sickness after an assault were taken by police officers in each police force in England and Wales in each year since 1997; and what the *(a)* average number of days lost per police officer following an assault and *(b)* cost was to each force in each of those years. [195614]

Mr. McNulty: The data provided here are a supplementary series collected on behalf and released with the approval of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). These data are normally used for inspection purposes only.

It is therefore important to note that these provisional data have not undergone the usual data quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

The requested data have been collected since 2002-03 and are given in the following table.

(a); (b) The requested information are not collected centrally within the police personnel statistics series.

Number of police officer working days lost due to assaults[1] from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	687	795	464	n/a	21
Bedfordshire	213	387	112	184	178
Cambridgeshire	65	220	194	284	62
Cheshire	431	100	755	575	115
Cleveland	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cumbria	11	11	46	150	n/a
Derbyshire	590	906	262	351	236
Devon and Cornwall	655	324	136	990	334
Dorset	81	73	n/a	n/a	n/a
Durham	241	169	101	28	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	n/a	n/a	274	93	97
Essex	478	294	305	301	248
Gloucestershire	115	244	182	199	165
Greater Manchester	n/a	n/a	1,702	1,127	94
Gwent	175	304	426	417	n/a
Hampshire	919	733	278	302	252
Hertfordshire	433	328	134	85	186
Humberside	385	390	133	156	n/a
Kent	433	638	412	437	748
Lancashire	2,484	983	1,330	1,095	603
Leicestershire	n/a	n/a	n/a	193	274
Lincolnshire	201	n/a	95	88	211

Number of police officer working days lost due to assaults[1] from 2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
London, City of	48	98	44	43	13
Merseyside	267	143	195	184	n/a
Metropolitan Police	n/a	5,043	3,401	18,577	7,647
Norfolk	3	84	272	41	67
Northamptonshire	54	4	20	4	29
Northumbria	578	664	368	290	905
North Wales	n/a	n/a	169	158	323
North Yorkshire	n/a	n/a	102	n/a	137
Nottinghamshire	228	n/a	303	145	n/a
South Wales	576	637	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Yorkshire	n/a	249	183	160	104
Staffordshire	435	154	446	285	299
Suffolk	277	67	26	5	213
Surrey	469	525	98	32	20
Sussex	342	504	544	334	109
Thames Valley	48	312	159	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	30	39	8	63	715
West Mercia	251	290	592	467	446
West Midlands	2,318	n/a	1,502	1,313	1,419
West Yorkshire	1,296	2,025	1,383	974	725
Wiltshire	37	18	152	37	n/a

[1] Provisional data taken from a supplementary series collected on behalf of HMIC and used for inspection purposes only. Data has not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.
n/a - data not available. Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rates of sick leave were reported in each police force in each year since 1997. [198580]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 773W.

Police: Vacancies

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer vacancies of all ranks there were in *(a)* the Metropolitan police force and *(b)* all other constabularies in each year since 1997. [198581]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 615-16W.

Police: Vetting

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by each police force was to respond to inquiries from the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) as part of routine CRB checks in the last year for which figures are available. [198504]

Meg Hillier: I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 386W.

Pornography: Internet

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pornographic images of children were removed from the internet following investigations by *(a)* police and *(b)* her Department's agencies in each year since 2000. [198470]

Mr. Coaker: There are no figures held by the Home Office for either categories mentioned.

Websites containing child abuse images are usually removed from the internet by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).

The IWF, a self-regulatory organisation funded by the internet industry and the EU operates the UK's 'notice and take-down' service for child sexual abuse content on the internet. They do not count individual images that are removed, rather they focus their efforts on removing web pages or websites which contain or provide access to one, tens, hundreds or possibly thousands of individual child sexual abuse images. On the rare occasion content depicting child sexual abuse is traced to servers in the UK, a takedown request is issued by the IWF and the content is removed, usually within a matter of hours.

This partnership approach has proved very successful and UK hosted child sexual abuse content known to the IWF has been less than 1 per cent. since 2003, down from 18 per cent. in 1997. In addition, the IWF provides a list of newsgroups which feature, advertise or advocate child sexual abuse to all UK service providers who voluntarily block large numbers which, in turn, denies access to thousands of such images. Search providers are provided with a list of keywords so that they can manage the quality of their returns and remove potentially illegal websites known to the IWF.

This work is about removing content, complicating access, protecting internet users from inadvertent exposure and making the operations of those behind the websites more difficult. Details of each website confirmed to contain child sexual abuse is also passed to UK law enforcement for appropriate investigation. As over 99 per cent. of online child sexual abuse content is now hosted abroad, the IWF works in partnership with the relevant hotline and other authorities around the world, passing on intelligence relating to content in that country. It also provides a dynamic list of child sexual abuse URLs hosted abroad to the online industry to enable them to protect users by blocking inadvertent access to such content.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially-motivated crimes were committed in each police force area in each of the last five years. [198464]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table.

Total racially-aggravated offences[1] recorded by police force area in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2006-07

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Avon and Somerset	900	1,256	1,431	1,326	1,337
Bedfordshire	169	207	266	339	308
Cambridgeshire	410	384	398	322	351
Cheshire	376	400	438	569	557
Cleveland	145	251	288	528	464
Cumbria	69	116	186	232	219
Derbyshire	560	600	474	494	492
Devon and Cornwall	496	588	694	818	801
Dorset	177	166	254	214	291
Durham	371	138	154	258	304
Dyfed-Powys	96	126	154	118	167
Essex	558	760	807	796	922
Gloucestershire	210	167	215	283	326
Greater Manchester	2,353	2,864	3,203	3,398	3,677
Gwent	193	240	233	289	269
Hampshire	317	415	570	1,120	1,326
Hertfordshire	343	730	859	985	954
Humberside	302	438	488	417	655
Kent	547	480	609	798	935
Lancashire	860	1,085	1,183	1,363	1,238
Leicestershire	809	809	980	1,007	1,055
Lincolnshire	136	179	169	200	143
London, City of	71	60	48	75	83
Merseyside	734	943	1,061	1,420	1,423
Metropolitan police	9,853	9,468	9,444	8,769	8,226
Norfolk	203	268	333	343	340
Northamptonshire	303	413	389	455	422
Northumbria	934	974	886	834	924
North Wales	288	278	331	396	356
North Yorkshire	80	54	133	205	234
Nottinghamshire	635	619	551	566	715
South Wales	737	794	735	713	555
South Yorkshire	242	259	471	1,032	1,037
Staffordshire	466	600	646	805	889
Suffolk	246	297	244	240	329
Surrey	407	482	510	845	588
Sussex	443	552	575	710	991
Thames Valley	948	1,104	1,154	1,128	1,483
Warwickshire	159	187	222	293	375
West Mercia	527	674	609	527	499
West Midlands	2,422	2,479	2,413	3,071	3,338
West Yorkshire	707	1,874	2,140	2,898	2,691
Wiltshire	232	244	220	260	253
British Transport police	402	652	946	1,088	1,188
England and Wales total	31,436	35,674	38,114	42,547	43,730

[1] There are currently seven racially-aggravated offence classifications within the Recorded Crime series. They are as follows: less serious wounding, harassment, assault without injury, criminal damage to a dwelling, criminal damage to a building other that a dwelling, criminal damage to a vehicle, and other criminal damage.

Security: Licensing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Security Industry Authority has taken to accelerate the licence application process. [196414]

Mr. Coaker: Steps taken by the SIA to speed up the licence application process include the following:

A number of improvements have been made to simplify and streamline the application process, including:

the introduction of a simplified application form and application system;

an online request system for application forms and distribution of forms to training providers and security companies;

facility for licence application to be made for more than one licensable sector on the same form;

reduced document requirements for some applicants renewing their licences;

improvements to the processing of applications; and

improvements to the online application tracker to provide applicants with more information on the progress of their applications.

Further steps planned:

online application facility;

Direct Debit payment facility for companies (who may apply on behalf of individual employees); and

online UK passport checks.

Steps have also been taken to deal with the immediate workload, including:

At the SIA's Managed Service Provider (MSP) facility:

deployment by the MSP of additional staff from other areas, together with additional specialist equipment;

employment of additional staff and management; and

overtime working at weekends and evenings, and double shifts;

SIA HQ staff have:

prioritised work on older licence applications which suffered delays due to changes to the SIA's processing system in November and December 2007; and

been deployed at the SIA's call centre for temporary periods.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licence applications pending a decision by the Security Industry Authority are over nine weeks old. [196417]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not currently available. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Security: Litter Bins

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice she has issued on the security implications of the provision of litter bins at *(a)* railway stations and *(b)* other public places. [198473]

Mr. McNulty: As part of their work, the Government's Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) and the police National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) provide advice on appropriate protective security measures for crowded places. This includes advice on minimising the risk from devices placed in litter bins. CPNI's website:

www.cpni.gov.uk

provides advice on a range of basic good security measures, which includes giving consideration to the location, cleaning regime and removal of bins, as well as the use of clear plastic bags.

Further advice is available on the NaCTSO website: www.nactso.gov.uk

CPNI, in conjunction with the Home Office Scientific and Development Branch (HOSDB), has also developed a standard against which the explosion resistance of litter and recycling bins can be tested by manufacturers.

The railway industry is subject to requirements and guidance on the provision of litter bins at railway stations regulated by the Department for Transport. Bins installed are subject to specific security control measures, including their design, location and security management. The Department for Transport has also provided guidance to local authorities on how they can help with railway security when installing street furniture, such as litter bins, in the immediate vicinity of stations.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual offences prevention orders have been issued in respect of those convicted of sexual offences overseas in the last three years. [197427]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of Sexual Offence Prevention Orders issued to those convicted of sexual offences overseas are not collected centrally.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of a sexual offence overseas were included on the Sex Offenders Register at the latest date for which figures are available. [197430]

Mr. Coaker: Data on the number of offenders subject to the notification requirements who were convicted overseas are not collected centrally. Data on the number of notification orders granted by magistrates courts are collated by the Ministry of Justice from MAPPA annual reports. Notification orders are applied for by the police and granted by magistrates courts. They require sexual offenders convicted overseas of an offence equivalent to a relevant offence in the UK to become subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Notification orders were introduced by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2004. Figures for the number of notification orders granted are provided in the following table.

	Number of notification orders granted
2004-05	22
2005-06	37
2006-07	62

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences were recorded under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each year since its entry into force, broken down by offence; and what percentage of these offences (*a*) resulted in court proceedings against suspected perpetrators, (*b*) led to a conviction and (*c*) resulted in a sanction detection. [196017]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available in the form requested.

Table 1 gives the number of offences recorded for the offence classifications which came into force with the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. It also gives the number of offences detected by means of a sanction detection. Table 2 shows the numbers of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for the years 2004 to 2006, and is taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Figures for crimes and sanction detections in 2004-05 and those proceeded against and found guilty in 2004 are not for complete 12 month periods, as the Sexual Offence Act 2003 was enacted in May 2004.

The figures given in Table 2 relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and counts offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

Table 1 Offences recorded under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and detected by means of a sanction detection

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Offence	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	1,316	297	1,408	370	1,450	397
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	1,227	291	1,394	456	1,237	441
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	8,192	1,578	8,725	1,843	8,228	1,744
Rape of a female child under 16	3,014	868	3,153	932	2,853	805
Rape of a female child under 13	970	276	1,388	496	1,524	553
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	444	46	438	70	413	58

Table 1 Offences recorded under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and detected by means of a sanction detection

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Offence	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*	*Number of offences*	*Number of sanction detections*
Rape of a male child under 16	322	99	292	116	261	83
Rape of a male child under 13	297	94	364	129	458	148
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	15,087	2,967	17,158	4,413	16,887	4,355
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	4,391	1,151	4,647	1,632	4,249	1,494
Sexual activity involving child under 13	1,510	405	1,950	629	1,937	636
Sexual activity involving child under 16	2,546	696	3,283	1,124	3,210	1,058
Causing sexual activity without consent [1]	239	57	744	596	224	58
Incest or familial sexual offences	713	178	966	330	1,344	406
Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder	104	11	139	29	163	43
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	99	28	124	84	101	51
Trafficking for sexual exploitation	21	8	33	23	43	22
Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature	682	562	463	385	361	265
Sexual grooming	186	49	237	101	322	125
Other miscellaneous sexual offences	11,593	2,217	11,363	2,769	10,212	2,652

[1] The increase in 2005-06 was accounted for by a large number of offences that were dealt with by the Norfolk Constabulary.

Table 2 Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, England and Wales 2004-06[1] [2] [3]

	2004		2005		2006	
Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	46	7	129	52	136	64
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	27	9	119	65	118	63
Rape of a female aged 16 and over	1,425	372	1,571	385	1,406	426
Rape of a female child under 16	1,030	316	880	282	749	271
Rape of a female child under 13	61	5	181	60	217	90
Rape of a male aged 16 and over	56	12	54	16	61	20
Rape of a male child under 16	94	35	83	38	66	21
Rape of a male child under 13	23	2	56	14	68	34
Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over	699	176	2,200	944	2,356	1,123
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	162	41	495	212	531	315
Sexual activity involving child under 13	97	30	304	123	293	181
Sexual activity involving child under 16	182	74	676	456	697	644
Causing sexual activity without consent	27	4	61	13	38	16
Incest or familial sexual offences	32	11	109	58	116	82
Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder	21	1	34	18	29	15
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	18	2	35	8	29	17
Trafficking for sexual exploitation	5	0	26	12	40	15
Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature	472	401	152	132	71	66
Sexual grooming	9	3	28	25	43	36
Other miscellaneous sexual offences	774	433	1,078	656	1,108	725

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The found guilty column can often exceed the number proceeded against when a conviction takes place in a different month to when the proceeding was originally bought, or for a different offence.

Speed Limits: Fines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the revenue from speeding fines was in each of the last seven years, broken down by police area. [198476]

Mr. Coaker: Information on revenue from speeding fines is not collected centrally.

Stop and Search

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has given to police officers on selecting people to be stopped and searched under the Terrorism Act 2000. [195694]

Mr. McNulty: In 2002-03, the Central Police Training and Development Authority (later subsumed into the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)), developed a training package for all police forces on stop-and-search powers in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 code of practice, itself updated in 2003. NPIA has continued to upgrade the programme and supporting materials in light of lessons learnt. Among the areas covered in the training package are the powers to stop and search under the Terrorism Act 2000.

In 2006, NPIA and the Association of Chief Police Officers produced "Practice Advice on Stop and Search", which incorporates advice on stop-and-search procedures, as well as a bespoke piece of guidance issued in September 2007 on section 44 anti-terrorism stops and searches.

Terrorism

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those charged with terrorist offences since September 2001 are known to have previously sought asylum. [197975]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* BIA do not hold information in the format requested. Combined statistics on the numbers charged with terrorist offences who have previously claimed asylum are not routinely kept by either BIA or the Metropolitan police.

The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost by examining individual case records.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons arrested on suspicion of terrorist offences since May 2005 have been held in pre-charge detention longer than *(a)* 14 days, *(b)* 21 days and *(c)* 26 days. [198548]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended from 14 days to 28 days, with effect from 25 July 2006. To date, 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days pre-charge. The figures are broken down in the following table.

Pre-charge detention table

Period of detention	*Number of persons held*	*Charged*	*Released w/o charge*
14-15 days	1	1	
18-19 days	1	1	
19-20 days	3	3	
27-28 days	6	3	3

Notes:
1. The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 14 days with effect from 20 January 2004.
2. 28 days came into force 25 July 2006. The table cover the figures to date.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many potential prosecutions of terrorist suspects have been unable to proceed because of the expiry of the 28 day limit on detaining suspects without charge since the entry into force of that limit. [198549]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* There has been no case to date where we have been unable to prosecute a terrorist suspect because of the 28 day pre-charge detention limit.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on pre-charge detention; what discussions she has had with hon. Members on the matter in each of the last six months; and if she will make a statement. [198749]

Mr. McNulty: We undertook an extensive five month public consultation on the Counter-Terrorism Bill, including our proposal on pre-charge detention, during which we met representatives from the police, judiciary, civil liberties organisations and community groups and received a number of written representations. The results of the consultation were published on 6 December 2007 and copies are available in the Library. Since the end of the consultation, we have continued to discuss the Counter-Terrorism Bill with interested parties. The Department has also been sent briefing material from a number of organisations, including Liberty, Justice, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Law Society of Scotland.

A number of discussions have taken place with hon. Members on the Counter-Terrorism Bill, including with Members of the Opposition parties.

Violent and Sex Offender Register: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2-4WS, on tackling violence, how she will ensure that members of the public to whom child sex offenders' convictions are disclosed do not pass that information on to others; whether such people will be allowed to pass the information on to *(a)* other family members and *(b)* other categories of people; what (i) documentary and (ii) other evidence people will be required to provide to be entitled to receive information on convictions; when the scheme will come into effect; what restrictions there will be on disclosure of information; what guidance she will provide to police on disclosure of information; and what convictions will be disclosable. [196643]

Mr. Coaker: The Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders, referred to in the ministerial statement, included two actions relating to the disclosure of information on child sex offenders' convictions to the public. Implementation of Action 3 of the review will introduce a legal duty on MAPPA responsible authorities to consider the disclosure of information about convicted child sex offenders to members of the public. Under Action 4 a separate process will be piloted whereby members of the public will be able to register their child protection interest in a named individual and receive information on any convictions for child sex offences that individual may have, where appropriate.

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill will amend the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to impose a duty on MAPPA responsible authorities to consider disclosure of a child sex offender's convictions to members of the public. The convictions that the MAPPA authorities must consider disclosing are set out at schedule 24 to the Bill. However, under their common law powers, the police are able to disclose details of other convictions in appropriate circumstances (see R *v.* Chief Constable of North Wales ex parte Thorpe (1998) 3 All ER 310). The extent of the information disclosed will be decided on a case by case basis.

The MAPPA authorities will decide who, if anyone, should be provided with the information, and will be able to impose conditions, in order to prevent further dissemination of the information. Under the Bill, the MAPPA authorities will have discretion as to the extent of the conditions that they impose. When imposing such conditions, the MAPPA authorities will need to be mindful of their obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 and what is necessary and proportionate to prevent harm to the child or children concerned.

Existing statutory MAPPA guidance will be updated to take account of the new statutory duty to consider disclosure.

In deciding whether to disclose details of convictions for child sex offences to a member of the public under the pilot scheme, MAPPA meetings will consider the risk of the recipient disclosing this information to others. Before a disclosure is made, the intended recipient will be required to sign a declaration that they will not share this information with others.

Applicants for disclosure under the pilot scheme will be asked to provide documentary proof such as the child's birth certificate to demonstrate their relationship with the child with respect to whom they are declaring a child protection interest.

The Government will ensure that the police are issued with comprehensive guidance on all stages of the pilot process, and are currently working with the four force areas participating in the pilot to develop the disclosure process.

The extent of information disclosed under the pilot process will be considered on a case by cases basis by the MAPPA authorities.

It is intended that the statutory duty will come into force following Royal Assent being given to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill, by means of a Commencement Order. It is intended that the pilots will commence this summer.

Wildlife: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many successful wildlife protection prosecutions were launched in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by police authority area. [198454]

Mr. Coaker: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Deer Act 1991, Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997, and the Conservation of Seals Act 1970, by Police Force Area, in England and Wales for the year 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for certain wildlife protection offences, by Police Force Area in England and Wales for the year 2006[1]

Force	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Avon and Somerset	1	
Bedfordshire	2	2
Cambridgeshire	1	1
Cheshire	2	1
Cleveland		
Cumbria		
Derbyshire		
Devon and Cornwall	14	7
Dorset	2	
Durham	1	1
Essex	7	3
Gloucestershire	1	1
Greater Manchester		
Hampshire	1	
Hertfordshire	3	3
Humberside		
Kent	1	1
Lancashire	1	
Leicestershire	3	
Lincolnshire	5	3
Merseyside	2	2
Metropolitan Police	66	54
Norfolk	5	7
North Yorkshire	9	1
Northamptonshire	3	
Northumbria	6	4
Nottinghamshire	5	1
South Yorkshire	1	
Staffordshire	4	2
Suffolk		
Surrey	1	1
Sussex	2	

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for certain wildlife protection offences, by Police Force Area in England and Wales for the year 2006[1,2]

Force	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Thames Valley	1	1
Warwickshire		
West Mercia	13	9
West Midlands	22	21
West Yorkshire	1	1
Wiltshire		
Dyfed-Powys		
Gwent		
North Wales	4	3
South Wales		
England and Wales	190	130

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following Statutes: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Deer Act 1991; Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulation 1997; Conservation of Seals Act 1970

Source:

Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Written Questions: Government Reponses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question 174965 tabled on 12 December 2007. [196977]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 606W.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer Question *(a)* 162615, *(b)* 162124 and *(c)* 162271, tabled on 6 November 2007. [196978]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member *(a)* on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 756W, and *(b)* and *(c)* on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 73W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer question 182636 on the national DNA database, tabled on 24 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Cardiff Central; and if she will make a statement. [192956]

Meg Hillier: The question was answered on 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1318W.

Young Offenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many pupils permanently excluded from school committed a criminal offence in each police authority area in each of the last 10 years; and what the detection rate was for crimes committed by young offenders who *(a)* were and *(b)* were not permanently excluded from school in each such area in each of those years. [199331]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not collected centrally.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the merits of academies for 11 to 16 year olds only. [198465]

Jim Knight: Our policy is to strongly encourage all academies to offer post-16 places because we recognise the positive impact of such provision on standards and aspirations for 11 to 16-year-olds. However, exceptionally, where the quantity and quality of local post-16 provision is very good we have agreed to the establishment of 11 to 16 academies.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Energy Conservation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidelines he has issued on the use of *(a)* insulation standards and *(b)* microgeneration technologies in (i) new and (ii) refurbished schools buildings under the new Schools Building Programme. [199258]

Jim Knight: All new and refurbished school buildings must comply with the insulation standards laid down in the Approved Document Part L2 in support of the building regulations. We have issued comprehensive guidance on how to apply low and zero carbon technologies, including microgeneration, to our school building programmes on our website:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/carbontargets

Building Schools for the Future Programme: West Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when West Sussex will have access to the Building Schools for the Future funding stream. [198761]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 April 2008]*: Building Schools for the Future aims to renew all secondary school in England where there is need in 15 waves of investment which started in 2005-06. In early 2005, we announced the national programme for Building Schools for the Future, based on the expressions of interest for inclusion in the programme which authorities proposed. Expressions of interest include how authorities group their schools into geographically coherent projects. These projects were prioritised on the average social and educational need of the schools in them. Information on the national programme is available in the Parliamentary libraries. West Sussex proposed three projects, which are prioritised in waves 10 to 15. Later this year, when we have consulted on management of the later waves of the programme, we will invite authorities to revise their expressions of interest if they wish.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to address trends in the number of children going missing while in care. [199410]

Beverley Hughes: In 2002 the Government published 'Children Missing from care and from home—a guide to good practice'. This guidance was issued along with Circular LAC (2002)17 under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, requiring local authorities to comply with it. The guidance sets out how local authorities and their partner agencies are expected to respond when young people go missing from their care placements. It includes information about measures that local authorities should put in place to prevent children from going missing as well as on reporting incidents. One of its requirements is that each local authority must appoint a designated senior manager to be responsible for monitoring "missing from care" incidents and identify any trends and to instigate any action necessary to respond to children's needs ensuring that they are properly safeguarded.

On 26 March we published 'Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care'. This sets out our intention to update and re-issue guidance to the Children Act 1989 and subsequent legislation. As part of this process we will be reviewing our 2002 guidance. This will provide us with the opportunity to consider whether in future we should include more information about how local authorities carry out their responsibilities to monitor any patterns and trends relating to children going missing from their care placements.

Children: Abuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times reasonable chastisement has been used as a defence in court cases involving violence against children in each of the last 10 years. [186807]

Kevin Brennan: This information has not been collected centrally and is therefore not available for each of the last 10 years as requested. However, since July 2007 the Crown Prosecution Service area offices have been notifying the Crown Prosecution Service's Policy Directorate of any cases in which the reasonable punishment defence has been used. To date no such cases have been notified.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of managers of day care settings who were male in (*a*) Basingstoke, (*b*) Hampshire and (*c*) England in each year since 1997. [197431]

Beverley Hughes: Data are not available on the sex of managers of full day care.

The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that the average proportion of male staff working in full day care settings in England was 2 per cent. In total, there were 2,500 male staff working in full day care settings in England.

The average proportion of male staff working in full day care settings in England for each year available is shown in the following table:

Male staff working in full day care settings in England

	Average proportion of male staff per setting (percentage)	Total number of male staff
2001	2	1,900
2003	2	2,000
2005	2	2,500
2006	2	2,500

Data are not available at local authority level.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average number of hours worked per week by (*a*) childcarers in maintained settings, (*b*) childcarers in private, voluntary and independent nurseries and (*c*) childminders in each year since 1997. [199873]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that staff working in full day care in children's centres worked an average (mean) of 34 hours a week in 2006, compared with an average of 17 hours a week for staff in sessional settings. Data for all childcare and early years providers for each year available are shown in the following table.

Average number of hours worked per week by staff in child care and early years provision in maintained schools

	2001	2005	2006
Full day care	35	32	33
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	n/a	34
Sessional	17	18	17
After school clubs	19	n/a	19
Holiday clubs	31.5	n/a	27
Nursery schools	32.5	n/a	32
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	33	n/a	31
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	28	n/a	30

Notes:
1. Children's centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2006; therefore data is not available for previous years.
2. After school and holiday clubs were sampled differently in 2005 and comparable figures for this year are not available.
3. Early years settings in maintained schools were not included in the 2005 survey.

In 2006 full day care staff in privately owned settings worked an average of 35 hours a week, compared with 26 hours for full day care staff in settings under voluntary ownership. 2006 data for all child care providers available are shown in the following table.

Average number of hours worked per week by staff in child care providers, by ownership of setting, 2006

	Private	Voluntary	Local authority	School/college	Other
Full day care	35	26	32	33	35
Full day care in children's centres	35	34	34	34	35
Sessional	17	16	20	25	15
Out of school care	26	20	25	19	27

Note:
Data for other providers are not available by type of ownership.

The 2006 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey estimated that childminders looked after children for an average of 16 hours a week in term time, and for 23 hours a week in school holidays. Data for each year available are shown in the following table.

Average number of home childminders looked after children

	Term time	School holidays
2005	47	25
2006	16	23

Note:
The wording in the childminders survey was changed in 2005, therefore comparable data for previous years is not available.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of (*a*) private, voluntary and independent nurseries and (*b*) childminders received funding from local authorities to deliver the free entitlement in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [199875]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the table.

The table provides information about the number of private, voluntary and independent providers delivering a free early education to three and four-year-olds in England. Data is provided for 2004 to 2007 only because data for 2003 is not available.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Number of private, voluntary and independent providers delivering a free early education to three and four-year-olds: January each year

	2004	2005	2006	2007
England	19,940	20,100	20,800	20,430
North East	450	470	470	460
Darlington	25	25	25	25
Durham	75	75	80	80
Gateshead	45	50	45	45
Hartlepool	10	15	15	10
Middlesbrough	20	25	30	25
Newcastle upon Tyne	75	75	75	75
North Tyneside	25	25	25	30
Northumberland	85	85	85	90
Redcar and Cleveland	15	15	15	10
South Tyneside	10	10	15	15
Stockton-on-Tees	25	30	30	25
Sunderland	30	35	30	30
North West	2,365	2,390	2,480	2,455
Blackburn with Darwen	50	45	50	45
Blackpool	55	55	55	55
Bolton	85	80	90	85
Bury	55	55	65	65
Cheshire	330	335	345	345
Cumbria	165	175	185	185
Halton	55	50	55	50
Knowsley	65	15	15	20
Lancashire	460	465	475	485
Liverpool	125	125	130	130
Manchester	115	115	120	120
Oldham	90	100	95	95
Rochdale	90	90	90	85
Salford	55	65	65	70
Sefton	75	70	75	75
St. Helens	55	55	55	50
Stockport	80	85	90	85
Tameside	50	50	55	50
Trafford	75	80	80	85
Warrington	70	75	70	75
Wigan	100	95	90	85
Wirral	120	125	130	120
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,615	1,625	1,715	1,670
Barnsley	50	55	60	60
Bradford	125	130	135	125
Calderdale	90	90	95	105
Doncaster	55	70	70	70
East Riding of Yorkshire	115	110	130	125
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	55	55	55	60
Kirklees	175	180	190	180
Leeds	175	180	185	180
North East Lincolnshire	50	45	45	40
North Lincolnshire	55	60	60	60
North Yorkshire	305	295	320	305
Rotherham	55	60	55	55
Sheffield	140	140	150	150
Wakefield	60	70	65	60
York	90	90	100	95
East Midlands	1,715	1,770	1,810	1,795
Derby	65	70	70	70
Derbyshire	285	275	285	285
Leicester	105	115	125	120
Leicestershire	340	355	350	350
Lincolnshire	285	300	305	300
Northamptonshire	285	305	320	320
Nottingham	70	75	75	75
Nottinghamshire	245	250	255	255
Rutland	25	25	30	25
West Midlands	1,940	1,940	2,070	2,015
Birmingham	330	335	360	340
Coventry	100	105	105	110
Dudley	85	85	85	80
Herefordshire	105	105	100	100
Sandwell	40	45	45	50
Shropshire	175	170	175	170
Solihull	65	70	70	75
Staffordshire	340	300	375	370
Stoke-on-Trent	60	65	70	65
Telford and Wrekin	60	65	70	60
Walsall	30	30	35	35
Warwickshire	235	240	240	240
Wolverhampton	30	30	40	35
Worcestershire	285	290	295	285
East of England	2,520	2,535	2,590	2,550
Bedfordshire	180	185	185	175
Cambridgeshire	295	305	305	300
Essex	620	640	640	635
Hertfordshire	430	455	460	465
Luton	60	65	60	60
Norfolk	380	340	385	365

Number of private, voluntary and independent providers delivering a free early education to three and four-year-olds: January each year

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Peterborough	95	95	100	95
Southend-on-Sea	80	65	75	70
Suffolk	335	335	335	325
Thurrock	50	50	50	50
London	2,570	2,530	2,705	2,620
Inner London	1,025	960	1,070	1,015
City	5	5	5	5
Camden	90	80	85	85
Hackney	85	90	95	85
Hammersmith and Fulham	65	65	65	65
Haringey	55	70	70	70
Islington	80	75	75	75
Kensington and Chelsea	45	50	45	45
Lambeth	100	75	110	105
Lewisham	100	85	105	95
Newham	55	55	60	55
Southwark	95	100	100	95
Tower Hamlets	55	55	55	50
Wandsworth	130	110	130	125
Westminster	60	50	60	55
Outer London	1,545	1,570	1,635	1,605
Barking and Dagenham	25	30	30	35
Barnet	120	115	120	115
Bexley	60	65	65	65
Brent	80	85	85	85
Bromley	160	150	170	160
Croydon	130	135	140	140
Ealing	95	100	105	100
Enfield	95	100	105	105
Greenwich	60	65	65	65
Harrow	75	80	75	75
Havering	85	90	90	95
Hillingdon	80	70	70	75
Hounslow	65	70	70	70
Kingston upon Thames	45	50	50	50
Merton	55	60	65	60
Redbridge	75	80	80	80
Richmond upon Thames	100	100	105	100
Sutton	70	70	70	65
Waltham Forest	70	70	75	70
South East	4,065	4,160	4,190	4,160
Bracknell Forest	50	50	50	50
Brighton and Hove	95	105	110	115
Buckinghamshire	260	270	270	270
East Sussex	270	270	260	255
Hampshire	660	660	655	655
Isle of Wight	60	60	60	60
Kent	725	710	710	730
Medway	125	130	125	115
Milton Keynes	110	110	110	110
Oxfordshire	330	340	345	335
Portsmouth	85	85	90	90
Reading	50	55	55	55
Slough	20	20	20	20
Southampton	80	95	90	90
Surrey	545	560	565	555
West Berkshire	75	80	80	80
West Sussex	390	425	440	430
Windsor and Maidenhead	70	70	75	75
Wokingham	70	70	70	70
South West	2,700	2,680	2,765	2,700
Bath and North East Somerset	90	85	85	85
Bournemouth	75	80	85	85
Bristol, City of	115	135	135	130
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	275	275	295	285
Devon	405	395	395	400
Dorset	210	215	215	210
Gloucestershire	380	380	385	365
North Somerset	95	100	100	100
Plymouth	115	110	110	110
Poole	65	50	55	55
Somerset	320	300	340	320
South Gloucestershire	140	130	140	140
Swindon	75	80	80	80
Torbay	45	45	40	40
Wiltshire	290	295	295	290

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Early Years Census

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department gives local authorities to promote the childcare sustainability grant to childcare providers. [199876]

Beverley Hughes: The Department's statutory guidance, "Securing Sufficient Childcare", which was distributed to local authorities in summer 2007, contains examples of circumstances in which they should consider providing financial support from the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant for childcare providers. While it is for local authorities to decide their own priorities for funding providers, and how they publicise the availability of funding, the guidance makes clear the need to demonstrate "transparency and fairness".

Local authorities are told that they

"shou'd ensure that appropriate criteria are in place for deciding which providers should receive support, and that funding systems treat providers in all sectors of the market equitably".

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, how much his Department allocates to each local authority for the childcare sustainability grant; and what indicators are used to assess how much each local authority should receive in respect of the grant. [199897]

Beverley Hughes: In the 2006-08 period, funding for this activity was included as part of Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant which covered not only child care sustainability but support for early years outcomes, quality and inclusion. A number of different factors were used to determine the allocations, including numbers of children, deprivation measures, Ofsted registered stock figures, and rurality measures. In addition, for the 2008-11 period, an inflationary uplift was added to this

wider allocation block above and the resulting funding was split equally between child care sufficiency and access and early years outcomes, quality and inclusion. These funding streams sit within the wider revenue block of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant and the overall allocations were smoothed to ensure that each authority received a minimum increase of 5 per cent.

The 2008-09 allocations, by authority, are shown in the following table.

Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant: Childcare Sufficiency and Access Funding, 2008-09

	£
Barking and Dagenham	406,977
Barnet	791,906
Barnsley	540,409
Bath and North East Somerset	371,612
Bedfordshire	910,435
Bexley	503,471
Birmingham	2,819,672
Blackburn with Darwen	766,870
Blackpool	349,044
Bolton	702,894
Bournemouth	391,687
Bracknell Forest	256,045
Bradford	1,282,566
Brent	597,230
Brighton and Hove	567,103
Bristol	976,036
Bromley	740,285
Buckinghamshire	1,254,645
Bury	531,676
Calderdale	551,502
Cambridgeshire	1,467,051
Camden	500,316
Cheshire	1,579,483
City of London	89,607
Cornwall	1,061,627
Coventry	810,119
Croydon	840,075
Cumbria	973,830
Darlington	280,965
Derby	602,785
Derbyshire	1,574,419
Devon	1,466,131
Doncaster	691,640
Dorset	720,426
Dudley	655,626
Durham	1,131,249
Ealing	741,495
East Riding of Yorkshire	682,454
East Sussex	1,062,222
Enfield	602,110
Essex	2,916,612
Gateshead	505,540
Gloucestershire	1,349,268
Greenwich	638,101
Hackney	663,740
Halton	585,708
Hammersmith and Fulham	383,577
Hampshire	2,924,575
Haringey	561,050
Harrow	444,783
Hartlepool	300,336
Havering	484,970
Herefordshire	391,717
Hertfordshire	2,687,393
Hillingdon	578,208
Hounslow	513,755
Isle of Wight	301,393
Isles of Scilly	67,485
Islington	579,570
Kensington and Chelsea	386,679
Kent	3,079,754
Kingston upon Hull	593,823
Kingston upon Thames	362,413
Kirklees	1,041,375
Knowsley	446,859
Lambeth	748,965
Lancashire	2,748,524
Leeds	1,716,504
Leicester City	809,577
Leicestershire	1,367,999
Lewisham	710,780
Lincolnshire	1,370,260
Liverpool	1,124,985
Luton	517,813
Manchester	1,120,447
Medway	567,324
Merton	441,959
Middlesbrough	557,832
Milton Keynes	597,734
NE Lincolnshire	425,160
Newcastle upon Tyne	669,703
Newham	854,138
Norfolk	1,581,566
North Lincolnshire	351,449
North Somerset	459,330
North Tyneside	445,466
North Yorkshire	1,302,625
Northamptonshire	1,584,537
Northumberland	704,945
Nottingham City	670,369
Nottinghamshire	1,676,706
Oldham	616,635
Oxfordshire	1,522,554
Peterborough	516,738
Plymouth	600,584
Poole	296,946
Portsmouth	499,713
Reading	372,658
Redbridge	537,595
Redcar and Cleveland	509,609
Richmond upon Thames	441,101
Rochdale	577,312
Rotherham	577,665
Rutland	138,736
Salford	555,569
Sandwell	665,165
Sefton	610,600
Sheffield	1,188,059
Shropshire	676,628
Slough	324,548
Solihull	562,854
Somerset	1,162,040
South Gloucestershire	636,318
South Tyneside	570,524
Southampton	515,286
Southend	399,405

Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant: Childcare Sufficiency and Access Funding, 2008-09

	£
Southwark	860,074
St Helens	493,513
Staffordshire	1,967,330
Stockport	624,846
Stockton-on-Tees	467,888
Stoke on Trent	668,842
Suffolk	1,547,758
Sunderland	917,188
Surrey	2,518,131
Sutton	445,871
Swindon	497,421
Tameside	550,028
Telford and the Wrekin	446,962
Thurrock	363,322
Torbay	336,661
Tower Hamlets	752,138
Trafford	507,372
Wakefield	703,744
Walsall	610,569
Waltham Forest	577,321
Wandsworth	615,646
Warrington	554,554
Warwickshire	1,210,685
West Berkshire	398,313
West Sussex	1,689,972
Westminster	406,986
Wigan	684,213
Wiltshire	1,079,461
Windsor and Maidenhead	366,393
Wirral	793,175
Wokingham	362,337
Wolverhampton	598,033
Worcestershire	1,325,067
York	349,363

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria providers must fulfil to gain access to funding from the local authority child care sustainability grant; and how much from the grant has been allocated to *(a)* maintained child care settings and *(b)* private, voluntary and independent child care providers in each local authority since its inception. [199898]

Beverley Hughes: The Memorandum of Grant which sets out the funding and payment arrangements for the Sure Start, early years and child care grant makes it clear to local authorities that a key objective of the grant is to support child care sufficiency and access, and contains brief guidance on activities that the funding is intended to help.

Local authorities have considerable discretion in choosing which child care providers to help in the light of local circumstances, and the "Securing Sufficient Childcare" statutory guidance contains some specific examples of situations in which they should consider making financial support available to providers.

The Department does not collect information on the allocations of funding from local authorities to individual child care providers within their areas.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average level of funding given by each local authority to *(a)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries, *(b)* maintained childcare settings and *(c)* childminders in order to provide 2.5 hours of childcare a day was in each of the last five years. [200067]

Beverley Hughes: Funding for nursery education provision is provided for local authorities through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Local authorities—in consultation with their School Forums—are responsible for determining the level of funding for early years providers in all sectors delivering the free early education entitlement.

The Department published local authorities' estimates of the average per pupil amount allocated by local authorities to maintained providers and to private, voluntary and independent sector providers for delivery of the free entitlement early years provision in August 2007. The Free Entitlement to Early Years Provision Table for 2007-08 can be found on the DCSF website at

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.default&ID=87

Children: Injuries

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to establish inter-agency co-operation on a common system for child injury *(a)* surveillance and *(b)* data capture and storage; and if he will make a statement. [193921]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has worked across Government to co-ordinate the cross-Government Staying Safe Action Plan which was published on 5 February 2008. The report can be downloaded from www.ecm.gov.uk/stayingsafe and a copy is available in the House Library. Delivery of the action plan will be underpinned by the new Public Service Agreement to improve children and young people's safety, which includes an indicator measuring emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children aged up to 18 years. The same indicator is included in the new National Indicator Set for Local Government, so data will also be collected at local level. This indicator will help us to assess the extent of accidental injuries to children and young people. In the Staying Safe: Action Plan, we set out new a commitment to carry out a priority review of local area accident prevention, which will make a number of recommendations about how accident prevention work might be improved. I will ensure that both other Departments and external stakeholders are involved in this review.

Children: Mental Health

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of implementation of section 120 of

the Adoption and Children Act 2002 on the care and supervision of children who have suffered impairment as a result of witnessing domestic violence. [188951]

Kevin Brennan: For private law child proceedings when parents come to court for an order to determine the child's primary residence or the frequency of contact with a non-resident parent, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) introduced a new process in 2005. This means that when making an application for a child contact/residence order, allegations of domestic violence are expected to be raised at the point of the application. Courts are now required to consider whether any incidents of domestic violence—not just from direct violence but also witnessing violence—have had an adverse impact on the child, or might affect the child in the future.

An evaluation of this new system was commissioned by the MOJ. The report, 'Domestic Violence and the Supplemental Information Form C1A: evaluation of the use and effects of the introduction of the form into the Family Courts' was published on 11 December 2007 [MoJ 17/07]. It confirmed that the new arrangements are providing an improved mechanism that enables domestic violence and associated harm to parents and children to be recognised at an early point in proceedings.

In public law child proceedings where local authorities apply for care or supervision orders, domestic violence concerns are a feature of about 50 per cent. of cases, though there is usually a range of other concerns, such as child abuse and alcohol or substance misuse.

Children: Video Games

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to protect children from unsuitable and offensive computer games. [198542]

Mr. Satcliffe *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* I have been asked to reply

Children are already protected from unsuitable material in computer games by classification systems. Material which is grossly violent or sexual must be classified by the British Board of Film Classification, and it is an offence to supply it to someone who does not meet the age requirement.

Additionally, as part of her review on harmful internet content and games Dr. Tanya Byron has made some recommendations on measures that strengthen these arrangements. She proposes lowering the statutory requirement to classify video games to 12+, so that it is the same as film classification and easier for parents to understand; issuing clear and consistent guidance for industry on how games should be advertised and challenging industry to provide sustained and high profile efforts to increase parents' understanding of age ratings and improved parental controls.

Dr. Byron is clear that before any changes are implemented, there is a need for a consultation exercise on what exactly the changes should be. Government are committed to that public consultation, and there will be a chance for everyone to contribute once the consultation is under way.

Citizenship: Curriculum

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of schools were judged by Ofsted to have adequate citizenship teaching in each year from 2003 to 2007. [197560]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member, and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 2 April 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Between 2002 and 2005 in secondary schools and between 2003 and 2005 in primary schools, inspectors made an overall judgement about the quality of teaching in citizenship. These judgements were made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. The information is presented in the table attached.

From September 2005, Ofsted stopped specific subject reporting in Section 5 school inspections. Since then, Ofsted has inspected citizenship in a sample of schools. In the lessons observed that were mainly focused on citizenship objectives, teaching was generally good. Often, however, this was because of the good generic skills of teachers and there were weaknesses in specialist aspects of teaching such as dealing with topical and controversial issues. In some schools, the benefits of specialist training were apparent in the quality of the teaching. In approaching one in five of the schools, teaching was unsatisfactory, with weak subject knowledge evident. Important aspects of teaching citizenship, such as discussion, were limited. Sometimes teachers made links from other subjects to citizenship that were insubstantial and failed to add up to a sensible curriculum overall. In some of the schools where teaching was weaker, this was because it was taught by large non-specialist teams; and in some of these schools a decision had been made to move to greater specialism.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table 1: Quality of teaching of citizenship in primary and secondary schools, percentage of schools

		Percentage						
	Total number of inspections	*Excellent*	*Very good*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Unsatisfactory*	*Poor*	*Very poor*
Primary schools								
2004/05	90	1	25	64	9	1	0	0
2003/04	128	3	15	66	16	0	0	0
2002/03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 1: Quality of teaching of citizenship in primary and secondary schools, percentage of schools

		Percentage						
	Total number of inspections	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
Secondary Schools								
2004/05	378	0	6	48	39	6	1	0
2003/04	485	0	6	46	40	8	0	0
2002/03	169	1	7	45	46	1	0	0

Commonwealth Youth Ministerial Meeting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what ministerial presence there will be at the Commonwealth Youth Ministerial meeting in Sri Lanka. [200193]

Beverley Hughes: No UK Minister is able to attend the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Conference in Sri Lanka this month. The UK delegation will be headed by Gordon Blakely, Director, Youth, British Council.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which of his Department's initiatives and those of its predecessor were advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was in each year. [192232]

Kevin Brennan: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central Advertising and Publicity Budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. But that also has to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

Spend on advertising on departmental initiatives since 2002/03 financial year is set out in the following tables. It is not possible to provide information prior to 2002 except at disproportionate cost.

2002/03

Campaign	Spend (£)
Childcare Recruitment Year 3	2,741,377
Aim Higher Year 2	2,649,999
Foundation Degree	549,397
Connexions	1,320,331
SATS Online	15,260
Adult Basic Skills	5,478,117
DFES UCAS Campaign	100,000
Truancy	2,750
14-19 Paper Results	16,366
HE Funding	655,000
Millennium Volunteers MTV Promotion	111,925
Childcare Recruitment Ethnic	50,000

2003/04

Campaign	Spend (£)
Adult Basic Skills	6,673,224
Key Stage 3 Booster	30,000
Aim Higher Re-Pitch	7,631
Naming Project for Science Learning Centre	2,599
Gremlin Materials for Northern Ireland	9,462
School Tests	28,371
Adult Basic Skills	5,123,038
Childcare Recruitment	2,986,659
Connexions	2,608,005
Aim Higher	3,400,475
UCAS Learning	150,000
Foundation Degrees	2,813,787
Parents Week Featurelink	93,901
Aim Higher—Student Support Finance	789,543
Fast Track Teachers	309,792

2004/05

Campaign	Spend (£)
EMA	2,702,387
Adult Basic Skills Miscellaneous	1,856
Sure Start Month	132,796
Adult Basic Skills Gremlins	5,872,028
Teenage Pregnancy (DFES)	1,086,677
Student Finance	1,223,870
EMA Summer Activity	309,01[illegible]
Fast Track Teaching	72,595
Gremlins for Northern Ireland	2,548
Foundation Degrees	556,286
Childcare	294,600
EMA	1,500,000
Need to Know	400,000
Parents Centre	181,594

2005/06

Campaign	Spend (£)
Sure Start	2,645
EMA	1,499,311
Teenage Pregnancy	1,497,096
Childcare Recruitment	660,523
Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins	1,668,802
Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins Miscellaneous	147,603
Student Finance	3,270,787
Parents Centre	149,462
ABS Gremlins Ireland	2,247
Every Child Matters Press Advertising	2,074
Parenting Pilot	120,000

2005/06

Campaign	*Spend (£)*
Foundation Degrees	868,963
Fast Track Teaching	18,504
Parenting Franchise (Direct Gov Launch)	517,843
Education & Learning – Launch Campaign	204,134
Need to Know	117,206

2006/07

Campaign	*Spend (£)*
Student Finance	3,068,536
Adult Basic Skills	1,934,912
Teenage Pregnancy	1,674,906
Childcare Recruitment	424,048
Children and Young People's Workforce Insert	45,803
Parents Direct Pilot	30,000
Drugs – Frank	252,018

2007/08

Campaign	*Spend (£)*
Teenage Pregnancy	1,630,078
Skills Pledge	34,978
Childcare	136,289
Diplomas	2,908,031
Student Finance	2,592,880
City Challenge	53,007
Modern Foreign Languages	345,080
Children's Plan Launch	125,759
STEM Subjects	9,059
National Year of Reading	3,701

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [187533]

Kevin Brennan: Travel and subsistence (reimbursable expenses) are claimed and authorised online via the Department's Integrated Financial Information System and are recorded under the general heading of subsistence. To extract the financial data requested would involve disproportionate cost.

All expenditure is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting". All travel undertaken by DCSF civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code. The Department does not have any Executive Agencies.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196460]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was established on 28 June 2007. The average hourly rate paid by my Department to employment agencies for agency staff in the financial year 2007-08 is set out as follows.

£

Average hourly charge rate

Grade	*Adecco*	*Hays*	*Reed*
AA[1]	8.65		
AO[1]	10.64		
EA[1]		8.48	9.86
EO	14.42	15.49	12.13
Pers Sec	15.64		
Snr Pers Sec	16.38		
HEO	18.82	20.45	14.82
SEO		24.66	18.10

[1] Grades AA and AO have now been replaced by EA.

The number of agency staff working in my Department from 1 July 2007 to 31 January 2008 by grade and month is shown as follows.

Adecco

	AA	*AO*	*EO*	*Pers Sec*	*Snr Pers Sec*	*HEO*
July 2007	9	2	0	1	5	3
August 2007	7	10	1	0	6	3
September 2007	4	11	1	0	2	3
October 2007	2	1	1	0	0	3
November 2007	1	0	1	0	0	0
December 2007	0	0	1	0	0	0
January 2008	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hays

	EA	*EO*	*HEO*	*SEO*
September 2007	2	1	1	0
October 2007	6	2	1	0
November 2007	23	1	0	0
December 2007	16	4	1	0
January 2008	21	5	3	1

Reed

	EA	*EO*	*HEO*	*SEO*
September 2007	1	1	0	0
October 2007	4	1	3	1
November 2007	11	4	1	0
December 2007	11	3	3	0
January 2008	24	3	3	0

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193551]

Kevin Brennan: In February 2007, there were 33 members of staff making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay, representing 0.9 per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department.

In February 2008, the number of staff making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay was reduced to 22 people, representing 0.8 per cent. of total number of staff employed by the Department.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system *(a)* for its whole estate and *(b)* in some of its buildings. [198044]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is working towards an ISO 14001:2004 accredited environmental system for all its headquarters buildings.

Departmental Video-Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195895]

Kevin Brennan: We have no target to increase the use of video-conferencing by this Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings, but actively encourage staff to use video links for meetings involving staff from different sites rather than travel to a central point.

Education: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he has allocated to *(a)* expand facilities for 16 to 19 year-old learners and *(b)* deliver learning and skills for adults in East Devon to meet his targets in each case. [196398]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The 2008-09 Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council sets out a record level of investment for post-16 education and training over the next three years, with some £11.5 billion in 2008-09, rising to over £12 billion in 2009-10, and over £12.5 billion in 2010-11. This investment includes year-on-year increases in capital funding, and will ensure that we can continue to deliver a significant improvement in participation and attainment across all areas of the country, giving both young people and adults the skills and qualifications they need to succeed.

Decisions about allocations to specific areas are made by the LSC, based on overall learner numbers and strategic discussions with local partners about the range of provision that is needed. The allocations process for 2008/09 is currently under way, and Mark Haysom, the chief executive of the LSC, wrote to the hon. Member setting out the funding allocations for East Devon as soon as they were confirmed. A copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 9 April 2008:

I refer to your recent question to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which I was asked to respond setting out the LSC funding allocations for 16-19 learning and to deliver learning and skills for adults in East Devon.

Please find below the allocations in respect of school sixth forms in the East Devon District Council area for the 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 academic years. The variations in particular allocations are mostly as a result of fluctuating pupil numbers.

LSC funding allocations in East Devon

£

East Devon schools	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
16 to 18			
Clyst Vale	888,556.00	770,821.00	785,401.00
Colyton Grammar	937,300.00	1,022,994.00	1,084,424.00
Exmouth	1,739,903.00	1,913,518.00	1,880,666.00
Honiton	704,519.00	778,898.00	619,800.00 [2]
Sidmouth	594,712.00	539,415.00	488,950.00
Axe Valley	510,456.00	527,646.00	445,881.00
Kings Ottery	753,629.00	847,786.00	950,985.00
East Devon College	3,055,000.00	3,149,000.00	2,852,170.00
16 to 18 total	9,184,075.00	9,550,078.00	9,028,247.00
19+			
East Devon College	1,564,000.00	1,497,000.00	[1]
Train to Gain	190,131.00	325,560.00	[2]
19+ total	1,754,131.00	1,822,560.00	[2]
Grand total	10,938,206.00	11,372,638.00	[2]

[1] No allocation yet
[2] Not yet available

As you know, there are complex patterns of 16-18 learner participation in the East Devon Area with many students choosing to access courses at Richard Huish College in Taunton, Exeter College or elsewhere. The designated further education institute for the area is East Devon College in Tiverton and LSC funding information is provided for this College. The 2008-09 academic for funding is provisional at the moment but is a guaranteed minimum and, in reality, is unlikely to change. A proposal is being developed currently for North Devon and East Devon Colleges to merge on 1 August 2008.

The allocations of LSC funding for 19+ learners at East Devon College are also included for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years. The allocation for 2008-09 is not yet finalised and I will write again to notify this during the coming weeks.

I have also included an indication of Train to Gain LSC investment in the East Devon area. A range of training providers operate in the area and respond to employers' needs for training. The figures I have quoted are notional amounts apportioned to the consortium of Exeter, East Devon and Bicton Colleges.

Bicton College, a specialist land based FE provider, is based in the East Devon District Council area. As it draws learners from throughout the South West Region and beyond, LSC financial allocations at this College do not relate easily to investment in learning and skills in the immediate vicinity.

However, I would be pleased to provide details of LSC investment at this College if this would help.

The LSC also invests significantly in the delivery of apprenticeships training but financial details related to specific home postcodes of apprentices are difficult and expensive to produce. However, if this is required for apprentices who live in East Devon District Council postcode areas, it could be produced.

I hope this information meets your requirements but please let me know if more is needed. I shall write again later in the year with details of 19+ funding allocations at East Devon College and for Train to Gain.

Education: Finance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with the F40 group on the issue of education funding for local authorities in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [199251]

Jim Knight: No Ministers from this Department have met the F40 group in the last 12 months. Senior officials of the Department attended and spoke at the group's national conference in late March last year and will do so again in May this year, looking at the key issues for the current review of the distribution of school funding from 2011-12. I have had occasional discussions with the hon. Member for Stafford (Mr. Kidney), an office holder with F40, regarding school funding.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools had less than 30 per cent. of pupils obtaining five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [198658]

Jim Knight: The information requested is set out in the following table.

IMD Decile[1]	Total number of schools[2]	Number of schools with less than 30% 5+A*-C inc English and maths	Percentage of schools with less than 30% 5+A*-C inc English and maths
0-10% most deprived	259	144	55.6
10-20%	309	129	41.7
20-30%	301	99	32.9
30-40%	336	91	27.1
40-50%	351	74	21.1
50-60%	305	52	17.0
60-70%	330	43	13.0
70-80%	297	35	11.8
80-90%	322	32	9.9
90-100% least deprived	304	9	3.0

[1] Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004

[2] Including only those maintained mainstream schools with results published in the School and College Achievement and Attainment tables

Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables 2007

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of (*a*) pupils eligible for free school meals and (*b*) all eligible pupils did not sit five GCSEs in 2007. [199415]

Jim Knight: A total of 32,819 pupils sat fewer than five GCSE or equivalent examinations in 2006/07. This was 5.5 per cent. of all pupils. 9,603 pupils eligible for free school meals sat fewer than five GCSE or equivalent examinations in 2006/07. This was 12.6 per cent. of pupils eligible for free schools meals.

The figures relate to pupils in maintained schools at the end of Key Stage 4.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals did not sit five GCSEs in 2007. [198669]

Jim Knight: A total of 9,603 pupils eligible for free school meals sat fewer than five GCSE or equivalent examinations in 2006/07. This was 12.6 per cent. of pupils eligible for free schools meals.

The figures relate to pupils in maintained schools at the end of key stage 4.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in Enfield North achieved more than eight A to C grades in GCSE examinations in (*a*) 1997 and (*b*) 2007. [178809]

Jim Knight: The percentage of pupils in Enfield North who achieved more than eight A*-C grades in GCSE examinations in 1996/97 was 15.8 per cent. The figure for 2006/07 was 31.7 per cent.

The figure for England in 1996/97 was 21.8 per cent. and the 2006/07 figure was 39.3 per cent.

These figures relate to 15-year-olds (age at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August) in maintained schools. The 2006/07 figures include a wider range of qualifications (on a basis equivalent to GCSEs).

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Sunderland

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to increase the number of young people in Sunderland achieving five A* to C grades at GCSE in the last three years. [198484]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the performance of Sunderland secondary schools, compared with figures for England since 1997 and in the last three years.

	1997		2005		2006		2007	
	Percentage 5 A*-C	Percentage 5 A*-C incl English and maths	Percentage 5 A*-C	Percentage 5 A*-C incl English and maths	Percentage 5 A*-C	Percentage 5 A*-C incl English and maths	Percentage 5 A*-C	Percentage 5 A*-C incl English and maths
England	45.1	35.6	56.3	44.3	59.5	45.3	60.8	46
Sunderland	34.4	26.1	51.5	35	55	33.9	59.4	38.5

The general rise in secondary standards nationally and in Sunderland since 1997 may be attributed to improvements in teaching and learning, better school leadership, targeted intervention to tackle school failure, better use of pupil performance data and the ambitious targets that schools and local authorities have set for their pupils. Challenge and support through the National Secondary Strategy has also helped to raise standards in the last three years.

As part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget for 2008, the Government have now committed a new £200 million package, over the next three years, for a National Challenge to raise standards in secondary schools, with particular focus on schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieve five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics. The National Challenge programme will provide intensive support for the most vulnerable secondary schools, and will empower many head teachers of strong schools to help turn around other schools that are unable to raise low attainment. The programme will help to create new trusts and federations based on successful schools, and, in areas of greatest need, drive forward a faster expansion of the academies programme.

Government Offices for the Regions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which of his Department's programme budgets were administered by the Government offices for the regions in each of the last five years. [195175]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 18 March 2008]*: The following grants have been made by this Department, via local government offices, over the last five years.

Grants paid via Regional Local Government Offices (2003-04 to 2007-08)

Connexions grant

Positive Activities for Young People

Millennium Volunteers

Transforming Youth Work Development Fund/ Transforming Youth Work Performance

Improvement Fund

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act (revenue)[1]

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Act (capital)[1]

Youth Opportunity Fund

Youth Capital Fund

Children's Fund (including Partnership Networking Fund)

Teenage Pregnancy

ASPIRE[2]

Children's Trust Migration Pilots[2]

Children not in Education, Employment or Training Demonstrator Pilots[2]

Attainment at 19

Local Delivery

Community Champions

Government Office Network

Government Office Support

Young London Matters

Sustainable Schools

Quality Protects

Education Protects

Children Centres

[1] Budget funded improvements in Disabled Access to Youth Service premises

[2] Budgets only allocated to a limited number of Government Office's

Hearing-Impaired People

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by his Department through call centres. [194951]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families operates a telephone inquiry service that offers a textphone/minicom service for deaf people. We also accept inquiries by email, fax and letter. The DCSF periodically contracts with suppliers to provide telephone helpline services for the public, usually in support of information campaigns; in such instances our contract stipulates that a textphone service should be provided.

JPMorgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors paid to JPMorgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199590]

Ed Balls: I can confirm that the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills have no record of any payments to a supplier JPMorgan during the last nine years. The Department does not hold data prior to financial year 1999-2000.

Ministers: Correspondence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 892W, on Ministers: Correspondence, if he will publish the regular emails sent to local authorities by his Department in each week since 18 December 2007, including the bespoke emails containing an item of significant importance; and if he will make a statement. [199521]

Jim Knight: Past versions of the weekly departmental email to local authority (LA) directors of children's services and chief executives (the 'LA email') and the 'bespoke' emails (the 'red LA email') can be viewed via the Department's LA website. These are stored in the 'News and Communications' section of the LA website at

www.dfes.gov.uk/localauthorities/index.cfm

Copies of all LA emails and LA red emails sent by the Department between 18 December 2007 and 3 April 2008 have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Annex A outlines ministerial letters included in LA emails over this period for ease of reference. The LA emails generally contain policy briefings and guidance to help local authorities deliver children's services in line with their statutory responsibilities. In response to our recent survey the local authority audience overwhelmingly confirmed its appreciation for this briefing channel.

Annex A

Ministerial letters included in LA Emails 18 Dec 2007 to 3 April 2008

10 January 2008

Lead Member letter on Care Proceedings Programme. The DGSL, Ministry of Justice and Welsh Assembly Ministers have written jointly to all Lead Members for Children's Services, drawing their attention to ongoing work to reduce delay in care proceedings (brought by LAs under the Children Act 1989).

17 January 2008

Jim Knight letter on school admissions code

Announcement of short breaks pathfinder areas: letter from Ministers, Andrew Adonis and Ivan Lewis.

31 January 2008

Rural School Closures: letter from Schools Minister, Jim Knight

Review of formula for distributing Dedicated Schools Grant: Jim Knight has launched the review of the formula for distributing the Dedicated Schools Grant from 2011-12 through a statement to Parliament.

Call for Evidence: Youth Sector Support Arrangements: Minister Beverley Hughes officially launched a "call for evidence" to gather information, advice and views on the current youth sector support arrangements.

14 February 2008

Raising Standards - Improving Outcomes: joint ministerial letter highlights the importance of local authorities, Jobcentre Plus, Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities developing ever stronger and more effective local partnerships, to meet the individual needs of young children and their parents.

21 February 2008

Ministerial letter regarding biennial overview reports: Serious Case Reviews: Kevin Brennan MP has written to all Directors of Children's Services in England and to Chairs of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to emphasise the importance of acting on the findings of two research reports published on 31 January 2008.

28 February 2008

Improving School Attendance - letter from Kevin Brennan

10 March 2008 (red LA email)

Compliance with the statutory school admissions framework: The letter from Jim Knight outlines issues that have arisen due to non-compliance with the statutory schools admissions framework.

20 March 2008

14-19 Diploma Gateway 2: Jim Knight, Minister for Schools and Learners, announced the outcome of the Diploma Gateway 2 on 19 March.

3 April 2008

Myplace - major new investment in places for young people to go: the letter from Beverley Hughes announces the launch of myplace.

Funding of entry training for educational psychologists: This letter from Lord Adonis to DCSs and chief executives.

Day One Provision for excluded pupils: letter from Kevin Brennan.

Expansion of positive activities for young people: Beverley Hughes, Minister for Children, Young People and Families is writing to Directors of Children's Services regarding how local authorities (LAs) can work towards meeting some of their key objectives by implementing the commitment in Aiming High for Young People, to expand the provision of targeted youth activity programmes.

National Foundation for Educational Research: Publications

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps (*a*) Ofsted and (*b*) the Training and Development Agency for Schools have taken in response to the recommendations of the National Foundation for Educational Research report "Vision versus pragmatism". [197557]

Jim Knight: These are matters for Ofsted and the Training and Development Agency for Schools. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library. A response from the Training and Development Agency for Schools will be sent to the hon. Member and placed in the Library in due course.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 31 March 2008

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

You asked what steps Ofsted has taken in response to the recommendations of the National Foundation for Educational Research report 'Vision versus pragmatism'. The question has also been passed to the Training and Development Agency for Schools so that they may reply separately.

The NFER report 'Vision versus pragmatism' is the fifth annual report in a longitudinal research study. In summary, it recommends that Ofsted:

take a broader view of citizenship to include whole-school and the wider community;

ensure that schools are fully aware of the guidance on citizenship in section 5 inspections and ensure that statutory requirements are met;

draw more attention to the place of citizenship in school self-evaluation and Joint Area Reviews;

continue to consult with children and young people to strengthen the student voice;

give more focus to issues of continuity and progression in citizenship.

Ofsted already takes a broad view of citizenship. Inspectors evaluate the quality of personal development and well-being which includes school, local, and global dimensions. Additionally, schools now have a statutory duty to promote community cohesion, which came into effect on 1 September 2007. From 1 September 2008, Ofsted has a duty, under section 5 of the Education Act 2005, to report on the contribution made by schools to community cohesion. We are currently trialling our proposed approach to inspecting this aspect.

When evaluating how well learners contribute to the community, inspectors are specifically asked to consider the development of learners' understanding of citizenship ('Using the evaluation schedule: Guidance for inspectors of schools', September 2007). The self-evaluation form requires schools to assess their compliance with statutory requirements. During inspection, aspects of citizenship are evaluated when inspectors judge the quality of the curriculum. Any non-compliance with statutory requirements is brought to the school's attention, and may be a key issue for improvement.

Discussion with children and young people is an integral part of all inspections and their views are fully taken into account. The annual TellUs3 survey in 2008 asks children and young people for their views on their satisfaction with local services. It specifically asks them about outcomes relating to Every Child Matters, one aspect of which is their contribution to the community. The results of the survey are considered by inspectors undertaking Annual Performance Assessments and Joint Area Reviews. In 2007 over 100,000 children and young people responded to the TellUs2 survey. The Joint Annual Review programme comes to an end in 2008 and will be replaced by the Comprehensive Areas Assessment process from 2009.

Ofsted's subject survey programme provides for the inspection of citizenship in a sample of schools and inspectors seek evidence of standards and progress. This year the survey includes a small sample of primary schools to provide evidence of the extent to which schools are following the non-statutory guidance and the resulting standards.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Children, Schools and Families and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Physical Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 109-10W, on Physical Education: Standards, if he will provide a breakdown of the average time spent by school children on sport by school year group; [198329]

(2) how many and what percentage of children in each school year group participated in at least two hours of high-quality physical education during (*a*) curriculum time and (*b*) curriculum time plus out of hours school sports in (i) mixed schools, (ii) all-boys schools and (iii) all-girls schools in each of the last 10 years; [198380]

(3) how many and what percentage of (*a*) primary schools and (*b*) secondary schools did not provide at least two hours of high-quality physical education during curriculum time in the most recent period for which figures are available. [198379]

Kevin Brennan: The annual PE and School Sport Survey asks questions about pupil participation in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport and the total number of minutes spent by all pupils on curriculum PE each week. Data are not collected on time spent participating in sport. The 2006-07 survey found:

Total number of pupils per year group

	Mixed	*All boys*	*All girls*
Year 1	530,562	69	109
Year 2	540,746	96	115
Year 3	555,170	207	208
Year 4	561,356	247	264
Year 5	575,384	332	299
Year 6	565,081	363	298
Year 7	508,770	24,656	35,327
Year 8	519,929	25,570	36,156
Year 9	521,648	25,947	36,460
Year 10	539,966	26,362	36,692
Year 11	533,571	26,143	36,287
Total	5,952,183	129,992	182,215

	Mixed	*All boys*	*All girls*
Year 1	462,896	24	50
Year 2	480,341	47	57
Year 3	507,140	135	121
Year 4	518,596	178	171
Year 5	537,098	260	200
Year 6	529,290	285	195
Year 7	471,582	23,526	29,624
Year 8	474,525	23,923	28,222
Year 9	452,472	23,394	26,002
Year 10	366,704	20,513	18,691
Year 11	336,515	19,963	16,169
Total	5,137,159	112,248	119,502

	Mixed	*All boys*	*Percentage All girls*
Year 1	87	35	46
Year 2	89	49	50
Year 3	91	65	58
Year 4	92	72	65
Year 5	93	78	67
Year 6	94	79	65
Year 7	93	95	84
Year 8	91	94	78
Year 9	87	90	71
Year 10	68	78	51
Year 11	63	76	45
Total	86	86	66

Further analysis could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data relating to the 2006-07 PE and School Sport Survey found that 31.6 per cent. of primary (5,445) and 65.4 per cent. of secondary (2,174) schools do not provide at least two hours of curriculum time PE each week, for all pupils.

Primary Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools were found by Ofsted to be providing inaccurate Key Stage 1 results in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [198350]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) rather than Ofsted has responsibility for matters relating to the accuracy of Key Stage 1 (KS1) results. The QCA ensures the accuracy of these results through a national moderation process, which is conducted by the National Assessment Agency (NAA). local authorities (LAs) have a statutory responsibility to moderate teacher assessment judgments to ensure the accuracy and consistency of those judgments.

which are informed by nationally benchmarked tests. The NAA monitors the moderation activity of LAs annually. Its audit of LA moderation has not found evidence of inaccurate KS1 results.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the accuracy of Key Stage 1 results; and if he will make a statement. [198351]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for maintaining standards. The QCA assures the accuracy of key stage 1 (KS1) results through a national moderation process, which is conducted by the National Assessment Agency (NAA). Local authorities (LAs) have a statutory responsibility to moderate teacher assessment judgments to ensure the accuracy and consistency of those judgments, which are informed by nationally benchmarked tests. The NAA monitors the moderation activity of LAs annually.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children at key stage 1 in Nottingham were taught in classes of 31 or more in (*a*) 1997 and (*b*) 2007. [190595]

Jim Knight: The information can be found in the following table. Owing to local government reorganisation, figures prior to 1999 for 'City of Nottingham' local authority are not available.

These figures can be found in the Statistical First Release 'Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final)', which is available on the Department's website here:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

	Number of KS1 pupils taught in classes of 31 or more	*Percentage of pupils taught in classes of 31 or more*
1997	678	8.3
2007	190	3.0

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school classes of over (*a*) 25 and (*b*) 20 pupils there were in the most recent period for which figures are available. [198714]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary schools' number of classes[1] January 2007, England

	Number of classes taught	
	By one teacher[2]	*By more than one teacher*
20 to 24 pupils	28,648	903
25 and over pupils	99,881	5,647
Total 20 and over pupils	128,529	6,550

[1] Includes middle deemed primary schools.
[2] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the Census in January.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school classes of (*a*) over 30, (*b*) over 25 and (*c*) over 20 pupils there were in 1996-97. [199384]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary schools' number of classes[1] January each year 1997 and 2007, England

	Number of classes taught	
Size of class	*By one teacher*	*By more than one teacher*
1997		
Over 20 pupils	134,150	7,840
Over 25 pupils	104,950	6,740
Over 30 pupils	40,830	3,130
2007		
Over 20 pupils	124,800	6,440
Over 25 pupils	90,740	5,330
Over 30 pupils	16,400	1,740

[1] Includes middle deemed primary schools.
[2] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the Census in January.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Private Education: Per Capita Costs

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what projections he has made of the amount of funding per capita at independent day schools in each of the next 10 years for the purposes of providing equivalent funding per maintained pupil. [197372]

Jim Knight: The Department does not make projections of funding per capita at independent day schools. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 170-72W, to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart), showing independent day school average annual day fees for the five years to 2006-07.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils received permanent exclusions for the category of one-off offences, broken down by offence, in (*a*) primary non-academy schools, (*b*) primary academy schools, (*c*) secondary non-academy schools and (*d*) secondary academy schools in the latest period for which figures are available. [198439]

Kevin Brennan: The numbers of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason are published annually by the Department in the Statistical First Release 'DCSF: Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England', the latest of available data cover the school academic year 2005/06 which can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

There are 12 categories describing the various reasons for exclusion and these are detailed in the following table. The reason for exclusion was not collected for primary schools in the academic year 2005/06. Analysis of academies by reason for exclusion has not been published and could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason for exclusion: England, 2005/06

	Number of permanent exclusions[2]	Percentage of all permanent exclusions[2,3]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[3]
Physical assault against a pupil	1,260	16	62,670	18
Physical assault against an adult	740	9	8,240	2
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	330	4	12,730	4
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	900	11	79,370	23
Bullying	80	1	5,270	2
Racist abuse	30	0	3,370	1
Sexual misconduct	110	1	2,620	1
Drug and alcohol related	450	6	8,360	2
Damage	170	2	9,390	3
Theft	220	3	7,770	2
Persistent disruptive behaviour	2,370	30	72,340	21
Other	1,340	17	71,720	21
Total[4]	7,990	100	343,840	100

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] For the 2005/06 school year, information on the reason for exclusion was collected via the School Census for the first time for secondary schools only (the Termly Exclusions Survey has discontinued). For exclusions during 2006/07, information on the reason for exclusion will also be collected from primary and special schools. See Notes to Editors 2.
[3] Estimates based on incomplete pupil level data. See Notes to Editors 4.
[4] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.
[5] There were 2 permanent and 4 fixed period exclusions for which circumstance was not known - these were included in the 'total' column only.

Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils took authorised absence in (*a*) 1997 and (*b*) 2007. [182748]

Kevin Brennan: The available information for the academic year 1996/97 is shown in the table.

The latest available information for 2007 covers autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007 and is shown in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools, and city technology colleges[1]: authorised absence by type of school, 1996/97, England

	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	Authorised absence Percentage of half days missed[2]
Maintained primary schools	3,770,800	5.60
Maintained secondary schools	2,790,040	8.10
City technology colleges	12,308	6.10

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of sessions missed due to authorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.

Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Absence Survey.

Maintained primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: authorised absence by type of school, autumn term 2006 and spring term 2007, England

	Number of day pupils of compulsory school age[2]	Number of pupil enrolments[3,4]	Authorised absence Percentage of half days missed[5]
Maintained primary schools	3,306,940	3,428,390	4.73
Secondary schools[6]	2,954,940	3,016,240	6.30

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupil numbers are as at January 2007. Includes pupils aged five to 15 with sole and dual (main) registration. Excludes boarders.
[3] Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2006 and 9 April 2007. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).
[4] There were some 32,498 cases from primary schools 17,238 cases from maintained secondary schools, CTCS and academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments.
[5] The number of sessions missed due to authorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[6] Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.

Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of persistent absentees from school obtained *(a)* five GCSEs A*-C and *(b)* five GCSEs A*-C including English and mathematics in the last period for which figures are available. [200099]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Assessments

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library details of the formula used to adjust the scores of school pupils over key stages 3 and 4 in order to measure contextual value added for a school. [188732]

Jim Knight: I am placing a copy of the relevant formulae in the Library. These include methodologies for both maintained mainstream and special schools.

Pupils: English Language

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* sixth form colleges had teachers who worked overtime to teach children with English as an additional language in the latest period for which figures are available. [199355]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* sixth form colleges are running the International English Language Testing System; what the estimated costs are of running the International English Language Testing System; and what financial support local authorities provide for schools and sixth form colleges running the International English Language Testing System. [199356]

Jim Knight: No secondary schools or sixth form colleges ran the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) last year. Information for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Until 2007-08, IELTS was funded as an exception to all other International English language qualifications. However, from September 2007 the newly accredited IELTS qualification, now called Cambridge ESOL certificate in English, is not eligible for LSC funding.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Basingstoke, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England have (A) at least one specialist teaching assistant for pupils with English as an additional language, (B) at least one lead teacher for ethnic minority pupils, (C) at least one specialist teaching assistant for pupils with English as an additional language and one lead teacher for ethnic minority pupils and (D) more than one specialist teaching assistant for pupils with English as an additional language and a lead teacher for ethnic minority pupils. [199358]

Jim Knight: Information for the number of specialist teaching assistant, for additional language, is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of schools in Basingstoke constituency, Hampshire local authority and England that had at least one teacher recorded for ethnic minority pupils in January 2007.

Number of local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in Basingstoke constituency, Hampshire local authority and England which have at least one teacher recorded for ethnic mi notify pupils, January 2007

	Basingstoke	Hampshire	England
Primary			
Number of schools	1	5	1,218
Percentage of total	2.5	1.2	7.0
Secondary			
Number of schools	—	3	399
Percentage of total	—	42	11.9

Source:
School Census

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support from local authorities is available to schools to provide resources to teach children who have English as an additional language; what assessment has been made of the adequacy of this support; and if he will make a statement. [199359]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils for whom English is an additional language (EAL) rose from 500,000 to 790,000 between 1997 and 2007. Let me put that in perspective. Such children now comprise 12 per cent. of all pupils as against 7.5 per cent. in 1997 and 9 per cent. in 2001. Funding for EAL children has fully kept pace with these increasing numbers through

an element within the dedicated schools grant (DSG) for primary schools which was some £256 million in 2004-05, rising to £299 million in 2007-08, with a further rise to over £330 million in 2010-11—an 11 per cent. real terms increase on the 2004-05 level;

a substantial provision for EAL through the ring fenced ethnic minority achievement grant (EMAG), which has risen from £162 million in 2004-05 to £179 million in 2007-08 and will rise to £206 million by 2010-11—a 9 per cent. increase on the 2004-05 level;

in addition an exceptional circumstances grant (ECG) has been introduced to reflect changes in local authorities' pupil numbers which occur after the three year indicative allocations of DSG have been announced.

These increases form part of the substantial overall increase in school funding. Over the past 10 years since 1997, overall per pupil revenue funding for schools has increased by 67 per cent. in real terms. We expect local authorities to be able to manage new pressures from within these increases, and to ensure that the resources reach the individual schools affected by new arrivals and EAL speakers.

The Government's policy is to encourage rapid English language acquisition as the key to successful integration into the UK education system and the wider community.

Newly arrived pupils are given additional help in learning English by specialist advisers and teachers of English as an additional language (EAL) and bilingual classroom assistants, who work in collaboration with classroom teachers to plan lessons and teaching materials. The evidence indicates that EAL pupils typically catch up with their peers in attainment terms within two years of first admission to a school a England.

The Government recently launched a new arrivals excellence programme intended to provide practical support for local authorities, schools and individual teachers. This programme is backed by other practical support including measures to improve the supply, training and qualifications of EAL specialist staff, and to deliver new web-based teaching and learning materials.

Pupils: Languages

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what are the 10 most common first languages spoken among pupils who have English as an additional language are in *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* sixth form colleges in (i) Basingstoke, (ii) Hampshire and (iii) England. [199360]

Jim Knight: Where a pupil's first language is not English, schools may record the specific languages. Provision of this level of information is not compulsory. In January 2007, specific language data were provided for just over half the pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools. The Department does not hold complete data for the specific language categories.

The requested information is not collected from sixth-form colleges.

Pupils: Railways

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to liaise with the Secretary of State for Transport and others to create a scheme whereby groups of schoolchildren may use the rail network at reduced rates in peak periods in order to travel to London to undertake activities with the Parliamentary Education Service. [197299]

Jim Knight: Learning outside the classroom is a key part of the new secondary curriculum. We are encouraging schools to plan their curriculums to meet the needs of all their pupils, including engaging and relevant learning to bring the curriculum to life.

It is schools which are best placed to decide which specific learning experiences outside of the classroom meet the curriculum and personal development needs of their pupils. That is why the Department for Children, Schools and Families launched the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto in November 2006, asking organisations that offer such experiences to pledge their support to schools wanting to provide them. Nearly 1,000 organisations have signed up to support the Manifesto vision so far.

Train operators already offer discounted travel for children under the age of 16 and group travel discounts, which are very popular with school parties and available to passengers of all ages.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last nine years. [197512]

Kevin Brennan: Our financial records show that the Department and its predecessor has not made any payments to the company Rackspace in the last nine years.

School Leaving

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of raising the education and training leaving age in each of the first 10 years of its implementation. [200133]

Jim Knight: The Department has not estimated the costs of raising the participation age (RPA) to 18 in precisely the form requested.

However, as part of the impact assessment (IA) which was published alongside the Education and Skills Bill on 29 November 2007, the costs 'per cohort of young people' were set out alongside the benefits. The costs were estimated to be around £800 million per cohort once a steady state had been reached (in 2016-17), while the economic benefits were estimated to be around £2,400 million on the same basis.

The IA can be accessed at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/educationandskills/

and I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

Schools

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children gained five A* to C grades in schools that had *(a)* up to 1,000, *(b)* between 1,000 and 1,999 and *(c)* over 2,000 pupils in 2006-07. [188579]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 767-68W.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each London borough did not have a school placement at the start of the 2007-08 academic year, broken down by age. [196412]

Jim Knight: This is the first year that local authorities have been required to supply data to the Secretary of State on secondary school offers. Data on offers made to parents on national offer day for the 2008-09 academic year were published on the DCSF research gateway (www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway) on 11 March at local authority, regional and national levels. The Department does not require local authorities to provide the secondary school offers data by age or collect data relating to primary school offers.

Schools: Carbon Monoxide

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools had audible carbon monoxide alarms fitted in each year since 1997; [200180]

(2) if he will place in the Library all guidance issued by his Department to schools on the use of carbon monoxide alarms. [200182]

Jim Knight: We do not know how many schools have been fitted with carbon monoxide detectors. Carbon monoxide detectors are not required under any statutory regulation, but a number of local authorities have installed CO detectors in some or all of their schools following risk assessments. They have been installed in locations such as boiler rooms, kitchens and other areas containing gas-fired appliances. They have been installed in primary and secondary schools and in both new and existing schools.

The DCSF, the Health and Safety Executive, the Health Protection Agency and the Confederation of Registered Gas Installers encourage the use of carbon monoxide detectors as part of a strategy for safe combustion in schools. However, regular maintenance, testing and inspection of gas and fossil fuel fired appliances are of paramount importance. The principles of gas safety, enforced by the gas safety regulations, rely on thorough testing at initial commissioning and regular maintenance by certified engineers thereafter. It is good practice to inspect and test all gas, oil and solid fuel fired appliances every year. As far as we know, no official guidance has been issued to schools on the use of carbon monoxide alarms.

Schools: Closures

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools closed in (i) Cambridgeshire, (ii) Cumbria, (iii) Devon and Cornwall, (iv) Durham, (v) Dyfed-Powys, (vi) Gloucestershire, (vii) Lincolnshire, (viii) Norfolk, (ix) North Yorkshire, (x) West Mercia and (xi) Wiltshire in each of the last nine years. [192456]

Jim Knight: The following tables set out the numbers of primary and secondary maintained mainstream schools which have closed in Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, West Mercia and Wiltshire. The tables include cases in which decisions were taken under the local decision-making arrangements which were introduced in September 1999. Information held on proposals that were decided under the arrangements that operated prior to September 1999 is not reliable and has therefore been excluded. The National Assembly for Wales is responsible for schools in Dyfed and Powys.

The tables include the reasons for closure. The numbers shown in the column headed 'Cease to Maintain' indicate closures where the schools have not been replaced by new schools. In all other cases a replacement school will have been established (sometimes on the site of a closing school), or an amalgamating school altered, to accommodate displaced pupils.

(i) Cambridgeshire

	Due to amalgamation	*For fresh start*	*Total*
2000 Primary	2		2
2001 Primary	2		2
2002 Primary	4		4
2003 Primary	4		4
2004 Primary	2		2
2006 Primary	3		3
2006 Secondary	2		2
2007 Primary	4		4
2007 Secondary		1	1
Total	23	1	24

(ii) Cumbria

	Cease to maintain	*Due to amalgamation*	*Total*
2000 Primary	—	2	2
2001 Primary	—	4	4
2002 Primary	—	8	8
2003 Primary	—	2	2
2004 Primary	2	2	4
2005 Primary	1	5	6
2006 Primary	2		2
Total	5	23	28

(iii) Devon and Cornwall

	Cease to maintain	*Due to amalgamation*	*Total*
2002 Primary	—	3	3
2003 Primary	—	4	4
2004 Primary	1	2	3
2005 Primary	—	12	12
2006 Primary	—	2	2
2007 Primary	2	2	4
Total	3	25	28

(iv) Durham

	Cease to maintain	*Due to amalgamation*	*Total*
2002 Primary	—	4	4
2003 Primary	—	2	2
2004 Primary	2	—	2
2006 Primary	—	10	10
2007 Primary	—	6	6
Total	2	22	24

(vi) Gloucestershire

	Cease to maintain	Due to amalgamation	Change religious character	Total
2000 Primary	—	2	—	2
2001 Primary	—	4	—	4
2005 Primary	—	4	—	4
2006 Secondary	—	—	1	1
2007 Primary	1	—	—	1
2007 Secondary	—	—	1	1
Total	1	10	2	13

(vii) Lincolnshire

	Cease to maintain	Due to amalgamation	Change religious character	For fresh start	Total
2001 Primary	—	—	1	—	1
2004 Primary	1	—	—	—	1
2004 Secondary	—	—	—	1	1
2005 Primary	1	1	—	—	2
2006 Primary	1	1	—	—	2
2007 Primary	1	2	—	—	3
Total	4	4	1	1	10

(viii) Norfolk

	Cease to maintain	Due to amalgamation	Total
2001 Primary	—	2	2
2003 Primary	—	2	2
2006 Primary	1	—	1
2007 Primary	—	30	30
Total	1	34	35

(ix) North Yorkshire

	Cease to maintain	Due to amalgamation	Total
2006 Primary	1	2	3
2007 Primary	2	—	2
Total	3	2	5

(x) West Mercia (Herefordshire, Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire and Worcestershire)

	Cease to maintain	Due to amalgamation	For fresh start	To allow for a new establishment	Change religious character	For an academy	Total
2002 Primary	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
2003 Primary	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
2004 Primary	—	4	1	—	—	—	5
2004 Secondary	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
2005 Primary	1	8	—	—	—	—	9
2006 Primary	—	13	—	—	—	—	13
2006 Secondary	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
2007 Primary	1	33	—	—	1	—	35
2007 Secondary	—	14	—	—	2	1	17
Total	6	72	1	1	3	1	84

(xi) Wiltshire

	Cease to maintain	Due to amalgamation	Change religious character	Total
2002 Primary	—	1	—	1
2002 Secondary	—	—	1	1
2003 Primary	—	3	—	3
2004 Primary	2	—	—	2
2004 Secondary	1	1	—	2
2005 Primary	2	4	—	6
2005 Secondary	3	—	—	3
2006 Primary	1	8	—	9
2007 Primary	2	5	—	7
Total	11	22	1	34

Schools: Co-operation

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of whether there are financial benefits to schools of joining consortiums; and if he will make a statement. [200054]

Jim Knight: Although funding arrangements do not provide financial incentives to join consortiums, we believe that working in partnership offers schools the opportunity to deliver high-quality educational provision for best value. Indeed, working with other schools is fundamental to the delivery of key policies such as extended services and personalisation.

In autumn 2007 the Department commissioned a study to assess the activities through which schools can operate more efficiently. Collaborative working, through arrangements such as federations or consortiums, was identified as one mechanism in which schools may deliver improvements in value for money.

The merged governing body of a federation is able to make budget and staffing decisions jointly on behalf of all its schools. Working in a federation may allow schools to realise financial savings and provide better value for money. This could be achieved by employing shared staff, acquiring joint facilities and equipment, or rationalising duplicated functions.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers were attacked on school premises resulting in hospital treatment in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [191303]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Schools: Data Protection

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many data records have been lost or stolen from school premises in the latest period for which records are available. [193377]

Jim Knight: The Department does not keep records of data losses in schools. Becta, the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency, supplies advice to schools on data security.

Schools: Drugs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W, on Drugs: Schools, what information his Department holds on drugs in schools in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the Tees Valley district and *(c)* the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency. [198006]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect centrally information on drugs or drug incidents in schools.

The Department's guidance, "Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004)" makes clear that the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is unacceptable. All schools should have agreed responses and procedures for managing drug incidents, which are understood by all and documented within the school's drug policy.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors he took into consideration in determining the recently revised optimum size for a school governing body. [199542]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has not determined an optimum size for a school governing body. At present, governing bodies can vary between nine and 20 members (not including sponsor governors).

We believe that smaller, more highly skilled governing bodies, alongside improved governor training, will provide more effective governance for schools. As we indicated in the Children's Plan, we will be consulting stakeholders on reducing the size of governing bodies. Good governance and leadership is essential if we are to achieve better outcomes for all children and young people.

Schools: Heating

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will provide guidance for local education authorities on incorporating biomass-based heating and cooling in new build schools. [199701]

Jim Knight: Guidance on incorporating biomass-heating and other renewable and low-carbon technologies in new schools is provided on our website. Biomass heating has been installed in many schools, but biomass cooling has not been used. Schools have little demand for cooling, and where there is a need for cooling this can be achieved effectively using other low-carbon energy sources. The potential to use biomass for cooling in schools is likely to be limited to large scale community energy schemes serving mixed-use developments that include school buildings.

Schools: Sales

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* former school sites and *(b)* parcels of land belonging to a (i) school and (ii) former school have been sold since 1997. [198653]

Jim Knight: We do not hold this information. Although local authorities and maintained schools in England need consent before they can dispose of a school playing field or any part of a school playing field, they do not require approval to sell buildings, or the marginal non-playing field land surrounding those buildings. Such decisions are made locally.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school sites

were sold (*a*) wholly and (*b*) partly in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [199414]

Jim Knight: We do not hold this information. Although local authorities and maintained schools in England need consent before they can dispose of a school playing field or any part of a school playing field, they do not require approval to sell buildings, or the marginal non-playing field land surrounding those buildings. Such decisions are made locally.

The Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families my hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, West (Kevin Brennan) gave a written statement to the House on 2 April 2008 explaining the measures that the Government have introduced to protect school playing field land.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding school sport received from (*a*) the national lottery and (*b*) the public purse in each year since 1997; and how much it is projected to receive in each year of the comprehensive spending review period to 2010-11. [194860]

Kevin Brennan: A breakdown of my Department's and Big Lottery investment in England in PE and School Sport from 1996-07 to 2010-11 is set out in the following table.

		£ million
Financial year	*Lottery*	*DCSF funding*
1996-97	—	0
1997-98	—	1.9
1998-99	—	3.6
1999-2000	—	4.8
2000-01	—	9.5
2001-02	10.6	14.6
2002-03	78.5	23.5
2003-04	139.6	78
2004-05	327.5	116
2005-06	75.1	155
2006-07	30.6	208.5
2007-08	[1]21.5	221.8
2008-09	—	234.8
2009-10	—	241.3
2010-11	—	246.3
Total	683.4	1,559.6

[1] To date

Lottery distributing bodies decide the nature and duration of lottery grant-making programmes, and make grants, independently of the Government and subject to their own criteria. No figures are therefore available for projected lottery funding.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which schools have been in Ofsted categories in each year since 1997; and for how long they were in such categories; [196624]

(2) which schools have been in Ofsted categories for more than one year in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority. [196625]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member, and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 1 April 2008:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Since 1 September 2005, there have been two categories of schools causing concern. These are:

'Schools subject to special measures'—those that, when inspected, were failing to give their pupils an acceptable standard of education and did not show the capacity to improve.

'Schools requiring significant improvement'—those that, when inspected, were performing significantly less well than they might in all the circumstances reasonably be expected to perform. These schools are issued a 'Notice to Improve' and judged inadequate but, unlike special measures schools, demonstrate the capacity to improve.

Prior to the launch of the new school inspection framework in September 2005, the categories included 'serious weaknesses', 'underachieving schools' and 'inadequate sixth form'. These categories no longer exist.

The names of all schools that have been in categories of concern since 2003, broken down by local authority, are published each term on the Ofsted website at http://www.ofsted.gov.uk. They can be found in the 'Publications and Research' section, under 'Statistics'. The direct link is:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/portal/site/Internet/menuitem.8e8ba064adeba4d8c3172a8a08c08a0c/?vgnextoid=93bc764e0f32b010VgnVCM10000960f430aRCRD

Beyond this, the data is not available in the form in which you requested it, and the information from 1997 to 2003 has not been published. This information, presented in the requested manner, is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, that is something in the order of 50 hours work.

I am sorry not to be more helpful. If you could re-focus your request so that we could, as a consequence, reduce the work entailed in responding, we would do all possible to accommodate you.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Children, Schools and Families and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Schools: Swimming

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of schools in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber offered swimming lessons to pupils in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [197436]

Kevin Brennan: Swimming activities and water safety are a compulsory element of the national curriculum for physical education in primary schools. Swimming lessons should be provided for all pupils as part of this. Schools can choose swimming activities and water safety as a programme of study in secondary schools.

As part of the PE and Sport Strategy, £5.5 million has been invested over 2006-08 to help pupils to reach the Key Stage 2 requirements for swimming, including being able to swim at least 25 metres. Over 100,000

pupils will have benefited from this programme by July 2008, and £8.25 million has been allocated to continue to support it over 2008-11.

The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced in 2003-04 and provides information on the proportion of schools in School Sport Partnerships offering swimming. Of the schools that provided data, the percentage that offered swimming during the academic year, broken down by local authority, is as follows.

	2005/06		2006/07	
	Number of schools providing data	*Percentage of which offer swimming*	*Number of schools providing data*	*Percentage of which offer swimming*
Barnsley	82	85	98	85
Bradford	197	89	197	94
Calderdale	86	80	102	84
Doncaster	87	90	126	83
East Riding of Yorkshire	77	88	151	87
Kingston upon Hull	93	85	91	88
Kirklees	167	75	190	78
Leeds	214	89	268	89
North East Lincolnshire	60	73	73	77
North Lincolnshire	43	77	81	83
North Yorkshire	294	90	380	92
Rotherham	123	75	122	77
Sheffield	177	80	172	81
Wakefield	148	82	148	82
York	66	80	69	80
Total - Yorkshire and Humber	1,914	84	2,268	86

Direct comparisons between local authority areas are not appropriate as the number of schools in a School Sport Partnership, and the length of time they have been within a partnership, differ.

From September 2006, all maintained schools in England have been part of a School Sport Partnership.

Further analysis in years prior to 2005-06 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* the Castle Point constituency offer swimming lessons. [197646]

Kevin Brennan: The annual PE and School Sport Survey collects data relating to participation in PE and school sport from schools. The 2006-07 survey found that 463 of the 567 schools in Essex stated that they offered swimming during the academic year. In the Castle Point constituency, 26 of the 34 schools stated they offered swimming lessons.

Science: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of secondary schools in each local authority in Yorkshire and the Humber offered GCSE courses in *(a)* physics, *(b)* biology and *(c)* chemistry in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [199250]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on subjects offered by schools.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the secondary school population is in *(a)* Enfield North and *(b)* Enfield Southgate; and what the average secondary school population per constituency is in (i) London and (ii) England. [192936]

Jim Knight: A table showing the number of secondary schools and pupils in each parliamentary constituency has been placed in the House Library.

Specialised Diplomas

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of bids for 14 to 19 Diplomas in 2009 under the Gateway 2 process have been turned down. [199098]

Jim Knight: I announced the results of the Gateway 2 process on 17 March. This year's applications were stronger as a result of the considerable development work carried out by the consortiums themselves over the last year. This resulted in a higher number of successful applications: 58 per cent. of lines of learning were approved for delivery from 2009, and 25 per cent. for delivery from 2010, and 17 per cent. were asked to reapply.

Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have taught at three or more schools on full-time contracts since 2002. [198715]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers TV

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the average number of Teachers TV viewers (*a*) online and (*b*) on television each day; and how many of these are teachers. [195801]

Kevin Brennan: The current figures show that 110,000 members of the schools workforce watched the channel on average each month with each viewer watching over four programmes per week. On average 129,000 unique users visit the website each month. Viewing to the channel among the schools workforce is measured by an independent market research company on a monthly basis.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take towards the introduction of the masters in teaching and learning qualification; what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing the qualification; and if he will make a statement. [199383]

Jim Knight: Plans for the introduction of a masters in teaching and learning for teachers were set out in 'Being the Best for our Children: Releasing Talent for Teaching and Learning' on 7 March. Our aim is that over time the qualification should be open to all teachers, and our expectation is that every teacher will want to complete it at some stage in their career. We propose to begin by targeting the masters mainly on teachers in the first five years of their careers, building on initial teacher training and induction. The Training and Development Agency for Schools has been asked to start developing the programme. Initially £30 million has been set aside for the programme in the current spending review period.

Teachers: Temporary Employment

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many agency teachers were employed in each of the last three years, broken down by local education authority; and how much each such authority spent (*a*) in each year and (*b*) per agency teacher in each such year. [190443]

Jim Knight: The information requested for the number of agency teachers employed in each of the last three years is not collected centrally. Information for occasional teachers employed through agencies was collected until 2003 in the Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g. In 2003 there were 4,990 agency staff employed in local authority maintained schools in England.

The following table provides the total expenditure on agency supply teaching staff by local authority maintained schools in each local authority in 2004-05 to 2006-07. Information is not available for the expenditure spent per agency teacher in each of the last three years.

The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations. Expenditure by local authority maintained schools in England on agency supply teaching staff 2004-05 to 2006-07: "Cash terms figures" as reported by local authorities as at 28 February 2008

£

		Expenditure on agency supply teaching staff by local authority maintained schools		
LEA number	*LEA name*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
	England	382,958,548	430,538,330	438,739,654
201	City of London	57,077	85,403	103,452
202	Camden	2,987,017	3,901,757	3,621,127
203	Greenwich	4,594,059	3,596,434	5,810,575
204	Hackney	5,707,859	5,867,043	6,125,165
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	2,674,053	2,841,130	2,347,375
206	Islington	4,676,331	5,720,302	4,732,703
207	Kensington and Chelsea	1,664,165	2,075,156	2,173,268
208	Lambeth	5,512,614	6,543,680	6,292,215
209	Lewisham	4,792,741	5,193,607	5,695,189
210	Southwark	6,741,356	7,130,462	7,277,311
211	Tower Hamlets	7,553,729	8,262,697	8,991,124
212	Wandsworth	3,494,597	4,390,376	4,424,289
213	Westminster	3,349,275	3,235,370	3,795,029
301	Barking and Dagenham	4,115,910	5,206,779	4,523,289
302	Barnet	5,547,655	6,111,650	5,554,816
303	Bexley	3,313,787	3,478,382	3,391,948
304	Brent	3,909,086	3,626,218	3,866,961
305	Bromley	1,669,729	2,076,443	2,100,350
306	Croydon	3,583,498	3,823,829	4,140,531
307	Ealing	5,089,196	6,659,237	6,720,430
308	Enfield	3,830,110	4,235,845	3,887,332
309	Haringey	5,823,110	6,007,764	4,669,242
310	Harrow	3,224,692	3,259,761	3,426,062
311	Havering	1,724,635	2,100,272	1,777,046
312	Hillingdon	4,136,617	4,259,096	3,870,647

The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations: Expenditure by local authority maintained schools' in England on agency supply teaching staff 2004-05 to 2006-07: Cash terms figures' as reported by local authorities as at 28 February 2008

£

LEA number	LEA name	Expenditure on agency supply teaching staff by local authority maintained schools'		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
313	Hounslow	4,126,586	4,668,040	4,977,012
314	Kingston upon Thames	948,404	1,070,654	1,247,940
315	Merton	3,212,228	3,383,189	2,970,669
316	Newham	9,218,418	10,108,166	9,434,948
317	Redbridge	3,652,512	3,908,242	4,220,070
318	Richmond upon Thames	1,903,890	1,974,384	1,912,981
319	Sutton	2,301,839	2,391,219	2,569,698
320	Waltham Forest	5,983,857	6,958,458	6,791,473
330	Birmingham	17,736,901	18,751,498	20,296,098
331	Coventry	4,952,436	6,323,259	5,767,556
332	Dudley	2,092,251	2,618,955	2,971,306
333	Sandwell	6,469,216	6,981,726	5,980,782
334	Solihull	1,248,207	1,474,213	1,547,342
335	Walsall	3,359,341	4,033,956	3,892,350
336	Wolverhampton	2,181,794	2,394,247	2,686,707
340	Knowsley	1,978,473	2,089,745	1,791,403
341	Liverpool	6,190,631	6,733,701	7,172,505
342	St. Helens	1,650,160	1,812,794	2,103,304
343	Sefton	178,380	213,634	217,719
344	Wirral	1,975,980	2,144,742	1,870,851
350	Bolton	1,847,072	2,393,525	2,224,440
351	Bury	813,768	1,262,308	1,391,440
352	Manchester	4,869,315	6,032,601	5,750,262
353	Oldham	1,413,990	1,627,571	1,630,552
354	Rochdale	1,312,273	1,265,265	1,241,242
355	Salford	3,402,527	3,431,187	3,073,527
356	Stockport	3,818,786	4,436,463	4,138,010
357	Tameside	1,698,180	1,373,216	1,354,095
358	Trafford	778,349	727,710	937,554
359	Wigan	1,717,184	1,627,667	1,769,977
370	Barnsley	2,597,360	3,137,415	2,761,959
371	Doncaster	2,360,913	2,498,107	2,318,573
372	Rotherham	2,205,350	1,950,580	2,080,436
373	Sheffield	5,341,904	5,753,158	5,619,994
380	Bradford	10,671,113	10,708,122	10,492,679
381	Calderdale	1,115,864	1,320,700	1,298,310
382	Kirklees	1,922,804	2,572,021	3,508,093
383	Leeds	6,118,497	6,819,960	6,695,101
384	Wakefield	2,024,768	2,230,980	2,096,266
390	Gateshead	997,395	1,192,776	1,546,785
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	2,034,006	1,965,904	1,814,299
392	North Tyneside	2,557,920	2,561,043	2,058,603
393	South Tyneside	1,243,013	1,378,255	1,680,113
394	Sunderland	2,089,578	2,458,262	2,439,460
420	Isles of Scilly	18,227	24,000	1,350
800	Bath and North East Somerset	632,155	688,781	781,821
801	City of Bristol	2,219,720	2,289,695	2,393,600
802	North Somerset	1,039,014	1,166,972	1,149,204
803	South Gloucestershire	1,668,358	1,980,190	1,861,885
805	Hartlepool	785,729	1,013,366	1,066,814
806	Middlesbrough	632,103	1,063,982	975,034
807	Redcar and Cleveland	1,036,261	1,158,453	1,353,073
808	Stockton-on-Tees	1,213,418	1,475,387	1,423,856
810	City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	2,739,221	2,675,368	2,720,439
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	1,051,887	1,221,012	1,277,106
812	North East Lincolnshire	1,244,611	1,057,846	1,383,906
813	North Lincolnshire	626,114	712,464	803,642
815	North Yorkshire	1,736,370	2,244,869	3,032,876
816	York	192,779	281,448	340,318
820	Bedfordshire	1,636,761	2,032,112	2,444,365
821	Luton	2,520,677	2,991,888	3,355,080

The Education (Return Statements — England) Regulations: Expenditure by local authority maintained schools[1] in England on agency supply teaching staff[2] 2004-05 to 2006-07[3] (Cash terms figures[4] as reported by local authorities as at 28 February 2008

£

LEA number	LEA name	Expenditure on agency supply teaching staff[2] by local authority maintained schools[1]		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
825	Buckinghamshire	2,151,247	2,482,709	2,478,618
826	Milton Keynes	910,264	899,934	1,008,209
830	Derbyshire	2,112,508	2,866,852	3,575,287
831	Derby	1,574,760	1,947,267	1,993,619
835	Dorset	444,633	414,008	508,506
836	Poole	348,097	439,935	629,392
837	Bournemouth	453,923	692,358	943,806
840	Durham	2,431,932	2,622,478	3,005,719
841	Darlington	770,083	849,364	1,174,146
845	East Sussex	1,788,187	2,088,651	2,340,950
846	Brighton and Hove	1,780,386	2,190,662	2,058,116
850	Hampshire	2,187,448	2,387,522	2,591,321
851	Portsmouth	604,412	931,737	1,180,546
852	Southampton	1,466,885	1,611,778	1,683,233
855	Leicestershire	3,020,986	3,842,377	3,369,102
856	Leicester	3,520,607	3,906,625	3,848,138
857	Rutland	6,411	19,120	33,069
860	Staffordshire	1,243,586	1,744,606	1,940,423
861	Stoke-on-Trent	1,831,111	1,940,955	1,584,772
865	Wiltshire	1,219,854	1,589,248	1,521,798
866	Swindon	1,510,074	1,457,708	1,633,156
867	Bracknell Forest	369,234	457,218	1,140,669
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	875,204	794,112	808,340
869	West Berkshire	124,094	462,121	577,257
870	Reading	790,014	900,981	994,169
871	Slough	1,296,260	1,259,804	1,347,420
872	Wokingham	575,419	690,017	689,593
873	Cambridgeshire	312,976	1,438,265	2,142,890
874	Peterborough	530,253	602,035	767,771
875	Cheshire	1,596,841	2,020,415	2,286,300
876	Halton	1,091,562	1,371,554	1,093,885
877	Warrington	1,474,433	1,734,072	1,625,581
878	Devon	648,060	1,013,770	1,154,942
879	Plymouth	731,803	680,043	827,443
880	Torbay	649,561	609,304	443,227
881	Essex	6,583,806	7,945,984	8,033,926
882	Southend	666,356	1,161,637	1,059,192
883	Thurrock	1,798,893	1,922,804	1,580,527
884	Herefordshire	151,529	275,312	296,619
885	Worcestershire	1,084,736	1,624,018	1,862,236
886	Kent	6,958,308	8,039,516	7,699,769
887	Medway	1,909,694	2,286,732	2,271,100
888	Lancashire	12,097,077	12,736,261	12,862,755
889	Blackburn and Darwen	1,859,597	2,477,386	2,268,756
890	Blackpool	350	1,043,356	775,357
891	Nottinghamshire	4,666,314	5,488,048	5,575,029
892	Nottingham City	2,608,961	2,786,135	3,134,817
893	Shropshire	76,977	36,599	75,244
894	Telford and Wrekin	665,966	804,663	925,123
908	Cornwall	2,200,063	2,336,421	2,341,424
909	Cumbria	1,156,730	1,597,194	2,112,580
916	Gloucestershire	1,762,292	2,133,986	2,111,554
919	Hertfordshire	6,542,665	6,921,139	6,838,887
921	Isle of Wight	73,310	113,547	164,714
925	Lincolnshire	3,222,603	3,183,428	3,378,485
926	Norfolk	1,021,251	1,216,730	1,530,288
928	Northamptonshire	2,524,671	3,854,259	3,605,199
929	Northumberland	1,460,906	1,356,094	1,883,499
931	Oxfordshire	1,440,909	1,685,023	1,853,848
933	Somerset	1,318,118	1,264,939	1,219,103
935	Suffolk	1,114,336	1,361,794	1,608,998

The Education (Outturn Statements) (England) Regulations: Expenditure by local authority maintained schools on England on agency supply teaching staff: 2004-05 to 2006-07: Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 28 February 2008

LEA number	LEA name	Expenditure on agency supply teaching staff by local authority maintained schools: 2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
936	Surrey	3,941,755	4,865,862	4,595,295
937	Warwickshire	2,407,864	2,865,817	2,660,315
938	West Sussex	2,202,416	2,309,698	1,595,854

[1] Includes expenditure incurred directly by all local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools.
[2] Expenditure on agency supply teaching staff includes the cost paid to an agency for teaching staff that have been brought in to cover teacher absence. Includes cover of any period and for all reasons, including illness, absence for training and any leave.
[3] 2006-07 figures remain provisional and subject to change by the local authority.
[4] Expenditure are drawn from local authorities' Section 52 Outturn Statements (Table A) submitted to the DCSF (formerly DfES).

Teachers: Vetting

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans his Department has to review the rules on the transferability of Criminal Records Bureau checks on teachers. [178787]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the rules relating to the transferability of Criminal Records Bureau checks on the (*a*) ability of schools to recruit suitable teachers on temporary contracts and (*b*) cost of recruitment of such teachers. [178788]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has no plans to review the rules on the transferability of Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosures. We are not aware of any adverse effects arising from the rules relating to transferability. We are aware of the fact that there are often extra costs relating to temporary teachers if their employers insist on new disclosures every time they change post or agency. This is, however, the decision of individual employers and not a result of our guidance to schools and teaching supply agencies. We issued our principal guidance document on safeguarding for schools, "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" in 2006. In that guidance we clearly set out that CRB Enhanced Disclosure certificates could be reused by teachers moving schools, local authorities or further education colleges, provided that all other recommended safer recruitment checks had been carried out satisfactorily and that the gap between their leaving their old employment and taking up their new post was not more than three months. The CRB has produced a comprehensive Portability Framework document which sets out the issues relating to the reuse of Disclosure certificates, which can obtained from the CRB website at

http://www.crb.gov.uk

The Department's Educational Procurement Centre (EPC) is currently undertaking a Temporary Workers in Education project. it aims to provide schools (initially in London) with an accessible, quality-driven electronic one stop shop for their temporary support staff requirements. All participating agencies will hold the DCSF Recruitment Employment Confederation (REC) Quality Mark, thereby meeting the requirements of the "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" guidance. All London boroughs will be able to benefit from a safe and value-adding central service, reducing their own resourcing requirement in relation to temporary staff.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its predecessor and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [179105]

Kevin Brennan: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has no agencies.

Warriner School' Bloxham: Specialised Diplomas

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons the bid by the Warriner School, Bloxham, to run a diploma in environmental and land-based studies for 2009 was turned down. [179865]

Jim Knight: The Gateway process aims to ensure high-quality delivery of the new, innovative diploma qualifications from the outset, creating sound foundations of good practice and delivery experience for the wider drive towards the 2013 entitlement.

The application for Environmental and Land Based Studies from the North Oxfordshire 14-19 Partnership was not approved because the consortiums did not provide sufficient information to show that it understood the full requirements of the new diploma, or that it had arrangements across the consortium to deliver the full range of the diploma. Employer engagement across the breadth of the diploma line also needed significant strengthening.

The Department is arranging a detailed feedback meeting with each consortium during April and May, when the consortium will be able to discuss the assessment in detail.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will answer parliamentary question (*a*) 17956 tabled on 14 November 2007, (*b*) 176819 tabled on 18 December 2007, (*c*) 174262 174261 and (*d*) 174260 tabled on 11 December 2007, (*e*) 173245 tabled on 6 December 2007, (*f*) 172551 tabled on 4 December 2007, (*g*) 172102 tabled on 3 December 2007, (*h*) 170786 tabled on 28 November 2007, (*i*) 169794 tabled on 27 November 2007, (*j*) 165755 tabled on 14 November 2007, (*k*) 163325, 163541 163208 and 163099 tabled on

7 November 2007 by the hon. Member for Yeovil; and what the reason is for the time taken in answering them. [190853]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has responded to all the aforementioned parliamentary questions. We were informed that PQ 165755 had been withdrawn, as the text of the PQ was identical to PQ 163222 which has received a full reply.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects to answer questions (*a*) 181521 and (*b*) 181612 on departmental travel, tabled on 21 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Taunton, and what the reason is for the time taken to respond. [191403]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 3 March 2008]*: The questions referred to were answered on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1800-802W and on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 108W.

Following the Machinery of Government Changes on 28 June 2007 the Department relies on management information supplied by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to answer parliamentary questions relating to departmental matters. This has an impact on the time taken to respond to parliamentary questions.

Young People: Rural Areas

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the proposed intensive intervention projects in the Youth Taskforce Action Plan will be based in rural areas. [197251]

Beverley Hughes: The areas in which intensive intervention projects will be based have not yet been selected. In order to establish these areas the Department for Children, Schools and Families will use an open competition selection process in which all top-tier local authorities will be eligible to submit a bid to apply for funding to set up an intensive intervention project in their area. The Department hopes to see strong bids for intensive intervention projects coming from local authorities across the country.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199607]

Ed Balls: I can confirm that the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor the Department for Education and Skills have no record of any payments to a supplier Zurich Financial Services during the last nine years. The Department does not hold data prior to the financial year 1999-2000.

The following answers were received for publication on 27 March 2008

Children in Care: Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care were served with an antisocial behaviour order in each of the last nine years. [195966]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were reported missing from social services care in each of the last five years, how many were missing for over one month, how many were missing for more than three months and how many were missing for more than six months. [195958]

Kevin Brennan: The number of children looked after who were reported missing from care in each of the last five years for over one month (more than 30 days), more than three months (more than 90 days) and more than six months (more than 180 days) is shown in the following table. Where a child was reported missing from his or her agreed placement on more than one occasion during the same year, he or she has been counted only once.

Children looked after who were reported missing during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007[1], England

Children missing from placement during the year ending 31 March	*2003[2]*	*2004[2]*	*2005[2]*	*2006[3]*	*2007[3]*
over 30 days	570	320	370	370	380
over 90 days	390	180	200	200	190
over 180 days	280	120	150	110	150

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Children looked after at any time during the year ending 31 March.
[3] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[4] A child is recorded with a missing placement if he/she is absent for more than 24-hours from his/her agreed placement. Children who are missing from care are categorised in three types of missing placements:
(a) In Refuge for children at risk, as defined in Section 51 of Children Act 1989, (b) Whereabouts of young people know to social services (but not in refuge) excluding agreed absences from placement such as holidays or planned breaks, (c) Whereabouts unknown.
[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[6] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2004 covered all looked after children.
[7] Historical figures may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[8] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise, placement.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what promotional items bearing the departmental logo have been commissioned by his Department since its establishment. [196271]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: The Department has commissioned ballpoint pens with its corporate logo printed on the barrel. These were for promotional use, primarily at the Education Show 2008 in Birmingham. It has commissioned 'Post-it Notes', A4 and A5 paper pads, and cotton carry bags with its logo to support the launch of the Parent Know-How initiative. It has also commissioned ballpoint pens, mugs and cotton carry bags with its logo to promote Sure Start Children's Centres.

Extracurricular Activities: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of breakfast clubs in Bexley schools; and what steps his Department is taking to encourage their creation. [196411]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Morecambe and Lunesdale (Geraldine Smith) on 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1072W.

Providing access to activities before school, including breakfast clubs, is a part of the extended schools core offer. In the London borough of Bexley there are 57 schools providing access to the core offer of extended services, which may be through a cluster of local schools or other providers.

Nurseries: Closures

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many nurseries closed in England in each of the last 10 years. [195194]

Beverley Hughes: The available information on the number of nurseries opening and closing is shown in the table.

Full day care providers

	Closed	*Open*
2003/04	1,100	2,500
2004/05	1,800	2,800
2005/06	1,300	2,300
2006/07	1,500	2,200

Full day care providers

	Closed	*Open*
April 2007-December 2007	1,300	1,900

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

Source:
Ofsted.

Ofsted data on closures include registered places in settings which are transferring ownership, and in settings which move from one Ofsted category to another, not just in those which are ceasing trading. For example, if a full day care provider moved to offering sessional provision, this would be recorded as a 'closed' full day care setting and an 'opened' sessional day care setting. The Ofsted data therefore exaggerates the true extent of turnover.

Ofsted has produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Its latest figures were published in its report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, December 2007", which is available on its website.

www.Ofsted.gov.uk

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupil referral units were (*a*) opened and (*b*) closed in each of the last 10 years; [195961]

(2) how many pupil referral units places there were in each of the last 10 years. [195962]

Kevin Brennan: The available information is published in table 1 of "Statistical First Release 30/2007 (Schools and Pupils in England: January 2007 (Final))". This SFR can be accessed at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000744/index.shtml

A copy of this SFR is in the Library. Information on the number of places in PRUs is not collected centrally so information on the number of pupils on roll in PRUs, excluding dually registered pupils, has been provided instead.

The number of pupil referral units notified to the Department as opening and closing in each of the last 10 years is provided in the following table.

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total openings	18	18	23	28	69	75	54	33	26	19
Total closings	28	20	21	15	26	29	24	35	24	13

Source:
Edubase

Schools: Finance

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average pupil premium is for a child with (*a*) special educational needs and (*b*) English as an additional language requirement; and what the (i) highest and (ii) lowest premium is. [196263]

Kevin Brennan: The available information for (*a*) is as follows:

Returns from local authorities in England on their intended net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs for 2007-08

Local authority name	*Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs: £*
England	4,868,571,000
Barking and Dagenham	20,173,000
Barnet	42,190,000
Barnsley	17,231,000
Bath and North East Somerset	10,936,000

Returns from local authorities in England on their intended net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs for 2007-08

Local authority name	*Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs (£)*
Bedfordshire	32,013,000
Bexley	26,174,000
Birmingham	167,503,000
Blackburn and Darwen	23,852,000
Blackpool	15,020,000
Bolton	22,747,000
Bournemouth	14,964,000
Bracknell Forest	11,317,000
Bradford	53,123,000
Brent	31,250,000
Brighton and Hove	25,187,000
Bromley	31,631,000
Buckinghamshire	62,612,000
Bury	17,891,000
Calderdale	20,634,000
Cambridgeshire	48,756,000
Camden	24,670,000
Cheshire	69,129,000
City of Bristol	37,908,000
City of Kingston Upon Hull	25,965,000
City of London	331,000
Cornwall	40,106,000
Coventry	37,654,000
Croydon	38,185,000
Cumbria	35,418,000
Darlington	8,514,000
Derby	28,001,000
Derbyshire	80,430,000
Devon	62,251,000
Doncaster	19,958,000
Dorset	35,838,000
Dudley	24,873,000
Durham	38,686,000
Ealing	33,204,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	25,036,000
East Sussex	49,826,000
Enfield	31,522,000
Essex	103,046,000
Gateshead	19,278,000
Gloucestershire	44,614,000
Greenwich	28,511,000
Hackney	27,953,000
Halton	12,178,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	15,145,000
Hampshire	91,351,000
Haringey	29,957,000
Harrow	26,638,000
Hartlepool	10,146,000
Havering	15,787,000
Herefordshire	16,205,000
Hertfordshire	87,928,000
Hillingdon	26,436,000
Hounslow	27,465,000
Isle of Wight	11,087,000
Isles of Scilly	129,000
Islington	22,011,000
Kensington and Chelsea	9,678,000
Kent	143,573,000
Kingston upon Thames	15,771,000
Kirklees	27,406,000
Knowsley	16,088,000
Lambeth	33,078,000
Lancashire	128,721,000
Leeds	57,528,000
Leicester	36,411,000
Leicestershire	52,800,000
Lewisham	33,527,000
Lincolnshire	56,252,000
Liverpool	34,413,000
Luton	23,164,000
Manchester	58,501,000
Medway	28,617,000
Merton	21,320,000
Middlesbrough	17,010,000
Milton Keynes	28,150,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	23,387,000
Newham	42,125,000
Norfolk	60,953,000
North East Lincolnshire	17,845,000
North Lincolnshire	13,384,000
North Somerset	16,615,000
North Tyneside	19,233,000
North Yorkshire	54,554,000
Northamptonshire	50,889,000
Northumberland	27,250,000
Nottingham City	23,055,000
Nottinghamshire	37,506,000
Oldham	20,261,000
Oxfordshire	42,755,000
Peterborough	24,838,000
Plymouth	26,421,000
Poole	11,294,000
Portsmouth	15,414,000
Reading	14,805,000
Redbridge	26,216,000
Redcar and Cleveland	12,562,000
Richmond upon Thames	15,440,000
Rochdale	19,294,000
Rotherham	24,248,000
Rutland	2,961,000
Salford	24,178,000
Sandwell	35,879,000
Sefton	20,786,000
Sheffield	42,662,000
Shropshire	18,395,000
Slough	16,633,000
Solihull	19,522,000
Somerset	40,845,000
South Gloucestershire	21,567,000
South Tyneside	25,234,000
Southampton	16,214,000
Southend	21,469,000
Southwark	32,171,000
St. Helens	13,775,000
Staffordshire	59,045,000
Stockport	20,941,000
Stockton-on-Tees	20,657,000

Returns from local authorities in England on their intended net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs for 2007-08

Local authority name	*Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs (£)*
Stoke on Trent	23,432,000
Suffolk	57,750,000
Sunderland	22,448,000
Surrey	110,753,000
Sutton	25,118,000
Swindon	18,705,000
Tameside	17,793,000
Telford and Wrekin	15,493,000
Thurrock	13,926,000
Torbay	9,803,000
Tower Hamlets	41,374,000
Trafford	19,640,000
Wakefield	26,151,000
Walsall	31,562,000
Waltham Forest	29,857,000
Wandsworth	33,551,000
Warrington	16,477,000
Warwickshire	50,882,000
West Berkshire	15,740,000
West Sussex	82,191,000
Westminster	23,203,000
Wigan	26,272,000
Wiltshire	32,696,000
Windsor and Maidenhead	13,389,000
Wirral	32,642,000
Wokingham	12,113,000
Wolverhampton	24,712,000
Worcestershire	46,703,000
York	13,729,000

The Department does not have a record or calculate the differences on a per pupil basis. It is a matter for each local authority to determine how it distributes funding to schools.

With regard to part *(b)*, local authorities do not provide us with returns on the amounts that they are intending to spend on teaching pupils for whom English is an additional language.

Truancy: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils designated as persistent absentees were entitled to free school meals in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by school year. [195197]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1]: Persistent absentees known to be eligible for free school meals by national curriculum year group[2], 2006-07, England

National Curriculum Year Group	*Number of persistent absentees*	*Percentage of enrolments[3]*	*Of which: known to be eligible for free school meals: Number of persistent absentees known to be eligible for free schools meals*	*Of which: known to be eligible for free school meals: Percentage of persistent absentees[4]*
1 and below	13,420	2.4	5,690	42.4
2	10,030	1.8	4,490	44.8
3	9,280	1.6	4,140	44.6
4	9,330	1.6	4,140	44.3
5	10,270	1.7	4,580	44.5
6	10,230	1.8	4,560	44.6
7	19,100	3.3	8,410	44.0
8	29,090	4.9	11,610	39.9
9	38,540	6.4	14,310	37.1
10	51,500	8.4	16,670	32.4
11	66,730	11.1	17,080	25.6
12 and above	90	9.7	20	16.9
Total (7)	272,950	4.1	95,760	35.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools. Includes maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).
[3] Persistent absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year, typically over 20 per cent. absence rate.
[4] Number of persistent absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.
[5] The number of persistent absentees known to be eligible for free school meals by year group expressed as a percentage of the number of persistent absentees in same year group.

Note:
Numbers of enrolments have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his latest estimate is of *(a)* the likely total value of payments made in adult learning grant during 2007-08 and *(b)* the likely cost of administering adult learning grants in that year. [198559]

Mr. Lammy: The Learning and Skills Council for England manage the adult learning grant on behalf of the Department. Adult learning grant became available across England from September 2007 following trialling in four LSC regions. The LSC contracts with

Liberata, which provides helpline, assessment and payment services. Final figures for 2007-08 are not yet available but the LSC estimate that *(a)* the total payments made to learners for the adult learning grant during 2007-08 was £11.98 million and *(b)* the cost of administering the adult learning grant during 2007-08 was £1:07 million.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which organisations are responsible for administering adult learning grant in Buckinghamshire. [198560]

Mr. Lammy: The Learning and Skills Council for England administer the adult learning grant nationally on behalf of the Department. The LSC contracts with a single helpline, assessment and payment body, Liberata, who process applications and payments on behalf of the LSC throughout England.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many applications for the adult learning grant have been *(a)* made, *(b)* accepted and *(c)* refused in (i) the London Borough of Bexley and (ii) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. [198811]

Mr. Lammy: Adult learning grant has been available throughout England since September 2007, and during its pilot phase, showed that it was successful at helping more individuals raise their skill levels through completing their training and gaining a qualification. It is intended to help low skilled individuals in work on low incomes achieve their first full level 2 or first full level 3 qualification. The grant offers up to £30 per week.

The issues raised are matters for the Learning and Skills Council who administer the adult learning grant for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and have responsibility for the contract with the helpline, assessment and payment body. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which organisations are responsible for administering adult learning grant in Bexley. [198812]

Mr. Lammy: The Learning and Skills Council for England administer the adult learning grant nationally on behalf of the Department. The LSC contracts with a single helpline, assessment and payment body, Liberata, who process applications and payments on behalf of the LSC throughout England.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) where the call centre handling calls to the adult learning grant helpline is located; [198436]

(2) what the average length of time is for an application for adult learning grant to be processed following receipt of a completed application form; [198437]

(3) what training is given to staff responsible for responding to calls by members of the public to the adult learning grant helpline; and if he will make a statement; [198486]

(4) how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff are employed to manage and operate the adult learning grant helpline; [198487]

(5) how many applications for adult learning grant have been *(a)* made, *(b)* accepted and *(c)* refused in (i) England, (ii) the area of the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Learning and Skills Council, (iii) Buckinghamshire and (iv) Aylesbury parliamentary constituency in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [198562]

Mr. Lammy: Adult learning grant has been available throughout England since September 2007 and during its pilot phase showed that it was successful at helping more individuals raise their skill levels through completing their training and gaining a qualification. It is intended to help low skilled individuals in work on low incomes achieve their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification. The grant offers up to £30 per week.

The issues raised are matters for the Learning and Skills Council adult learning grant for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and have responsibility for the contract with the helpline, assessment and payment body. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Verity Bullough, dated 10 April 2008:

In the absence of Mark Haysom I am writing in response to your parliamentary questions that asked:

1. What performance indicators have been set to asses the (a) quality of customer service provided by the adult learning grant helpline and (b) efficiency of the processing of applications for adult learning grant; and if he will make a statement.

The administration of Adult Learning Grant moves to a new system from September 2008. This is part of wider changes to bring together the delivery of a number of strands of the LSC Learner Support, Programme, in order to give improved service to prospective learners.

Delivery of the Adult Learning Grant on the old system in the first term of this academic year was not always satisfactory. Service performance indicators have been set for the new system and these have been met since early January. A baseline survey of the helpline was carried out last year and will be repeated when the new service is in operation, to assess improvement and customer satisfaction.

2. How many applications to grant have been (a) made, (b) accepted and (c) refused in (i) England, (ii) the area of the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Learning and Skills Council, (iii) Buckinghamshire and (iv) Aylesbury parliamentary constituency in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement.

Application information is available at LSC area level but not at local authority or constituency level.

The table below shows application data for the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes LSC area.

Area	Applications received	Applications accepted (Awards)	Applications refused	Applications in progress
England	31,786	22,227	7,050	2,509
Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	572	421	104	47

3. Where the call centre handling calls to the Adult Learning Grant helpline is located.

The Call Centre dedicated to handling Adult Learning Grant calls is in Manchester, with a back-up site in Barrow and imminent further back-up sites in Coventry and Darlington.

4. What training is given to staff responsible for responding to calls by members of the public to the Adult Learning Grant helpline; and if he will make a statement.

Advisors undertake an initial two week training course incorporating mentoring with an experienced advisor and ongoing support and guidance from team leaders. Training continues throughout the Advisors' employment

5. What is the average length of time for an application for Adult Learning Grant to be processed following receipt of a completed application form.

Applications are processed and a communication to the applicant is sent within 10 days of receipt.

6. How many (a) staff and (b) full-time equivalent staff are employed to manage and operate the Adult Learning Grant helpline.

Staff levels dedicated to ALG calls vary in accordance with volumes of calls. There is a core of 7 full-time staff increasing to 27 full-time staff as required.

7. What is the average length of time for dispatch of an Adult Learning Grant pack following receipt of a request from a member of the public.

ALG application forms are available from learning providers, Nextstep, Connexions and Learndirect. Learndirect despatch application packs direct to applicants within two working days of the request being made by 2nd class post. Learndirect advise callers that the application form should be with them within 7 days.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average length of time is for dispatch of an adult learning grant pack following receipt of a request from a member of the public. [198438]

Mr. Lammy: Adult learning grant has been available throughout England since September 2007 and during its pilot phase showed that it was successful at helping more individuals raise their skill levels through completing their training and gaining a qualification. It is intended to help low skilled individuals in work on low incomes achieve their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification. The grant offers up to £30 per week.

The issues raised are matters for the Learning and Skills Council who administer the adult learning grant for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and have responsibility for the contract with the helpline, assessment and payment body. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

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Delivery of the Adult Learning Grant on the old system in the first term of this academic year was not always satisfactory. Service performance indicators have been set for the new system and these have been met since early January. A baseline survey of the helpline was carried out last year and will be repeated when the new service is in operation, to assess improvement and customer satisfaction.

2. How many applications for adult learning grant have been (a) made, (b) accepted and (c) refused in (i) England, (ii) the area of the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Learning and Skills Council, (iii) Buckinghamshire and (iv) Aylesbury parliamentary constituency in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement.

Application information is available at LSC area level but not at Local Authority or constituency level.

The table below shows application data for the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes LSC area.

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3. Where the call centre handling calls to the Adult Learning Grant helpline is located.

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4. What training is given to staff responsible for responding to calls by members of the public to the Adult Learning Grant helpline; and if he will make a statement.

Advisors undertake an initial two week training course incorporating mentoring with an experienced advisor and ongoing support and guidance from team leaders. Training continues throughout the Advisors' employment.

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Adult Education: Numeracy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to improve the numeracy skills of adults. [199832]

Mr. Lammy: On 17 March the Department, working with the Learning and Skills Council, launched the first phase of a new high-profile marketing campaign to encourage adults in England to improve their numeracy skills. In addition, the Department is working with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics and a range of partners to develop a new plan for meeting the numeracy challenge. This plan, to be published in the coming months, will ensure increased demand, supply and quality of adult numeracy provision.

Good numeracy skills are crucial to life and work. Free numeracy courses are available to adults in England through the Government's "Skills for Life" strategy, which was launched in 2001. We are currently committed to improving the numeracy and literacy skills of 2.25 million adults by 2010. So far, 1,759,000 adults have improved their skills and gained a first qualification, and we are on course to meet the 2010 target.

Our longer term ambition, as set out in "World Class Skills", is for 95 per cent. of adults to have functional numeracy skills by 2020, up from 79 per cent. in 2005. To achieve this trajectory the Learning and Skills Council's recent "Statement of Priorities" set out plans to deliver 390,000 numeracy achievements at Entry Level 3 or above during the period 2008 to 2011.

Adult Education: Offenders

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the Government's policy is on the eligibility of ex-prisoners who have been released on licence at the end of their term in custody for adult learning grant; and if he will make a statement. [198561]

Mr. Lammy: Ex-prisoners, who have been released on licence at the end of their term in custody, are able to apply for the adult learning grant (ALG) subject to meeting the full eligibility criteria. The grant is primarily intended to help individuals in work with low skills and on low incomes; individuals receiving out of work benefits are not eligible for ALG. Participants must be undertaking full time learning for their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification. Serving prisoners who are released on temporary licence to attend college are not eligible for ALG.

The 'on licence' process helps offenders re-build their lives, return to their families and gain work. For those offenders wishing to gain qualifications, ALG can help support them in that learning. ALG has been available throughout England since September 2007 and during its pilot phase showed that it was successful at helping more individuals complete their training and gain a qualification.

Adult Education: Standards

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what performance indicators have been set to assess the *(a)* quality of customer service provided by the adult learning grant helpline and *(b)* efficiency of the processing of applications for adult learning grant; and if he will make a statement. [198563]

Mr. Lammy: Adult learning grant has been available throughout England since September 2007 and during its pilot phase showed that it was successful at helping more individuals raise their skill levels through completing their training and gaining a qualification. It is intended to help low skilled individuals in work on low incomes achieve their first full level 2 or first full level 3 qualification. The grant offers up to £30 per week.

The issues raised are matters for the Learning and Skills Council for England who administer the adult learning grant for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and have responsibility for the contract with the helpline, assessment and payment body, Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive; will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

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2. How many applications for adult learning grant have been (a) made, (b) accepted and (c) refused in (i) England, (ii) the area of the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Learning and Skills Council, (iii) Buckinghamshire and (iv) Aylesbury parliamentary constituency in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement.

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Area	*Applications received*	*Applications accepted (awards)*	*Applications refused*	*Applications in progress*
England	31,786	22,227	7,050	2,509
Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	572	421	104	47

3. Where the call centre handling calls to the Adult Learning Grant helpline is located.

The Call Centre dedicated to handling Adult Learning Grant calls is in Manchester, with a back-up site in Barrow and imminent further back-up sites in Coventry and Darlington.

4. What training is given to staff responsible for responding to calls by members of the public to the Adult Learning Grant helpline; and if he will make a statement.

Advisors undertake an initial two week training course incorporating mentoring with an experienced advisor and ongoing support and guidance from team leaders. Training continues throughout the Advisors' employment

5. What is the average length of time for an application for Adult Learning Grant to be processed following receipt of a completed application form.

Applications are processed and a communication to the applicant is sent within 10 days of receipt.

6. How many (a) staff and (b) full-time equivalent staff are employed to manage and operate the Adult Learning Grant helpline.

Staff levels dedicated to ALG calls vary in accordance with volumes of calls. There is a core of 7 full time staff increasing to 27 full time staff as required.

7. What is the average length for dispatch of an Adult Learning Grant pack following receipt of a request from a member of the public.

ALG application forms are available from learning providers, Nextstep, Connexions and Learndirect. Learndirect despatch application packs direct to applicants within two working days of the request being made, by 2nd class post. Learndirect advise callers that the application form should be with them within 7 days.

Agriculture: Qualifications

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps are being taken to promote agriculture-related degrees and further education qualifications. [195216]

Bill Rammell: Careers advice in schools and colleges provides information on the variety of routes into agriculture including apprenticeships, the Diploma in Land-based industries and Foundation Degrees. Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector, has a key role in supporting the development and promotion of education and training provision which meets the sector's requirements. It is currently promoting the Year of Food and Farming, which offers children opportunities to experience farm activities and learn more about environmental issues related to food and the countryside.

Aimhigher Initiative

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1291W, on Aimhigher Initiative, what the reasons are for the change in expenditure levels on the aim higher programme. [195160]

Bill Rammell: In 2004-05, both the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the then Department for Education and Skills made additional, one-off, contributions to the Aimhigher budget. The funds were from underspends elsewhere, and amounted to over £25 million in total. In 2004, Ministers reviewed the programme and, in the light of the decision to introduce the Higher Education Grant, decided to reduce expenditure on Aimhigher to help fund the increases in student support, thereby providing more money directly to students from less well-off backgrounds. The growth in expenditure on student support was shown in the answer to Question 172276.

The Government remain committed to Aimhigher and recently announced its extension to 2011. The Government and HEFCE have together allocated £239.5 million for the three years. This represents a substantial investment and is an indication of our continuing commitment to widen participation in higher education in line with the country's social and economic needs. More young people than ever before are applying to go to university. As of 15 January 2008, 311,741 people from England applied through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) for 2008 HE entry, an increase of 7.1 per cent. on the same point of the previous year. Of the 18-year-olds and under applying for whom social class background is known, 28.9 per cent. are from lower socio-economic groups, up from 28.2 per cent. in 2007.

Apprentices

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of recent trends in the take-up of apprenticeships. [197971]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures available for take-up of apprenticeships are for 2006/07 and show 180,000 starts compared to 2005/06 figures of 175,000.

This is a marked increase in apprenticeship starts and this improvement is also reflected in the improving completion rate which is currently 63 per cent.

World-class Apprenticeships looked at current trends in the context of expanding provision and we aim to build on the outcomes and improve the quality of apprenticeship provision and the apprenticeship experience for young people and adults.

Apprentices: Death

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many fatalities occurred during training for apprenticeships in 2006-07. [199922]

Mr. Lammy: There was one fatality on apprenticeships in 2006/07.

Apprentices: Employment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills in which 10 professions where an apprenticeship scheme is in operation employment shortages were highest in the last period for which figures are available. [200064]

Mr. Lammy: Information about employment shortages by apprenticeship framework is not available.

Apprentices: Foreigners

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in apprenticeships who are not UK nationals; and if he will make a statement. [199921]

Mr. Lammy: Information about the nationality of people on apprenticeships is not collected centrally by the Learning and Skills Council or the Department. Individual employers and training providers may hold nationality and other information to ensure people have the right to work in this country.

Apprentices: Unemployment

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills in which 10 professions rates of unemployment of those completing an apprenticeship were highest in the last period for which figures are available. [200040]

Mr. Lammy: There are no reliable estimates available. However, using the Annual Population Survey it is possible to calculate approximate estimates of the unemployment rates for those who hold an apprenticeship for various occupational groups. The following table shows for those holding an apprenticeship estimates for 2006 for the 10 minor occupational groupings with the highest unemployment rates. It should be noted that the apprenticeship may have been gained at any point in the respondents' working life and therefore will include many old trade apprenticeships. The occupation groupings are based on current job (if employed) and last job (if unemployed) and these may not be the same as the occupation grouping of the apprenticeship held. The analysis is for England and covers females aged 19-59 and males aged 19-64. These estimates are based on small samples and are not robust as the confidence intervals shown in the table make clear.

Taking all those holding an apprenticeship does provide robust estimates and for 2006 the ILO unemployment rate for those holding an apprenticeship was 2.8 per cent. compared with 4.8 per cent. for all adults aged 19-59/64.

10 minor occupational groupings[1] with highest ILO unemployment rates[2] for people[3] holding an apprenticeship (Annual Population Survey, England, 2006)

Occupation group	*Unemployment rate*	*95 per cent. confidence interval for unemployment rate*	
		Lower bound	*Upper bound*
Managers in Hospitality and Leisure	9.9	3.7	16.2
Sales Related Occupations	9.5	3.0	16.0
IT Service Delivery Occupations	9.3	1.4	17.2
Assemblers and Routine Operatives	8.8	4.7	12.9
Elementary Personal Service Occupations	8.1	2.8	13.4
Financial Institution and Office Managers	7.5	1.2	13.9
Customer Service Occupations	7.3	1.3	13.3
Mobile Machine Drivers and Operatives	6.7	1.4	11.9
Elementary Administration Occupations	6.5	1.5	11.4
Elementary Process Plant Occupations	6.4	2.0	10.9

[1] Based on Standard Occupational Classification 2000.
[2] Defined as the unemployed as a percentage of the economically active (employed plus unemployed).
[3] Females aged 19-59 and males aged 19-64.

Asbestos

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many notifications his Department has received of the presence of asbestos in property for which his Department has responsibility in the last 12 months. [199927]

Mr. Lammy: All property occupied by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills is managed on our behalf by, and is the responsibility of, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and the Department for Children Schools and Families. But in any event, no notifications of the presence of asbestos in property occupied by the Department have been received in the last 12 months.

Astronomy: Finance

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library the documents his Department holds relating to the withdrawal of funding for all ground-based solar terrestrial physics facilities in the UK; and on what date the withdrawal of this funding was announced publicly. [196576]

Ian Pearson: The Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) is responsible for decisions relating to the funding of ground-based solar terrestrial physics facilities in the UK. STFC intends to highlight the relevant documentation available shortly on its website. Decisions about the withdrawal from a number of specific ground-based solar terrestrial physics facilities was announced by STFC's predecessor, the Particle Physics Astronomy Research Council (PPARC) on August 2006 in its delivery plan for 2006/07 to 2007/08. STFC proposes to honour the commitment that had also been made by PPARC, in its 2006/07 to 2007/08 delivery plan, to continue to support EISCAT (European Incoherent Scatter Scientific Association) until 2011.

The decision to withdraw from all ground-based solar terrestrial physics facilities was announced in the STFC delivery plan 2008/09 to 2011/12 published on 11 December 2007.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect on British astronomy of proposed changes to the science and technology budget in future years. [196699]

Ian Pearson: The UK has traditionally played a leading role in astronomical research and will continue to do so via the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

STFC is committed to ensuring that UK astronomers play a leading role in shaping the development of international research and to do so it will ensure UK astronomers continue to have access to world-leading facilities, for instance via membership of the European Southern Observatory (ESO). The UK will also continue to invest, in collaboration with

European and other partners, in design studies for two future world-class facilities: an Extremely Large Telescope; and the Square Kilometre Array, the next generation radio telescope.

Colleges of Education: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government plans to take to reduce carbon emissions from further education colleges. [199312]

Mr. Lammy: Launched by the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the 27 March, "Building Colleges for the Future" outlines detailed proposals for the largest ever further education building works programme, which will see £2.3 billion invested over the next three years.

As part of this record investment, the Government announced that they would require all new projects to meet the highest building standards for sustainable design, including the need to achieve an 'Excellent' BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating—which includes mandatory requirements on energy.

In support of the Government's targets for reducing the UK's carbon emissions by at least 26 per cent. by 2020, the Government have also set a target of all new college buildings to be zero carbon by 2016 and has a task force in place to advise on how we may be able to move even more quickly to this position. The task force is expected to publish its findings and recommendations in summer 2008.

Conferences

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which overseas conferences have been attended by members of his Department since its establishment. [199924]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. The nature of the Department's business requires members to attend a range of overseas conferences convened by international organisations and by other countries with which we are working. We do not hold a record of these engagements.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average annual absence rate amongst civil servants in his Department was in the last three years. [197118]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS was created by Machinery of Government Changes in July 2007 from elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

There are records of average working days lost per employee due to illness for the period from July to December 2007. DIUS continues to rely for this information on the computer systems of the departments from which it transferred staff at its inception. These show average working days lost per employee in the six month period of 2.7 for ex-DTI employees and 4.1 for ex-DfES employees.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of his Department's expenditure was on advertising in each year since establishment. [182986]

Bill Rammell: The Department's expenditure on advertising since its establishment is £2,416,687.

To provide this as a percentage of overall departmental spend, the basis of departmental expenditure needs to be defined. The remit can include or exclude non-departmental public bodies, and as DIUS is in its first year of operation there is no audited expenditure information for the core department available. For these reasons, we are unable to provide this figure as a percentage of the Departments overall spend.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which of his Department's initiatives have been advertised to the public; and what the cost of each such campaign was since establishment of his Department. [192272]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has run an advertising and promotional campaign on student financial support, which launched on 5 November 2007 and runs until 31 March 2008. The campaign had two strands and advertising media costs are broken down as follows:

	Television	*Radio*	*Digital*	*Press*	*Partnerships*[1]
Spend					
Strand 1	1,145,813	374,173	160,000		209,032
Strand 2		188,011		185,337	

[1] Partnership activity involved the cost of advertorial space in partners' titles

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills at how many events held by his Department (*a*) wine and (*b*) Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196937]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) is a relatively new Department, formed on 28 June 2007. As a general rule because most of the events that we organise are held during the working day, we rarely use the public purse to purchase alcohol. The majority of our catered events supply tea, coffee, water or juice.

DIUS has provided wine at only four meetings, two of which were receptions involving journalists, and the other two were planning meetings in the evening and involving a small group of college principals.

Events sponsored by DIUS where wine is served are consequently few in number and if wine is ordered, the question of whether the wine is Fairtrade is only one of the factors that is taken into consideration, however contracts for catering services and supplies are awarded on the basis of the best value for money for the taxpayer. We have no record of whether the wine purchased on our behalf was Fairtrade wine.

Nevertheless, the catering companies used by the Department do supply Fairtrade products.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many consultants contracted by his Department are former civil servants. [199928]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. The Department operates a devolved procurement structure for consultants. As such we do not centrally record previous career histories of consultants engaged by DIUS.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether confidential , or personal information has been compromised through the loss of property from his Department and its predecessor since 1997. [193432]

Bill Rammell: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive governments not to comment on breaches of security. However, following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Interim Progress Report on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS, all Departments will cover information assurance issues in their annual reports.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [199030]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS was formed following Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007 and is in its first year of operation. Since the final adjustments have not been made for that financial year there is no audited expenditure information available. Publicity and advertising cover a very wide range of activities and we do not hold centrally information on all expenditure in this area.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187541]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on expenditure to this detail is not collected centrally in the Department. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193563]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to provide information for the whole period in question as the Department was created as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. However, I am able to tell you that 14 employees out of a total of 766 in the Department are presently making additional voluntary contributions to their Civil Service (Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme) pensions. This equates to 1.8 per cent. of the Department's employees.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what opinion polls the Department has conducted of (*a*) the public and (*b*) staff since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) name of the firm employed to conduct the poll, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost to the public purse was in each case. [164948]

Mr. Lammy: Consultations and engagement have taken place with the public since the Department was formed on 28 June 2007. No opinion polls of the public or DIUS staff have been conducted by the Department in that time. However, the Department undertakes discrete pieces of public-facing research in order to inform specific communications activities and programmes, such as those listed.

(*1*) *Message development research for First to Go [to University] PR campaign*

(i) Company: Ticknet

(ii) Audience: Parents and Students

(iii) Objective: Help define and extend the student finance messages to households where no one has previously gone to university

(iv) Cost: £8,000

(*2*) *Strapline development research for Foundation Degrees*

(i) Company: Wardle McLean

(ii) Audience: Employers, providers, Higher Education Institutions, students

(iii) Objective: Test audience perceptions of the use of the words 'Foundation Degree'

(iv) Cost: £23,250

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many external contracts his Department has held with public relations companies since its inception; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183190]

Mr. Lammy: The information provided relates to both the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills, which were formed following the Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. It is not possible to provide separate costs for each Department during 2007-08 except at disproportionate cost.

Both Departments employ public relations agencies for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press offices to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media companies. They have used such agencies for 15 campaigns at a cost of £1.085 million since June 2007. These figures include contracts placed by both Departments using a framework agreement and by the Central Office of Information (COI) on our behalf.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198936]

Mr. Lammy: The percentage of working days lost by the Department's staff attributed to stress-related conditions during the six months from July to December amount to 15.6 per cent. of all working days lost due to sickness absence. It would involve disproportionate cost to disaggregate the records to present this information on a monthly basis. My Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007, so the percentage is based on figures from 1 July to 31 December 2007 (the latest information available).

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has put in place a range of measures to support all employees on health and wellbeing issues, including the provision of professional counselling and occupational health services.

Departmental Sick Pay

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of sickness pay to staff within his Department was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [187506]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS was created by Machinery of Government changes in July 2007 from elements of the previous Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills.

Consequently, even if the Department routinely calculated the actual cost of sickness absence it would not have figures for a full year. The Department does not keep such a record presently because this would involve manually investigating employee sickness records and pay details on an individual basis. The cost of doing so would be disproportionate to the benefits arising. Instead, the Department has undertaken calculations on the basis of average working days lost and average salaries in the first six month of its existence. On this basis, the total cost of sickness is around £189,000 for six months.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197065]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. In the period since it was formed records show the following participation by employees in the specified training programmes run by the National School of Government:

Influencing with Integrity: one employee at a cost of £726.

Working Assertively: two employees at a combined cost of £1,452.

Total cost involved: £2,178.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on first class travel since establishment, broken down by staff grade. [187654]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on travel expenditure to this detail is not collected centrally in the Department. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, year to date, the Department has spent £1,807,973 on travel and subsistence.

Departmental Vacancies

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many posts in his Department have remained vacant for over three months in the last 12 months. [200065]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. We have been keeping records of time taken to fill vacancies from 1 December 2007 this records time from advertising the post to the time a successful candidate is offered the post. Our records indicate that five posts have remained vacant for over three months and have been re-advertised.

We do not keep records of vacant posts where no recruitment action is taken.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195819]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. Consequently, I am unable to provide information covering a longer period of time.

Records of hours worked, including overtime, are kept by individual teams across the Department and could be amalgamated only at disproportionate cost. The contractual hours of employment in DIUS are 41 per week in London and 42 elsewhere, inclusive of an hour each day as a rest break.

Subject to business needs, flexible working arrangements are available to all staff, together with scope for approved home working, part-time working and job sharing arrangements. The intention is to enable an appropriate balance to be struck between personal and work responsibilities. With this in mind, efforts are made to avoid overtime or extra hours being worked, with guidelines to the effect that this should be used only during periods of exceptional pressure of work.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what representation his Department has in UK overseas posts; and at what level. [199925]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS interests are mainly represented in overseas posts by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the British Council. The level of representation varies according to the size of post and the amount and significance of bilateral activity. On science and innovation issues, the Government have recently announced that DIUS will assume responsibility for leading and managing science and innovation attaches based in embassies and high commissions overseas.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199049]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS is a new and relatively small Government Department, with the second smallest headcount in Whitehall. A member of the DIUS Departmental Board has been appointed as "diversity champion" to drive forward our commitment to diversity and a Diversity and Inclusion Programme Board has been established to set and deliver an effective strategy. We have already identified a number of priorities for intervention and the actions we will take to underpin them. These include the creation of a single database of information about the composition of our workforce so that we can assess our performance on equality and diversity relative to others and ensure that we are targeting action appropriately. We have also committed in principle to the setting of targets on representation within our workforce, including of disabled employees, with clear dates for achievement. This will form part of the wider proposition to employees and prospective employees of DIUS but at present the work is not sufficiently developed to indicate specific targets.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and its predecessor and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194983]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to provide information for the entirety of the period in question because my Department was created as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. However, in the period since the Department was formed there have been no claims of discrimination based on gender, race or sexual orientation.

Educational Institutions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which further education colleges deliver higher education courses. [195161]

Bill Rammell: The following table lists the further education colleges which are directly funded by Higher Education Funding Council for England to deliver higher education courses, together with the provisional level of grant each college will receive in 2008-09.

Provisional HEFCE grant 2008-09

Further education colleges	£
Accrington and Rossendale College	628,843
Askham Bryan College	1,430,746
Barking College	881,394
Bedford College	924,700
Bexley College	78,577
Bishop Burton College	2,750,685
Blackburn College	7,914,131
Blackpool and The Fylde College	6,474,241
Bolton College	120,558
Boston College	55,729
Bradford	7,688,370
Bridgwater College	578,038
Bromley College of Further and Higher Education	66,800
Brooklands College	453,864
Calderdale College	727,318
Carlisle College	523,842
Castle College Nottingham	650,028
Central Sussex College	574,704
Chesterfield College	1,186,432
Chichester College	520,031
City of Bath College	522,967
City College, Birmingham	308,143
City College, Coventry	692,989
City College, Manchester	1,898,818
City College Plymouth	252,803
City of Sunderland College	846,111
City of Westminster College	1,072,184
City of Wolverhampton College	63,523
Cleveland College of Art and Design	1,916,437
Craven College	220,664
Croydon College	2,947,946
Dearne Valley College	516,406
Dewsbury College	1,026,829
Doncaster College	3,399,298
Dudley College of Technology	644,193
Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College	321,455
East Riding College	509,859
Exeter College	584,605
Fareham College	163,027

Further education colleges	Provisional HEFCE grant 2008-09 £
Farnborough College of Technology	3,430,337
Filton College	329,152
Gateshead College	1,012,914
Gloucestershire College of Arts and Technology	1,112,232
The Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education	5,758,838
Halesowen College	30,655
Havering College of Further and Higher Education	4,376,635
Henley College Coventry	576,187
Hereford College of Arts	1,157,211
Herefordshire College of Technology	360,028
Highbury College, Portsmouth	795,990
Hopwood Hall College	604,688
Huddersfield Technical College	316,992
Hull College	4,150,959
Joseph Priestley College	35,537
Kensington and Chelsea College	130,015
Kingston College	327,325
Lakes College - West Cumbria	901,461
Lambeth College	27,884
Leeds College of Art and Design	4,330,865
Leeds College of Technology	183,284
Leicester College	1,126,244
Lewisham College	116,876
Lincoln College	847,077
Liverpool Community College	1,698,050
Loughborough College	3,195,602
Macclesfield College	2,145,158
Manchester College of Arts and Technology	1,743,469
Matthew Boulton College of Further and Higher Education	438,461
Moulton College	998,173
New College, Durham	3,707,031
New College, Nottingham	2,495,449
New College Stamford	534,379
New College, Telford	65,119
Newbury College	188,163
Newcastle College	8,401,796
North East Surrey College of Technology	3,714,079
North East Worcestershire College	1,052,889
North Lindsey College	2,302,[illegible]
North Nottinghamshire College	126,511
North Warwickshire and Hinckley College	495,252
North West Kent College of Technology	128,651
The College of North West London	774,449
Northbrook College, Sussex	3,552,368
Northumberland College	577,146
Oxford and Cherwell Valley College	331,220
Park Lane College	1,960,574
Plymouth College of Art and Design	2,747,971
Richmond upon Thames College	91,188
Riverside College Halton	1,145,099

Further education colleges	Provisional HEFCE grant 2008-09 £
Rotherham College of Arts and Technology	658,657
Ruskin College	957,429
Salford College	62,694
Sandwell College	84,153
The Sheffield College	1,174,020
The Solihull College	1,485,237
South Downs College	368,250
South Leicestershire College	108,840
South Nottingham College	330,105
South Thames College	451,650
Trafford College	620,986
South Tyneside College	1,662,287
Southampton City College	140,754
Sparsholt College, Hampshire	2,254,360
St Helens College	3,214,061
Stephenson College	921,320
Stockport College	3,204,729
Stourbridge College	91,490
Stratford upon Avon College	96,125
Stroud College in Gloucestershire	60,580
Swindon College	1,360,030
Tameside College	438,309
Telford College of Arts and Technology	114,584
Totton College	14,448
Tyne Metropolitan College	670,985
Uxbridge College	980,479
Wakefield College	1,281,344
Walsall College	1,105,804
Warwickshire College, Royal Leamington Spa, Rugby and Moreton	3,098,983
West Kent College	196,280
West Nottinghamshire College	1,932,808
West Thames College	473,164
Westminster Kingsway College	1,025,999
Wigan and Leigh College	2,168,535
Wiltshire College	1,038,811
Wirral Metropolitan College	1,214,253
Worcester College of Technology	1,642,761
York College	1,233,831
Yorkshire Coast College of Further and Higher Education	253,742
Overall total	166,884,146

English Language: Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of levels of demand for places on courses in English for speakers of other languages in London; and if he will make a statement. [186638]

Bill Rammell: The demand for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses has been very high with funding and enrolments across England tripling since 2001.

Detailed information on ESOL funding and enrolments is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) but this does not extend to waiting lists. However, some institutions, particularly in London, have suggested they have waiting lists of up to 24 months.

A number of ESOL funding measures were introduced from August 2007 to help vulnerable learners. The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has commissioned a report to look at the impact of these measures. The interim findings indicate a continuing high level of demand for ESOL and that the learner profile seems to be changing in some colleges, with more enrolments onto evening than daytime classes. A full report is planned for early spring.

The national comprehensive spending review (CSR) has fixed ESOL spending until 2010 and participation figures in London have been forecast to align with this. London Learning and Skills Council has negotiated an increase in the size of its employer responsive budget for 2008-09 due to the specific socio-economic needs of London and ESOL needs for the individual and employers will be addressed within this.

In addition, the London Learning and Skills Council is expanding the offer of ESOL Skills for Life to Entry Levels 1 and 2 within the train to gain service. The service will also be expanded to include the new ESOL for Work qualifications. This enables a greater flexibility for employers and individuals in accessing ESOL.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many places on courses for qualifications in English for speakers of other languages have been provided in London over the last eight years. [186477]

Bill Rammell: The Government have put adult skills at the heart of their strategy for long-term prosperity and social justice. The total Government investment in further education has increased by 52 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2006-07 and we are committed to further increases in adult participation funded through the Learning and Skills Council to £3.6 billion in 2010-11.

Since 2001 the Government have invested over £3 billion through the Skills for Life Strategy. The strategy offers adults the chance to improve their basic skills by enrolling on further education courses and other provision leading to qualifications in literacy, numeracy and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL).

So far, 4.7 million people have taken up 10.5 million Skills for Life learning opportunities nationally, including 2 million people who have improved their English language skills. The number of learners enrolled on ESOL courses in London between 2001 and July 2007 was 999,747.

Information about ESOL provision before 2001 when the Government launched the Skills for Life Strategy is not held in a format from which comparable data can be extracted without disproportionate cost.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's policy is on the use of fair trade goods *(a)* in staff catering facilities and *(b)* at official departmental functions and meetings; and if he will make a statement. [183881]

Mr. Lammy: Catering facilities and for the Department are provided on our behalf by the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Both of those Departments have a policy to make fair trade products available throughout their catering operations.

Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of making the support available to full-time over 25-year-olds enrolled on their first full level 3 course equivalent to that of full-time, home-based, first degree undergraduates in respect of *(a)* grants, *(b)* maintenance loans and *(c)* fee loans; [196897]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of making the support available to part-time over 25-year-olds enrolled on their first full level 3 course equivalent to that of full-time, home-based, first degree undergraduates in respect of *(a)* grants, *(b)* maintenance loans and *(c)* fee loans; and if he will make a statement; [196898]

(3) if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of making the support available to full-time 19 to 25-year-olds enrolled on their first full level 3 course equivalent to that of full-time, home-based, first degree undergraduates in respect of *(a)* grants, *(b)* maintenance loans and *(c)* fee loans; and if he will make a statement. [196899]

Bill Rammell: The Government offer a range of support for adults to enable them to get the skills they need for their career, or for progression, in whatever way best suits their needs, including both full and part-time provision.

We have put in place a different set of support arrangements for learners on full level 3 courses in Further Education, compared to home-based university undergraduates. Our priority for level 3 entitlement learners is to help young adults to complete their initial education and provide full fee remission to protect them from increases in FE fees and learner support for those on low incomes; the Adult Learning Grant pays up to £30 per week during term times to help with learning costs for those studying for a first full level 3 (or first full level 2) qualification. They may then go on to higher education and take advantage of HE student support, or progress to higher skills training and/or employment. HE students undertake longer, more expensive courses, with higher additional incidental costs, such as books and materials, which is why the financial support arrangements are not directly comparable.

We already have a strong package of measures in place to help young adults achieve advanced level 3 qualifications. In the Budget, the Chancellor announced an additional £60 million over the next three years for advanced level 3 skills. This will allow more individuals to get the skills they need to get second chances and unlock their talents. We will be exploring new and innovative approaches to delivering training that individuals and employers need.

These new resources will move us a step closer to realising our ambitious vision for universal Skills Accounts where adults will be able to access significant investment in their skills, including an Apprenticeships credit to cover training costs. We will be undertaking trials of Skills Accounts in 2008/09 and 2009/10, with national roll-out from 2010. And increasing the number of Advanced Apprenticeships will be a key focus for these additional resources, building on the recommendations of the recent Apprenticeships review.

Further Education

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the options analysis for post-19 provision as referred to in the regulatory impact assessment for Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver. [196769]

Bill Rammell: Following the creation of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills in June 2007 the Secretary of State, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Skills and I led an internal review of the post-19 skills landscape. The review considered a functional analysis of England's skills policy delivery mechanisms and was informed by stakeholder and other expert views given in confidence. The options examined for possible reconfigurations of the functions of the skills landscape were wide-ranging and comprehensive, as befits an organisational review following a major change in the Machinery of Government. The mechanism for the review was a series of ministerial submissions and discussions, focusing in on preferred options in an iterative process; no consolidated 'options analysis' covering the entire work of the internal review was compiled. The internal review resulted in the proposals published in Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver, which are presented for external consultation until 9 June 2008.

Further Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many 19 to 25 year olds enrolled on their first full level 3 qualification there were in each year since 2001; [196800]

(2) how many (*a*) 25 to 30, (*b*) 25 to 35 and (*c*) over 25 year olds enrolled on their first full level 3 course there were in each year since 2001. [196805]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to ensuring that young adults have the opportunity to complete their education and gain a full level 3 qualification that will enable them to progress into skilled employment or higher education. We are committed to achieving the 2011 indicator of 56 per cent. of working age adults qualified to at least full Level 3.

The following table shows the number of people aged 19+ (to the nearest 1,000) doing full level 3 in each year since 2002/03 (the earliest available), and estimated numbers doing a first full level 3. Historical data on first full level 3 by the requested age-bands is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Further education					
Full Level 3 learners	124,000	122,000	125,000	161,000	156,000
Of which					
First full L3	68,000	67,000	69,000	89,000	86,000
Advanced apprenticeships					
Full Level 3 starts	36,000	32,000	28,000	30,000	32,000
Of which					
First full L3	22,000	19,000	17,000	18,000	19,000

Note:
This time series combined data on learner numbers from the Individualised Learner Record with information from the Learning and Skills Council's Prior Qualifications Survey on 'firstness'. The survey tells us that 55 per cent. of full Level 3 learners in FE and 60 per cent. of people starting an Advanced Apprenticeship are doing their first full Level 3.

Further Education: Higher Education

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 930W, on further education: higher education, what proportion of students were funded by (*a*) the Higher Education Funding Council for England and (*b*) the Learning and Skills Council. [188582]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table.

Higher education enrolments at English further education colleges[1] by HEFCE and LSC funded - Academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

		Of all enrolments[2]		Of all enrolments[2]	
Academic year	*All enrolments[3]*	*Number funded by HEFCE*	*Percentage funded by HEFCE*	*Number funded by LSC*	*Percentage funded by LSC*
2001/02	139,630	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002/03	134,970	55,470	41.1	60,635	44.9
2003/04	143,065	56,545	39.5	67,410	47.1
2004/05	141,365	53,540	37.9	67,785	47.9

Higher education enrolments at English further education colleges[1] by HEFCE and LSC funded: Academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

Academic year	All enrolments	Of all enrolments[2]: Number funded by HEFCE	Of all enrolments[2]: Percentage funded by HEFCE	Of all enrolments[2]: Number funded by LSC	Of all enrolments[2]: Percentage funded by LSC
2005/06	139,410	53,020	38.0	63,880	45.8

n/a = Funding breakdown is not available for the 2001/02 academic year

[1] Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies transferred to the higher education sector in 2002, Leeds College of Music transferred in July 2005, Reading College and School of Art and Design merged with Thames Valley University in December 2003 and higher education provision at Barnsley College and Oldham College transferred to the University of Huddersfield in August 2005

[2] Includes students with other sources of funding, therefore the number of HEFCE funded plus the number of LSC funded will not sum to the number of all enrolments, likewise the proportions will not sum to 100 per cent

Note:

Figures are on a DIUS Whole Year Count basis, which counts students enrolled at any point in the academic year, and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individualised Learner Record

The changes in the number of higher education enrolments at further education colleges will have been affected by the transfer of institutions from the further education sector to the higher education sector. The number of higher education enrolments at further education colleges will also have been affected by the transfer of higher education activity from further education colleges to higher education institutions under franchising arrangements. Franchising is a process where students take a course delivered by an institution on behalf of another institution and this often occurs between higher education institutions and further education colleges.

Further Education: Qualifications

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what proportion of *(a)* HNDs and *(b)* HNCs were taught in further education colleges in the last 12 months; [195656]

(2) what proportion of foundation degrees were taught in further education colleges in the last 12 months. [195657]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the following table.

Proportion of HND, HNC and foundation degree students[1] taught in English further education colleges, 2005-06 academic year

Qualification aim	Proportion (percentage)
HND	59
HNC	84
Foundation degree	53

[1] Figures are on a headcount basis and cover all students registered at English higher education institutions and English further education colleges.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record and Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

An estimate for the 2007-08 academic year shows that there are almost 72,000 people studying foundation degrees. We are therefore making good progress towards achieving our target participation rate of 100,000 by 2010.

We are committed to foundation degrees as a key vehicle for higher education expansion as they provide precisely the type of business-facing, demand-led provision that is helping employers to address higher level skill needs.

Further Education: VAT

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much VAT has been recovered from further education colleges following VAT inspection of the use of zero-rated buildings in each year since 1997. [198459]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on the amount of VAT collected on individual goods and services.

Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full-time undergraduates applied to universities from each parental *(a)* socio-economic group and *(b)* income quintile in the last three years for which figures are available. [196560]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is shown in the table. Information on applicants to full-time undergraduate courses by parental income quintile is not available.

Number of English domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC): Years of entry 2005 to 2007

	NS-SEC group	2005: Number	2005: Percentage of known	2006: Number	2006: Percentage of known	2007: Number	2007: Percentage of known
1	Higher managerial and professional occupations	59,189	21.0	56,970	21.8	60,438	21.7
2	Lower managerial and professional occupations	88,153	31.3	81,037	31.1	85,708	30.8
3	Intermediate occupations	42,927	15.2	37,797	14.5	39,770	14.3
4	Small employers and own account workers	20,116	7.1	19,488	7.5	21,024	7.5
5	Lower supervisory and technical occupations	13,078	4.6	12,151	4.7	12,735	4.6

Number of English domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC)—Years of entry 2005 to 2007

	NS-SEC group	2005		2006		2007	
		Number	Percentage of known	Number	Percentage of known	Number	Percentage of known
6	Semi-routine occupations	41,841	14.9	37,746	14.5	41,763	15.0
7	Routine occupations	16,347	5.8	15,682	6.0	17,133	6.2
	Total known	281,651	100.0	260,871	100.0	278,571	100.0
	Unknown[1]	87,150	—	97,196	—	101,506	—
	Total	368,801	—	358,067	—	380,077	—
	Number of known in groups 1-3	190,269	67.6	175,804	67.4	185,916	66.7
	Number of known in groups 4-7	91,382	32.4	85,067	32.6	92,655	33.3

[1] The proportion of applicants from unknown NS-SEC has increased from 23.6 per cent. in 2005 to 26.7 per cent. in 2007. *Source:* Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants to full-time undergraduate courses who had been accepted for entry in 2007, rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000, the highest ever. Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008, show that applicants from England are up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2007.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of students applying for full-time science undergraduate courses in *(a)* the most recent UCAS round and *(b)* the previous 10 years were from each socio-economic background. [196661]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information from Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is shown in the table. Figures for years earlier than 2002 have not been given because in this year the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) was first introduced. It replaced the Social Class (SC) classification, and the two classifications cannot be directly compared. Also in 2002, a new subject classification was introduced which is not comparable with the classification used in earlier years.

Number and proportion of English domiciled applicants to full-time science[1] undergraduate courses by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) years of entry 2002 to 2007

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
NS-SEC group[2]	Number	% of known	Number	% of known	Number	% of known	Number	% of known	Number	% of known	Number	% of known
1	22,525	24.2	22,499	24.0	22,577	23.8	22,602	22.9	22,256	23.9	22,954	23.6
2	27,072	29.1	27,727	29.6	28,436	30.0	29,315	29.7	27,330	29.4	28,296	29.0
3	14,293	15.4	13,993	14.9	14,342	15.1	14,963	15.2	13,639	14.7	13,881	14.2
4	6,546	7.0	6,525	7.0	6,429	6.8	6,762	6.9	6,560	7.0	7,143	7.3
5	4,432	4.8	4,842	5.2	4,588	4.8	4,751	4.8	4,454	4.8	4,690	4.8
6	12,688	13.6	13,105	14.0	13,260	14.0	14,807	15.0	13,549	14.6	14,813	15.2
7	5,440	5.8	5,110	5.4	5,132	5.4	5,408	5.5	5,309	5.7	5,650	5.8
Total known	92,996	100.0	93,801	100.0	94,764	100.0	98,608	100.0	93,097	100.0	97,427	100.0
Unknown[3]	16,814	—	19,610	—	19,256	—	26,190	—	29,147	—	29,857	—
Total	109,810	—	113,411	—	114,060	—	124,798	—	122,244	—	127,284	—
Groups 1 to 3	63,890	68.7	64,219	68.5	65,355	69.0	66,880	67.8	63,225	67.9	65,131	66.9
Groups 4 to 7	29,106	31.3	29,582	31.5	29,409	31.0	31,728	32.2	29,872	32.1	32,296	33.1

[1] Science undergraduate courses cover the following subject groups: Medicine and Dentistry; subjects allied to Medicine; Biological sciences; Veterinary science, Agriculture and related subjects; Physical sciences; Mathematical and Computer Science; Engineering; Technologies; Architecture, Building and Planning; and Combined Sciences.

[2] Definitions of each of the NS-SEC groups are (1) Higher managerial and professional occupations; (2) Lower managerial and professional occupations; (3) Intermediate occupations; (4) Small employers and own account workers; (5) Lower supervisory and technical occupations;(6) Semi-routine occupations and (7) Routine occupations.

[3] The proportion of applicants from unknown NS-SEC has increased from 15.3 per cent. in 2002 to 23.5 per cent. in 2007.

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants to all full-time undergraduate courses who had been accepted for entry in 2007, rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000, the highest ever. This includes increases in accepted applicants to first degree courses in physics (up by 9.8 per cent.), chemistry (up by 8.8 per cent.) and maths (up by 9.3 per cent.).

Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008, show that, as at the middle of January, applicants to all full-time undergraduate courses from England are up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2007.

Higher Education: Admissions

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency entered higher education in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06 and *(d)* 2006-07. [194724]

Bill Rammell: The information is shown in the table.

Entrants to undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions from Morecambe and Lunesdale parliamentary constituency, academic years 2003/04 to 2006/07

Academic year	Entrants
2003/04	1,400
2004/05[1]	1,260
2005/06	1,430
2006/07	1,620

[1] Figures for the Open university for 2004/05 have been included but these are known to undercount entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open university.

Notes:
1. Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. Figures cover students on full-time and part-time modes of study.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants who had been accepted for entry in 2007 rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000, the highest ever. Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008 show that applicants from England are up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2007.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the higher education initial participation rate was in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* 18 to 21 and *(b)* 22 to 30 year olds in each local education authority area. [198474]

Bill Rammell: The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh Further Education Colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figures are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-30 year olds

Percentage

	HEIPR (17-30)		HEIPR (18-21)		HEIPR (22-30)	
1999-2000	39	39.2	32	32.4	7	6.5
2000-01	40	39.6	33	33.0	6	6.3
2001-02	40	40.2	34	33.6	6	6.3
2002-03	41	41.1	34	33.8	7	6.9
2003-04	40	40.2	33	32.9	7	7.0
2004-05	40	40.1	33	32.7	7	7.0
2005-06	42	42.5	35	35.0	7	7.2
2006-07	40	39.8	33	32.6	7	6.8

Notes:
1. The HEIPR is usually published to the nearest integer, but the figures are included to one decimal place to inform comparisons over time.
2. Numbers are quoted to the nearest thousand.

Source:
"Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/2000-2006/07 (Provisional)" published by DIUS (2008). The HEIPR is not disaggregated below national level, and figures are not available for Earlier years than 1999/2000.

Everyone has known for a long time that student applications fell for 2006/07—the first year of variable fees. We also know that they recovered strongly for 2007/08, to resume an upward trend. The numbers fall of 2006/07 has affected the HEIPR for that year. Unsurprisingly it has fallen. A year from now, we will know how the counterbalancing rises of 2007/08 will affect the HEIPR, We expect to see an increase in the HEIPR.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students formerly eligible for free school meals were admitted to a university in 2007. [198659]

Bill Rammell: Analysts in the Department are currently working on producing progression figures for FSM and non-FSM pupils, and we are planning to publish these in May.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many pupils from maintained schools studied for a *(a)* physics and *(b)* chemistry degree in each year since 1997. [198662]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the following table. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and they show the previous school type of students who were accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system, in each year since 2002. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to Higher Education Institutions. Comparable figures for earlier years are not held centrally.

Applicants from the UK accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses in physics and chemistry—by previous school type, years of entry 2002 to 2007

Year of entry

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Physics courses:						
Maintained sector[1]	2,140	2,080	1,879	2,050	2,148	2,353
Independent schools	341	362	338	3m	321	391
Unknown[2]	245	200	218	285	154	161
Total	2;726	2,642	2,435	2,654	2,623	2,905
Chemistry courses:						
Maintained sector[1]	2,209	2,128	2,205	2,501	2,616	2,808
Independent schools	356	352	355	410	433	494

Applicants from the UK accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses in physics and chemistry—by previous school type, years of entry 2002 to 2007

	Year of entry					
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Unknown[2]	327	318	237	280	218	228
Total	2,902	2,798	2,797	3,191	3,267	3,130

[1] Includes accepted applicants from comprehensive schools, FE/HE institutions, grammar schools, sixth form colleges, sixth form centres, other maintained establishments, and other establishments.
[2] Includes accepted applicants who did not provide details of their previous school type.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what non-government organisations and groups he consulted prior to his Department's decision to reduce equal and lower qualification funding. [195162]

Bill Rammell: We took this decision from first principles in order to increase and widen participation in higher education. It would have been pointless to consult on an issue where we had already decided what to do, as a matter of principle, and successive Governments have all taken major strategic decisions about principled priorities in this way. However, we asked the Higher Education Funding Council for England to consult extensively on the details of how our decision might best be implemented and our final proposals reflect the results of that consultation.

Higher Education: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will encourage universities not to use information from social networking sites when making decisions on *(a)* student admissions and *(b)* staff recruitment. [198784]

Bill Rammell: Admissions decisions are a matter for individual higher education institutions (HEIs) who, as independent bodies, have discretion over their own admission policies and procedures. HIEs are also responsible for their own staff recruitment and for determining the policies and practices that apply to this, in line with employment and equality legislation. The Department does not therefore issue guidance in these areas.

I have been reassured by the Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) team, who provide a centre of expertise in admissions matters, that such practices are not a feature of university admissions, despite press suggestions to the contrary. I expect admissions officers to continue to select suitable candidates based on their achievements and potential as they do now. Social and other networking sites will not provide reliable and authenticated evidence of the kind required to support such important decisions.

As outlined, above HE institutions operate within a legal framework in relation to recruitment, like other employers. As such, they would be responsible for determining their legal position if they chose to make use of material that candidates have placed in the public domain in their recruitment processes. Institutions must comply with the law and in our view they should also comply with best practice in their recruitment processes.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the first-degree student population enrolled at higher education institutions were from non-EU countries in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [186619]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the table. Figures for 2007/08 will be available in January 2009.

First degree enrolments by domicile English higher education institutions[1]—Academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

		Of which					
Academic year	*Total first degree enrolments*	*Number from UK*	*Proportion (%) from UK*	*Number from EU*	*Proportion (%) from EU*	*Number from Non-EU*	*Proportion (%) from Non-EU*
1997/98	802,710	720,475	89.8	39,245	4.9	42,995	5.4
1998/99	811,780	729,705	89.9	41,405	5.1	40,665	5.0
1999/2000	810,150	729,085	90.0	41,345	5.1	39,720	4.9
2000/01	812,175	731,185	90.0	39,160	4.8	41330	5.2
2001/02	834,130	752,470	90.2	35,455	4.3	46,210	5.5
2002/03	868,280	779,310	89.8	32,970	3.8	56,000	6.4
2003/04	895,955	801,080	89.4	30,810	3.4	64,070	7.2
2004/05	912,940	811,155	88.9	34,885	3.8	66,895	7.3
2005/06	945,420	838,445	88.7	38,055	4.0	68,920	7.3
2006/07	960,265	848,975	88.4	41,685	4.3	69,605	7.2

[1] Excludes the Open University.
Notes:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at the 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5 and percentages to the nearest 0.1 per cent.
Source:
The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The figures indicate that international student numbers on first degrees at English higher education institutions have increased by nearly 62 per cent. since 1997. This is very much a success story as these students contribute to the cultural mix, the research capacity and the finances of our institutions. The growth of international student numbers has not been at the expense of home students as they are not in competition with each other for places and it can be seen that the number of home students has also increased by over 128,000 during this ten year period.

Higher Education: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many residents of *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster entered higher education in each of the last 10 years; and how many of those were (i) mature and (ii) part-time students in each such year. [199441]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007-08 academic year will be available in January 2000.

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Barnsley and Doncaster local authorities, UK higher education institutions, academic years 1997-98 to 2006-07

	Barnsley			Doncaster		
	of all entrants[2]			of all entrants.[2]		
	All Entrants	Mature[3]	Part-time	All Entrants	Mature[3]	Part-time
1997-98[4]	1,070	620	420	1,205	465	225
1998-99	1,170	710	410	1,605	770	450
1999-2000	1,150	645	455	1,530	700	480
2000-01	1,285	730	545	1,515	715	495
2001-02	1,220	650	435	1,640	730	530
2002-03	1,315	795	565	1,770	900	695
2003-04	1,225	795	575	1,565	890	680
2004-05[5]	1,350	795	620	1,940	1,000	825
2005-06	1,630	970	730	1,966	955	765
2006-07	1,555	890	665	1,875	945	740

[1] Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent time series across all years and are rounded to the nearest five. Figures include the Open university but exclude those on writing up, sabbatical or dormant mode of study.
[2] Breakdowns for mature and part-time students contain double counting (i.e. part-time students over 21 years of age will be included in both columns).
[3] Mature undergraduate students are aged 21 and over. Figures include a small number of students whose age was unknown.
[4] Figures for 1997-08 exclude the Open University because there are no figures available for entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open University by local authority for this year.
[5] Figures for the Open University for 2004-05 are known to undercount entrants to undergraduate courses in that year.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Overall for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants who had been accepted for entry to full-time undergraduate courses in 2007 rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000, the highest ever. Figures at local authority level show that, for Barnsley, the number of accepted applicants for 2007 entry rose by 9.1 per cent. and, for Doncaster, accepted applicants rose by 6.3 per cent. Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008 show that applicants to full-time undergraduate courses from England are up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2007.

Jodrell Bank: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make a statement on *(a)* funding of the e-Merlin project and *(b)* the future of Jodrell Bank observatory. [196592]

Ian Pearson: Jodrell Bank, which is owned by the University of Manchester, is involved in a variety of radio astronomy activities, including the e-Merlin project. E-Merlin is the development of a network of seven UK radio telescopes run by the Jodrell Bank Observatory and funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) in partnership with the North West Development Agency and the University of Manchester. STFC provides the University of Manchester £2.4 million per annum for Merlin operations, and a further £874,000 for exploitation in 2007-08. STFC is currently considering future funding for e-Merlin as part of its Programmatic Review. STFC has yet to take a decision on its future level of support for e-Merlin. However, STFC has made it clear that the e-Merlin project is part of its strategy for radio astronomy and that it is in discussion with its partners about the issues raised by the review.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has allocated to Jodrell Bank in each of the last five years for which figures are available; how much he plans to allocate for the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [196725]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* Jodrell Bank, which is owned by the University of Manchester, is involved in a variety of radio astronomy activities, including the e-Merlin project, funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC). STFC is currently considering future funding for e-Merlin as a part of its Programmatic Review and has yet to take a decision on this. However, STFC has made it clear that the e-Merlin project is part of its strategy for radio astronomy and that it is in discussion with its partners about the issues raised by the review.

STFC allocated the following funds to activities at Jodrell Bank in the past five years:

		£ million
	Merlin/e-Merlin	Exploitation
2003-04	2.147	0.670
2004-05	2.337	0.822
2005-06	2.383	0.779
2006-07	2.502	0.795
2007-08	2.441	0.874

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199614]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. DIUS has not made payment to JP Morgan in the 2007-08 financial year.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199644]

Mr. Lammy: Our financial records show that since its formation in June 2007, the Department has not made any payments to the company Karian and Box.

Mature Students

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assistance his Department makes available to enable mature students to attend universities. [194725]

Bill Rammell: Mature students are generally eligible for the same student support package as other students. For full-time students, fee loans of up to £3,070 (£3,145 in 2008/09) ensure that no one has to pay their fees upfront. Students under the age of 60 are eligible for maintenance loans of up to £6,315 (£6,475 in 2008/09)[1]. Means-tested grants of up to £2,765 (£2,835 in 2008/09) are available to new students. From 2008/09, we are increasing the income thresholds so that many more students will be eligible to receive a grant. At least one third of all students will receive a full grant; and two-thirds a partial grant. Students may also qualify for a bursary from their higher education institution.

In addition, students with dependants can claim additional grants including: adult dependants grant worth up to £2,510 (£2,575 in 2008/09); parents learning allowance worth up to £1,435 (£1,470 in 2008/09); and child care grant worth up to £7,735 for one child and £13,260 for two or more children.

Students may also apply for support from the Access to Learning Fund, a university-administered fund for students experiencing financial hardship. Student parents are eligible to receive child tax credit from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. Mature students who do not qualify for undergraduate student support may be eligible for a Career Development Loan which has an element of subsidy from public funds.

Students over 25 years of age are treated as independent, and are assessed on their own income (and the income of their spouse or partner where applicable) and not on the income of their parents.

Extra support for the disabled is available in the form of Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs). DSAs can help students in higher education with the additional costs they may incur on their course as a direct result of a disability.

Part-time mature students receive the same support as other part-time students. A fee grant of up to £1,150 (£1,180 in 2008/09) is available, depending on the intensity of the course, together with a course grant of up to £250 (£255 in 2008/09). Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are available to part-time HE students. The Access to Learning Fund (ALF) provides a child care grant which offers a contribution to child care costs for eligible part-time students. Students must have received confirmation that they are entitled to statutory support. During the time it takes to receive this confirmation institutions can, if they wish, provide help with child care from ALF to ensure that child care can be secured from the start of the course.

[1] This is the maximum amount available to students studying in London. Students studying elsewhere can receive up to £4,510 (£4,625 in 2008/09).

Measurements: EC Action

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had on recent European Commission statements on the legality of the use of imperial measures; and with whom. [198909]

Ian Pearson: The Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills has not held any such discussions.

Part Time Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of part-time further education students completed level 3 courses funded by their employer in each year since 2001. [196902]

Bill Rammell: Data on part-time further education students completing level 3 courses funded by their employer is not collected.

Pre-School Education: Training

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of those studying for the Early Years Foundation Degree at university were *(a)* white and *(b)* black and minority ethnic people in each year since 1997, broken down by sex. [197432]

Bill Rammell: No such data exists on the sex or the number and proportion of white and black and minority ethnic students studying for the Early Years Foundation Degree.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female students studying for the Early Years Foundation Degree were from socio-economic backgrounds (i) 1 to 3 and (ii) 4 to 8 in each year since 1997. [197440]

Bill Rammell: No such data exists on the number and proportion of male and female students studying for the Early Years Foundation Degree.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and (c) its non-departmental public bodies was in each year since1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189658]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. As such, the cost of the press offices of the Department, its agencies and its non-departmental public bodies prior to these changes will be reported within the figures presented by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. To disaggregate these numbers to provide a separate return for DIUS would represent a disproportionate cost.

The 2007-08 accounts for DIUS have not been audited and as such we are unable to provide information for the 2007-08 financial year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189659]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed on 28 June 2007 as a result of the Machinery of Government changes. It currently employs 12 full-time press officers.

For much of its business, the Department operates through a number of arms length bodies including 20 non-departmental public bodies and other agencies. It is the responsibility of each body to manage its staff structure and costs. Therefore the Department does not hold the information requested centrally and there would be a disproportionate cost to gather the information requested.

Publications: Obesity

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost was of printing and distributing the publication 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices'; how many copies were printed; and to whom it was distributed. [194545]

Ian Pearson: The printing and distribution costs for the 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices' report were about £17,000 and £10,000 respectively. 4,000 copies were printed, including a second edition.

The report was circulated to key stakeholders including relevant Government Departments, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, the press and those who attended the launch event in October 2007 and other dissemination events and activities. In addition, it was, and continues to be, sent in response to individual requests.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197503]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Neither DIUS, nor it's agencies, have any contracts with Rackspace.

Salisbury College: Standards

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the Ofsted report on the last inspection of Salisbury College. [198539]

Bill Rammell: As this is a matter for Ofsted, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 3 April 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief inspector, for reply.

Salisbury College was most recently inspected in November 2007 (having been found inadequate in its previous inspection in October 2006) and a copy of the inspection report is enclosed. This college merged with Wiltshire College as of 1 January 2008, and is now known as Wiltshire College Salisbury.

Wiltshire College was last inspected in October 2007, and the inspection report is available on the Ofsted website http://www.ofsted.gov.uk under Inspection Reports, Further Education Colleges. The direct link is:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/pdf/?inspectionNumber=317040&providerCategoryID=524288&fileName=\\school\\132\\c12_132779_20080304.pdf

A copy of this reply has been sent to Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes from the Science and Technology Facilities Council's Science Board between April 2007 and February 2008 inclusive. [196526]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The minutes from the Science and Technology Facilities Council's Science Board between April 2007 and February 2008 inclusive have been published by STFC on its website:

http://www.scitech.ac.uk/About/Strat/Council/AdCom/SciBrd/contents.aspx

Skilled Workers

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1624W, to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings, (Mr. Hayes) on skilled workers, what his most recent estimate is of the number of skill shortage vacancies in *(a)* the construction sector and *(b)* the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism sector. [197416]

Mr. Lammy: The National Employer Skills Survey (NESS) 2005 for England has the most current publicly available data on skill shortages. The 2005 survey shows that 143,125 employers reported at least one skills shortage vacancy (SSV). Of these, construction accounted for 11,900 skill shortage vacancies. Forecast data by ConstructionSkills anticipates that to meet the demand for new workers, the construction industry in England will need to recruit 74,340 people per annum between 2008 to 2012. The NESS 2005 also shows that

12,900 vacancies in hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism arise as a result of a skills shortage. People 1st research indicates that chef and managerial vacancies are hardest to fill. Updated data on skill shortage vacancies will be available when the NESS 2007 is published after the end of March.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government has taken to include employers in the formulation of skills policy. [199831]

Mr. Lammy: We are giving employers an unprecedented role in shaping the employment and skills system to ensure it delivers the skills and qualifications that they and the wider economy need.

The new employer-led UK Commission for Employment and Skills became fully operational this month, and brings an unprecedented level of employer leadership and challenge at the heart of the system. It will provide vigorous and expert challenge to Government on its employment and skills strategy, targets and policies.

The network of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) also has a vital role to play in the development and implementation of skills policy. The UK Commission will lead the reform and re-licensing of SSCs, with a new focused remit to work with employers to articulate the future skills needs of their sector, ensure that the supply of skills and qualifications is driven by their needs; and to raise employer ambition and investment in skills.

DIUS ministers and officials maintain a regular dialogue with employer representative bodies, including the Confederation of British Industry, Federation of Small Business, British Chambers of Commerce and the Engineering Employers' Federation, for example.

Specialist Schools: Capital Investment

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what capital spending is planned for *(a)* James Brindley, *(b)* Haywood, *(c)* Brownhills and *(d)* St. Margaret Ward specialist colleges in each of the next three years. [198354]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

All schools receive devolved formula capital allocations for their immediate investment needs. In each year 2008-09 to 2010-11 this will be calculated on the basis of £18,500 plus £94.50 per secondary school pupil, if the school is unmodernised. Modernised schools will receive half that amount. Resources are also allocated at local authority level, for authorities to invest in accordance with local investment priorities. In the case of these four schools, they will form part of Stoke's Building Schools for the Future project. Construction is expected to begin for these schools in the latter half of the three year period, but there are no firm timescales at this stage.

Student Wastage

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of students left university in their first year in the 2006-07 academic year; and what assessment he has made of the reasons for them leaving. [187849]

Bill Rammell: The latest figures available on non-continuation of higher education students are for the 2004/05 academic year. The latest available information is shown in table 1 and is broken down by young (under 21) and mature (21 and over) students and first degree and other undergraduate entrants.

Table 1: Percentage of UK domiciled full-time first degree and other undergraduate entrants not continuing in higher education after their first year, English higher education institutions, academic year 2004/05

Age	First degree	Other UG
Young (under 21)	6.8	16.6
Mature (21 and over)	14.0	14.8

Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA.

Figures for the 2005/06 academic year will be available later this year and those for the 2006/07 academic year, in 2009. The Higher Education Statistics Agency do not publish figures on the percentage of part-time students not continuing in higher education after their first year.

According to the figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate for type A (first degree equivalent) courses in UK universities and colleges of higher education is among the highest in the OECD countries (the UK ranks fifth out of 23 countries who report data in this area).

The percentage of students in England not completing their course has fallen to its lowest since the non-completion performance indicator was introduced, which already starts from a baseline which is low by international standards.

The latest available information for reasons for leaving higher education courses is shown in table 2. This is broken down by first degree and other undergraduate entrants.

Table 2: Number of UK domiciled first degree and other undergraduate entrants[1] who left their course, English higher education institutions, academic year 2006/07

Reason for leaving	First degree	Other UG
Successful completion of course	7,925	48,955
Transferred to another institution	1,830	490
Academic failure/left in bad standing/not permitted to progress	4,995	3,780
Health reasons	625	445
Death	70	50
Financial reasons	610	255
Other personal reasons and dropped out	7,700	5,260
Written off after lapse of time	1,315	1,170

Table 2: Number of UK domiciled first degree and other undergraduate entrants[1] who left their course, English higher education institutions, academic year 2006/07

Reason for leaving	First degree	Other UG
Exclusion	650	345
Gone into employment	690	375
Other	3,840	2,325
Completion of course, result unknown	105	1,940
Unknown	990	935
Total who left course early not having transferred	21,595	16,885
Total who left in academic year	31,350	66,330

[1] Covers both full-time and part-time students.

Note:
Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The reason for leaving information on the HESA student record should be treated with some caution, because the 'other personal reasons and dropped out' and 'other' fields are used extensively. Institutions are not always able to record the precise reason for leaving. Furthermore, HESA allows only one reason for withdrawal to be recorded, however it is likely that many students leave for a combination of reasons.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on the *(a)* gender, *(b)* socio-economic background and *(c)* ethnicity of students who fail to complete their first degree; and if he will make a statement. [199347]

Bill Rammell: The available information on the proportion of UK-domiciled starters to full-time first degree courses who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution is shown in table 1. It is not possible to break these figures down by gender, socio-economic background or ethnicity. Comparable figures for the 2005/06 academic year will become available in June this year. Information on the actual number of students who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution has not been published.

Table 1: Proportion of full-time first degree starters at English and UK higher education institutions, who were projected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another institution[1] - academic years 1997/98 to 2004/05

Academic year	1997/98	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	Percentage 2004/05
England	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.0	13.8	13.9	14.4	13.8
UK	15.7	15.8	15.8	15.0	14.1	14.4	14.9	14.2

Notes:
1. The projected outcomes for a cohort are based on the assumption that their patterns of progression will follow those of students currently in the system. A student is assumed to have left with no award if they have been inactive for two years.
2. Figures from the 1996/97 academic year have been excluded due to a change in methodology between 1996/97 and 1997/98.
3. Figures for years earlier than 1996/97 are not available.

Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

HESA also publishes non-continuation indicators, which show the proportion of entrants to full-time first degree courses not continuing in higher education after their first year. It is possible to break these down by gender, ethnicity and National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC), and this information is shown in table 2.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young[1] entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year by gender, ethnicity and NS-SEC - academic years 2002/03 to 2004/05

Background		2002/03	2003/04	Percentage 2004/05
Gender	Female	6.8	6.7	6.5
	Male	8.9	8.8	8.0
Ethnicity	White	7.6	7.5	7.1
	Non-White	7.4	7.1	6.6
	Unknown	14.4	13.9	13.3
NS-SEC	Groups 1-3	6.3	6.0	5.6
	Groups 4-7	8.1	8.2	7.6
	Unknown	10.6	12.5	11.8

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young[1] entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions not continuing in higher education after their first year by gender, ethnicity and NS-SEC: academic years 2002/03 to 2004/05

Percentage

Background	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
All backgrounds	7.8	7.7	7.2

[1] Young refers to entrants who are under 21 years of age.

Notes:
1. Non-continuation rates provide the percentage of students who enter a higher education institution in one academic year, who are no longer in a HEI in the following academic year and have not qualified.
2. Figures for years earlier than 2002/03 are not currently available.

Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Student retention rates in this country compare very well internationally. The UK ranks fifth in the OECD for first degree completion rates, out of 23 countries who report data in this area. A university education is now open to more students than ever before and the Government are totally committed to providing opportunities for all people to achieve their potential and to maximise their talent.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government plans to take to prevent students from being banned from university campuses due to late payment of fees. [177316]

Bill Rammell: All eligible students starting their higher education course in the academic year 2006/07 can take out a non means-tested loan for tuition fees: they do not have to pay the fees themselves at the start of the academic year. The fee loan is up to £3,070 in 2007/08 (£3,145 in 2008/09). The Student Loans Company pay the tuition fee direct to higher education institutions; the loan is repaid after graduation on the same terms as loans for maintenance. The policy on payments and attendance is a matter for each higher education institution.

We re-introduced a means-tested higher education maintenance grant for students who started their course in 2006/07. Up to £2,765 is available in 2007/08 (£2,835 in 2008/09). From 2008/09 the minimum threshold (of family income) for a full maintenance grant will be increased from £17,500 a year to £25,000 a year; with a partial grant available up to an income threshold of £60,000. It is expected that up to around two thirds of air students will receive a full-or partial-grant.

For full-time students, maintenance loans are also available—for example up to £6,315 in 2007/08 (£6,475 in 2008/09) for students in London living away from home. Most universities offer institutional bursaries above the mandatory minimum level of £305 in 2007/08 (£310 in 2008/09).

In addition, full-time students with dependants can claim supplementary grants including adult dependants grant; Parents learning allowance and childcare grant. Both full and part-time students can claim disabled students allowances to support the course related costs of disabled students.

For part-time students, in 2007/08 a fee grant of up to £1,150 (£1,180 in 2008/09) is available (depending on how intensive the course is), together with a course grant of up to £250 (£255 in 2008/09).

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to ensure that funds allocated by universities for student bursaries are fully spent. [188042]

Bill Rammell: The director for fair access is responsible for ensuring that universities have satisfactory access agreements in place as a pre-condition of charging variable fees and for ensuring that institutions comply with these obligations. A range of sanctions is available to the director if a university is found to be in breach. In 2006-07, the director has reported that all universities have complied with the obligations in their access agreements.

The question rests on a misunderstanding of how bursaries work. Institutions do not allocate a fixed amount of expenditure for bursaries. They have made forecasts of the costs of their bursaries packages, but these have always contained a level of uncertainty for methodological reasons. Additionally, a number of universities forecast their highest level of overall payment rather than the most probable outcome.

I have always made it clear that where a university is spending less than it had anticipated on bursaries, it would be right to spend on other activities to encourage widening participation, which will not normally be reported under the access agreement. The Russell Group and the 1994 Group of universities and individual institutions have supported this policy.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the sector assessment of the impact of the new funding criteria for equivalent or lower qualification students will be published. [198524]

Bill Rammell: We will respond substantively to this point when we publish our response to the Innovation, Universities and Skills Select Committee's recent report. But any full analysis has to look not just at the characteristics of existing students but also at the millions of potential students without a first higher education qualification who will have more opportunities in future as a result of our policy.

Students: Loans

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the revenue which would be received by the Exchequer from increasing the interest rates charged on student loans by (*a*) 0.1 per cent. and (*b*) 1 per cent. in 2008-09. [166346]

Bill Rammell: The principle behind student loans is that borrowers repay broadly the same amount, in real terms, as they have borrowed. The interest rate on student loan balances is therefore fixed at the rate of inflation.

Increasing the interest rate on student loan balances by 0.1 or 1 per cent. above inflation would provide no immediate additional revenue to the Exchequer. Repayments are based on earnings and not the amount borrowed, so increasing the interest rate charged to borrowers would not impact on receipts in 2008-09, although it would impact on receipts in the future.

Under resource accounting, the Government accounts for the full lifetime cost of making a student loan in the year that loan is made. Any change in the way the interest rate was calculated would increase or decrease those costs.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much student grant his Department expects undergraduates from each parental income decile to receive under the first year of operation of the new system announced by the Secretary of State in July 2007. [196637]

Bill Rammell: The July 2007 announcement increases the means-testing threshold below which students are entitled to a full maintenance grant up from £17,910 for entrants in 2007/08 to £25,000 for entrants in 2008/09. The threshold for a partial grant will increase from £38,330 for entrants in 2007/08 to £60,005 for entrants in 2008/09. These thresholds relate to household income.

This will mean that one third of all eligible students in England entering higher education in the academic year 2008/09 are expected to be entitled to a full non-repayable grant worth £2,835 and another one third are expected to be entitled to a partial grant of between £50 and £2,835. Until students apply for support for 2008/09, we do not know the amount of grant per income decile as we do not know exactly where the decile bands will fall on the income scale. Further information on the amount of grant available to students in 2008/09, by household income, is set out in a memorandum entitled "Support Available Under the Student Support Regulations", a copy of which can be found in the House Library.

Due to these reforms, by 2011, the number of students receiving some level of grant will increase by around 100,000. As part of this change, an extra 50,000 students will receive a full grant.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* total and *(b)* per capita student loan take-up was classified by parental (i) income decile and (ii) socio-economic group in each of the last five years. [196640]

Bill Rammell: 75 per cent. of the maximum loan amount available is not means tested, so borrowers choosing to apply only for this part do not provide income details. This will include borrowers who know their household income is too high to be eligible for the means-tested element, those who do not wish to provide income details, and those choosing to take a smaller loan. Data are therefore not available to classify borrowers by income or socio-economic group.

From 2006-07 students from lower income households have had part of their maintenance support met through a non-repayable maintenance grant, and their entitlement to maintenance loan is therefore reduced to reflect this. Loan entitlement is reduced by £1 for every £1 of maintenance grant entitlement up to £1,200 in 2006-07 (£1,230 in 2007-08).

Available data are shown in the table.

Maintenance loans taken out by English domiciled students, sum borrowed and average loan, academic years 2002-03 to 2006-07

Academic year	*Number of loans taken out (thousand)*	*Sum borrowed (£ million)*	*Average value of loan (£)*
2002-03	666	2,161	3,250
2003-04	682	2,258	3,310
2004-05	693	2,349	3,390
2005-06	719	2,496	3,470
2006-07[1]	727	2,608	3,590

[1] Provisional data.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the net value of the student loan book is. [199420]

Bill Rammell: The balance of publicly-owned student loans on 31 March 2007 was £18.1 billion, including loans not yet due for repayment. This figure relates to English domiciled students and graduates who studied in the UK, and EU students and graduates who studied in England.

Students: Public Participation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills who the members of the National Student Forum are; and if he will make a statement. [198834]

Bill Rammell: The National Student Forum (NSF) has been established, as part of our Student Listening Programme, to help amplify the voice of higher education students in Government. It held its first meeting on 28 February 2008. The Forum has an independent chair, Maeve Sherlock.

The confirmed members of the Forum are as follows:

1. Lisa Carson
2. Matthew Gayle
3. Phoebe Hoi Ki Lau
4. Tshering Lama
5. Ismail Malik
6. Akanimo Odon
7. Steve Rigby
8. Rosemary Rimmer-Clay
9. Samina Sabir
10. Christopher Sadler
11. Armineh Soorenian
12. Wes Streeting
13. Serena Trowbridge
14. Gemma Tumelty
15. Kate Wicklow

Work is in hand to confirm appointments for the two outstanding vacancies.

The Forum members represent the broad diversity of students in higher education, including both full-time and part-time students, postgraduates and undergraduates, students with disabilities and international students.

The National Student Forum is an important and innovative development which will help to ensure that the views of students are taken into account in our policy development and implementation.

Training: Apprentices

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of Government Departments and agencies in the provision of apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement. [196631]

Mr. Lammy: The Government skills strategy announced on 1 April and agreed by Government Departments and the armed forces aims to raise professional standards and strengthen skills over a three-year period to meet the needs of the sector. This strategy includes a programme to create 500 new apprenticeships in Government Departments. This builds on the good work already done on apprenticeships by some Government Departments such as Department for Work and Pensions, the Ministry of Defence and Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

Universities: Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the Government expect that every university will be twinned with a business champion. [193764]

Bill Rammell: Business engagement in different forms is increasingly a mainstream activity for every university. Over 90 per cent. provide an inquiry point for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and over 80 per cent. provide short bespoke courses on company premises. It is for individual higher education institutions (HEIs) to decide the nature of their engagement with business, including whether to twin with a business champion.

However, the demands imposed by global competition mean that Government have a key role to play in creating the conditions within which individual HEIs develop a range of mutually beneficial collaborations with appropriate businesses and employer partners. For example, we have provided the funding to enable the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to deliver its 'Transforming Workforce Development' programme of activities, which is set to enable a wide range of HEIs to work more closely with businesses in supporting work force development. This will allow growth in a new form of higher education, co-funded by employers, that will deliver higher level skills provision that meets business needs.

Vocational Education: USA

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage recognition in the United States of vocational qualifications awarded in the UK. [196990]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are keen to encourage recognition of UK qualifications overseas in order to help our citizens to study or work abroad. National Academic Recognition and Information Centres (NARICs), as do European Network of Information Centres (ENICs), exist to provide information and advice about vocational, academic and professional skills and qualifications from all over the world, and the NARIC/ENIC international network provides similar advice to UK citizens seeking to study or work abroad. In recent years the UK NARIC has worked with the US ENIC on the broad principles relating to recognition practices for vocational and professional qualifications below degree.

Vocational Training: Construction

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the training of youth construction workers offered by the Olympic Delivery Authority with the policies of World-Class Apprenticeships: Unlocking Talent, Building Skills for All. [196373]

Mr. Lammy: Our underlying commitments in world-class apprenticeships are to ensure a significant increase in the number and quality of apprenticeships. World-Class Apprenticeships emphasises our commitment to encourage companies contracted to the Government for projects such as the Olympics, to employ apprentices. My right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics and London has already responded to the hon. Member's previous question about the Olympic Delivery Authority's plans including their expectations for the provision of apprenticeships.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199600]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. DIUS has not made payment to Zurich Financial Services in the 2007-08 financial year.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Helicopters

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military helicopters were deployed in Afghanistan in *(a)* May 2005 and *(b)* April 2008. [198623]

Des Browne: I am withholding detailed information on the number of military helicopters in Afghanistan, as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serviceable UK military helicopters there are in *(a)* Helmand province, *(b)* Kandahar and *(c)* Afghanistan, broken down by type. [198626]

Des Browne: The UK has deployed: Chinook CH-47; Sea King; Apache AH-64; and Lynx light-utility helicopters to Afghanistan. I am withholding further information on the number, location and availability of military helicopters in Afghanistan, as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British servicemen and women experienced heat exhaustion in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since 2006. [193098]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence records instances of heat illness, as part of its monitoring of climatic injury. Heat illness has traditionally been divided into heat exhaustion and heat stroke, but in practice it is difficult to define the division between the two. Heat illness is therefore used to cover a continuum of illness ranging from mild symptoms such as muscular weakness, headache and excess fatigue to collapse, coma and death.

In Iraq in 2006, 71 service personnel were recorded with a climatic illness, of whom 27 were bedded down in a medical facility as a result. In 2007, 90 service personnel were recorded with a climatic illness of whom nine were bedded down. In Iraq, the temperature and humidity can change very quickly, increasing the likelihood of sudden instances of heat illness.

In Afghanistan, between August 2006 (when data collection started) and the end of 2007, 91 personnel were recorded with a climatic injury of whom 32 were bedded down.

These figures provide an indication of instances of heat illness. It is likely that there have been other cases of heat injury which could not be identified from the available records as they may have been recorded under a variety of symptoms (e.g. dehydration, headache etc.) common to other illnesses.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 812W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, how many times *(a)* fixed wing and *(b)* rotary wing aircraft from the Mesopotamia Group have supported British troops in Helmand Province since the start of the contract. [196596]

Des Browne: From the start of the ISAF Contracted Air Transport (ICAT) contract until 1 March 2008, the latest date for which data are available, only helicopters have been used, undertaking a total of 23 sorties. This has included making 30 visits to Forward Operating Bases in support of UK forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 812W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the start date of the contract was; and how long the contract is for. [196597]

Des Browne: The start date of the ISAF Contracted Air Transport (ICAT) contract was 1 February 2008. This is a 12-month contract, with an option to extend for a further 12 months.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLTs) are in Afghanistan; how many countries are providing troops for OMLTS; and what percentage of OMLTs are led by British forces. [196608]

Des Browne: There are currently 39 Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLTs), which mentor Afghan National Army personnel, either on the ground in Afghanistan or whose deployment has been confirmed. Troops for OMLTs are contributed by 15 countries. The United States also provides Embedded Training Teams which fulfil a similar role. 18 per cent. of the operational or confirmed OMLTs are led by British forces.

Air Force: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours of training were required for those flying *(a)* fast jets, *(b)* transport aircraft and *(c)* helicopters in the RAF in each year since 2003. [199451]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Aircraft Carriers: Design

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what specifications are included in the design of British aircraft carriers to enable them to absorb battle damage shock in the *(a)* superstructure, *(b)* flight deck and *(c)* main hull; what such design specifications have been agreed for the two future aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement. [198706]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Battle damage survivability considerations and shock resilience have been taken into account in the design of aircraft carriers currently in-service and in the agreed design specifications for the two future aircraft carriers. I am, however, withholding detailed design information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any Minister has made an authorisation under section 48 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. [199071]

Des Browne: In 2001 the then Secretary of State for Defence signed two authorisations under Section 48 of the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security and international relations.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the (a) Army, (b) Navy and (c) Royal Air Force exceeded the guidelines for individual separated service in the latest period for which figures are available. [193089]

Derek Twigg: The latest figures as at 31 December 2007 (Q3 07/08) show that:

Less than 1 per cent of RN/RM personnel were in breach of the single service guidelines.

10.3 per cent of the Army were in breach of separated service guidelines.

This is a year on year improvement from 14.5 per cent in 2006-07 and 13.4 per cent in 2006-07). The Army continues to monitor separated service with due diligence utilising directed recruitment and retention initiatives targeted at pinch point trades in particular.

10 per cent of RAF personnel breached the single Service guideline. This is an increase of 3.3 per cent on the previous quarter due to changes in the base reporting requirements, which has brought the RAF into line with the RN and Army reporting.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of non-combat deployment for servicemen and women stationed within the UK is, not including short-term training exercises, that does not require relocation. [197931]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel were deployed on operations, broken down by location of deployment, at the most recent date for which figures are available. [199473]

Des Browne: The following table provides the number of UK service personnel deployed on operations by location as at 31 March 2008. The number of personnel in theatre will naturally fluctuate on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including leave (rest and recuperation), temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Number of personnel deployed by location[1]

Location	*Number*
Of which:	
Afghanistan[2]	8,600
Iraq	3,900
At sea	700
Qatar	400
Cyprus	280
Kuwait	260
Oman	190
Kosovo	130
Bahrain	70
Bosnia	10
Other	20
Total	14,590

1. Countries with 10 or more personnel are shown separately. Other countries with fewer than 10 personnel per country include Georgia, Nepal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia.

2. Figures for Afghanistan are artificially high due to a current 'relief in place' roulement of forces in operation.

Note:
Numbers for each location are rounded to the nearest 10, except for Iraq and Afghanistan which have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to provide a new swimming pool at Defence Medical Service Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court. [184924]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 5 February 2008]:* The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court has a hydrotherapy pool on site which is in regular use. The centre has also for many years used a local authority swimming pool for water-based therapy, as part of its comprehensive rehabilitation programme.

A new charity, Help for Heroes, has offered to raise funds to build a swimming pool at Headley Court, as part of a new rehabilitation complex on the site. We warmly welcome this very generous offer, in addition to the money we plan to spend to enhance the unit's existing facilities. We shall work closely with the charity as its proposals are developed. Headley Court is owned by a Charitable Trust and charitable funding has contributed to the enhancement of the facilities at Headley Court since the site was first used for the rehabilitation of military personnel in 1946.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was paid out by his Department for medical negligence claims made by *(a)* service personnel and *(b)* service dependants relating to their treatment in (i) service facilities, (ii) civilian medical facilities abroad and (iii) civilian medical facilities in the UK in each year since 1997. [199671]

Derek Twigg: The amount of compensation, including legal costs, paid out each year for clinical negligence claims to service personnel and civilian personnel, which includes service dependants, since 1997-98 is set out in the following table. Claims are not recorded in a format that differentiates between medical facilities in the UK and overseas nor between service and civilian facilities.

£ million

	Service personnel claims	*Civilian claims*	*Total*
1997-98	0.4	3.1	3.5
1998-99	2.3	7.5	9.8
1999-2000	2.5	7.2	9.7
2000-01	6.1	4.5	10.6

£ million

	Service personnel claims	Civilian claims	Total
2001-02	0.8	8.2	9.0
2002-03	3.9	5.1	9.0
2003-04	2.6	3.4	6.0
2004-05	3.3	2.7	6.0
2005-06	3.8	0.7	4.5
2006-07	1.5	1.5	3.0

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 288W, on armed forces: housing, what was being repaired in the case of the call-out which took 324 days to resolve; and what the reasons were for the time taken to resolve the case. [198327]

Derek Twigg: At the time the data was taken MHS data collection processes and housekeeping procedures were still being developed. While works had been completed in a timely fashion, many orders had not been closed on the system. It is believed that the repair was completed in less than 324 days, but was recorded retrospectively on our repair reporting system. The system has since been updated to ensure that similar anomalies do not occur in the future. The change in process has, however, meant that it is not now possible to retrieve details of this repair.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service family accommodation units that are both earmarked for disposal or demolition and no longer in use as family accommodation are within a perimeter security fence; and how much rent his Department paid in respect of such units in the last financial year. [198826]

Derek Twigg: There are currently 112 service family accommodation (SFA) properties in England and Wales which are located within a perimeter fence and are earmarked for disposal, the vast majority of which are currently void. These are owned by Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL). No properties within a perimeter fence are earmarked for demolition.

The MOD pays 42 per cent. of the market rent on each of these properties. However, as the number of void properties across the estate changes constantly, it is not possible to identify an exact sum for rent paid on AHL void properties over the last financial year. The average rent paid to AHL across all properties has recently been recalculated at £3,650 per property per annum.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much of the proceeds from the sale of his Department's former housing and other land, subsequently sold by Annington estates, was passed to the Government in each year since such sales have taken place; and what this represented as a percentage of the sale price in each year. [199226]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 514W.

The current percentage received is 19 per cent. Up to 2012 the percentage reduces year by year on a sliding scale from the date of the sale of the service family accommodation estate in England and Wales to Annington Homes Ltd.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid Annington estates in *(a)* rent and *(b)* costs of maintenance of residential dwellings in each year since the company acquired his former Department's properties. [199227]

Derek Twigg: The rental figures paid to Annington Homes Ltd for all properties are as follows (by calendar year):

	£
1996	44,545,831.10
1997	109,588,221.71
1998	104,279,336.72
1999	104,582,001.10
2000	111,038,380.36
2001	115,412,276.57
2002	122,333,291.55
2003	130,758,425.28
2004	130,906,106.14
2005	136,444,876.74
2006	142,412,664.41
2007	147,284,003.45
2008	[1]37,885,404.64

[1] To March 2008

No payments were made to Annington Homes for costs of maintenance of properties that are underleased for Service occupation.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the Government receive from Annington estates or Annington Homes Ltd a percentage of the profit which the company makes on the subsequent disposal of former Ministry of Defence *(a)* housing and *(b)* land. [199231]

Derek Twigg: The 1996 Sale Agreement with Annington Homes Ltd includes a Profit Share Agreement. Under this, the Exchequer receives a percentage of any profit made on the subsequent disposal of properties and land that form part of a release to the company. To date the Exchequer has received some £140 million under this arrangement.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid for improvements and modernisation of residential dwellings owned by Annington Homes Ltd in Colchester constituency which have subsequently been handed back to Annington Homes Ltd in each year since the company acquired the properties. [199232]

Derek Twigg: Our records show no service family accommodation in Colchester that has been handed back to Annington Homes Ltd after having improvement or modernisation work carried out.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid for improvements and modernisation of residential dwellings owned by Annington Homes Ltd in Colchester constituency in each year since the company acquired the properties. [199233]

Derek Twigg: The Department retains responsibility for the maintenance and upgrade of service family accommodation (SFA) owned by Annington Homes Ltd.

The amount spent on improvements and modernisation of SFA in the Colchester constituency each year since 1996 is as follows:

	Total (£ million)
1997-98	0.5
1998-99	1.5
1999-2000	1.3
2000-01	1.8
2001-02	1.9
2002-03	1.2
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	1.6
2005-06	0.7
2006-07	0.5
2007-08	0.65

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former residential properties of his Department were handed back for sale in each year since acquisition by Annington estates. [199234]

Derek Twigg: Since the 1996 sale of service family accommodation to Annington Homes Ltd, the following numbers have been returned in each year:

	Number
1996	0
1997	8
1998	1,366
1999	1,188
2000	2,679
2001	2,640
2002	2,195
2003	1,513
2004	624
2005	591
2006	420
2007	187

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the former Ministry of Defence dwellings in Colchester constituency which have been returned to Annington Homes have subsequently been demolished. [199237]

Derek Twigg: This is a matter for Annington Homes Ltd. Once surplus properties are returned to the company and the Department no longer has responsibility for them we do not need to record such information.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 514W, on Colchester, how many of his Department's former residential properties in Colchester constituency were returned to Annington Homes Ltd in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; and how many it is proposed to return in 2008. [199268]

Derek Twigg: No service family accommodation in Colchester was returned to Annington Homes Ltd in financial years 2006-07 or 2007-08. However, we plan to return around 100 properties in 2008-09.

Armed Forces: Income Support

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen and women are in receipt of income support; and if he will make a statement. [196869]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total medical stock requirement is of the armed forces in the event of an influenza pandemic, broken down by type of medical stock; whether all such estimated medical stock requirements are now held in medical units, as stated in paragraph 16 of the Health Protection Agency and Defence Medical Service's Pandemic Influenza: Infection Control guidance for military settings—guidance for military healthcare staff and their commanders, published October 2006; and if he will make a statement. [195312]

Derek Twigg: The circumstances of a pandemic, coupled with MOD operations, will dictate the actual medical requirements. However, the following table illustrates the quantities of infection control consumables that have been distributed to MOD Medical Centres, based on each Centre's assessment of its individual requirement in accordance with the Health Protection Agency/Defence Medical Service's guidance. Items will be used, and stocks replenished, as required during day-to-day business.

Category	*Number (total)*
Aprons	160,700
Respirator and Masks	278,000
Medical Disposal	1,200
Cannula	12,800
Catheter	1,400
Gloves	152,100
Needles	19,000
Syringes	6,900
Hand Hygiene	13,500
Bed Linen	300

Note:
Items have been summarised under MOD's main stock categories, and the numbers rounded to the nearest 100.

Armed Forces: Insurance

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of insurance protection for injury or death may be obtained by *(a)* Territorial Army and *(b)* regular Army personnel on operational deployment; and if he will make a statement. [198709]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Life insurance is optional and is for those requiring additional cover above that provided by the Armed Forces and Reserve Forces Pension and Compensation Schemes. MOD facilitates voluntary insurance arrangements through commercial providers for personnel requiring cover.

The cover provided by the PAX (for regular) and RPAX schemes (for reserve personnel including the TA) is virtually the same. Both primarily provide personal accident cover, but also include cover for injury and death resulting from war and terrorism, and (at an extra premium) death from natural causes. Both provide personal accident cover for bodily injury that causes permanent disability and also for certain fractures, burns and hospitalisation. The maximum cover for death is £150,000. The maximum catastrophic disability cover is £750,000 for quadriplegia and £400,000 for paraplegia, with up to £300,000 for other disabilities. From 1 March 2008 PAX increased its premiums, enhanced its cover for burns and added cover for flesh wounds; these changes will be replicated for RPAX in the near future.

Service Life Insurance (SLI) provides life cover and was launched by MOD on 8 May 2007. SLI guarantees Regular and Reservists (including the TA) worldwide war and terrorism cover, at competitive premiums, throughout their service and beyond. It provides this by means of a unique partnering arrangement with the commercial providers of the scheme, Sterling Life. The maximum life cover available is £200,000.

MOD's Service Risks Insurance Premium Refunds (SRIPs) scheme contributes towards the inflated life insurance premiums which some insurers charge personnel (both regulars and reservists) in certain high risk trades and those serving on operations. The compensation available is 90 per cent. of the extra premium up to a total sum assured. The latter is increased every year in line with service pay and is currently £162,000.

Individuals requiring insurance cover can join any insurance scheme they choose and are not obliged to join PAX, RPAX or SLI.

Armed Forces: Leave

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers did not take their full entitlement to annual leave in each year since 1997. [199066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held in the format requested, and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers carried over leave to the next leave year in each year since 1997. [199076]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held in the format requested and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many units in each branch of the armed forces do not have an assigned unit welfare officer; [197929]

(2) what the average number of individuals including servicemen and women's family members assigned to each unit welfare officer is. [197930]

Derek Twigg: The welfare and community support of service personnel and their families is given a high priority by the MOD business. It covers a wide remit and is provided by the chain of command as well as by dedicated welfare providers. All units within the three services have dedicated personnel with direct responsibility for the welfare of its service personnel and their families.

Armed Forces: Pay

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* soldiers, *(b)* sailors and *(c)* airmen were paid late in each year since 1997. [199545]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the number of soldiers, sailors and airmen paid late is shown in the following table and is only available by financial year from 2001-02.

Financial year	*Naval service*	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
2001-02	0	0	0
2002-03	0	0	29
2004-05	0	0	26
2005-06	371	103	0
2006-07	0	0	773
2007-08	0	0	0

Notes:
1. Soldiers, sailors and airmen have been interpreted as all Royal Navy (with Royal Marines), Army and Royal Air Force personnel.
2. The definition of a late payment is when no money is paid into an individual's account on the designated day for that month.
3. The transition to the new Joint Personnel Administration system had an impact on the achievement of timeliness during FY 2005-06 and FY 2006-07.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces veterans had their terminal benefits paid late in each year since 1997. [199546]

Derek Twigg: Information on the number of armed forces veterans who had their terminal benefits paid late is only available by financial year from 2001-02.

Financial year	*Number*
2001-02	1
2002-03	1
2003-04	0
2004-05	3
2005-06	3

Financial year	Number
2006-07	1,707
2007-08	645

For the purposes of the answer late is defined as not meeting the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) internal target for the payment of terminal benefits (i.e. to authorise payment within five working days of receipt of all relevant documents or from the discharge date, whichever is the later).

In order to reduce late payment and to meet the target turn around time a dedicated service leavers team has been created and personnel have undergone additional training which is having a positive impact.

Armed Forces: Prison Accommodation

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost of the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester was in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available; [198480]

(2) what the cost per annum was to maintain a detainee at the Military Corrective Training Centre, Colchester in the latest period for which figures are available; [198481]

(3) how much was spent on *(a)* training, *(b)* rehabilitation and *(c)* education for inmates at the Military Correction Training Centre at Colchester's budget in 2005-06. [198483]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the right hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the salary scales are for members of the armed forces employed at the Military Correction Training Centre, Colchester. [198482]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Pay rates for UK Service personnel are recommended annually by the independent armed forces' pay review body (AFPRB). The AFPRB bases its recommendations on broad compatibility with the pay of civilian occupations of similar job weight and responsibility within the UK. The 2008 report of the AFPRB was published on 7 February, and copies are available in the Library of the House.

Pay scales for members of the armed forces employed at the Military Correction Training Centre, Colchester, are the same as those for individuals serving elsewhere. The scales for the ranks employed at MCTC are as follows:

Service/Rank	Pay scale (£)
Army	
Lieutenant Colonel	63,927 to 74,023
Major	45,549 to 54,551
Captain	36,160 to 43,002
Warrant Officer Class 1	36,812 to 44,588
Warrant Officer Class 2	31,684 to 41,249
Staff Sergeant	31,684 to 41,249
Sergeant	28,623 to 35,219
Corporal	25,182 to 31,646
RAF	
Flight Lieutenant	36,160 to 43,002
Sergeant	28,623 to 35,219
Corporal	25,182 to 31,646
Royal Navy/Royal Marines	
Lieutenant	36,160 to 43,002
Petty Officer	28,623 to 35,219
Sergeant (RM)	28,623 to 35,219
Able Rating First Class	16,227 to 27,599

Armed Forces: Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the joint service publications *(a)* JSP 350, *(b)* JSP 362, *(c)* JSP 368 and *(d)* JSP 381. [175424]

Derek Twigg: Copies of these publications have been placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of training new recruits to the armed forces to meet the rate of resignations as a percentage of each force's total salary bill; and if he will make a statement. [197140]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The services set Gains to Trained Strength (GTS) targets for five years in advance, based on forecast strength requirements. These are then translated into annual recruiting targets taking into account phase 1 and phase 2 training wastage rates (both current and predicted), the previous year's GTS achievement, and any planned changes to training and their expected affects (for example, higher or lower wastage rates).

The annual cost of training (phase 1 plus phase 2 training) new recruits to the armed forces is some £1,061 million.

The armed forces total salary bill for financial year 2006-07 was £8,422million.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of armed forces training exercises were cancelled in 2007-08. [199476]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the period 2007-08,76 (10.5 per cent.) of the 722 training exercises scheduled in the Defence Exercise Programme were cancelled.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of likely savings as a result of the Defence training review over the next 25 years. [199995]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The broad projection of the through-life (30 years) savings of the DTR Package 1 project is approximately £400 million, although this continues to be subject to development of the Metrix solution. As previously announced, the way ahead for Package 2 is the subject of further work and therefore no specific estimate of the likely savings can yet be made.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that pelts used to provide bearskin do not come from mother bears shot in front of their cubs; and if he will make a statement. [198792]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been no pelts procured to produce bearskin caps for the MOD since 2003. Any future requirement would be sourced under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species from licensed traders operating under the jurisdiction of the Canadian authorities.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the alternatives to using bearskin for the manufacture of Guards' caps; and if he will make a statement. [199368]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD has been actively seeking an acceptable alternative to real fur for some years and continues to invest in samples and treatments of imitation bearskin. Although successful in identifying fur alternatives for other aspects of ceremonial dress, replicating the complex structure of bear's fur has proven to be a significant challenge and no suitable fur alternative to the Guards bearskin cap has yet been identified. A number of trials have taken place but unfortunately proved unsuccessful. Further trials will take place once suitable products have been identified.

Armed Forces: Widowed People

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces widows voluntarily surrendered their pensions on remarriage or cohabitation in each of the last five years; and what the associated saving to the defence budget was in each year. [169976]

Derek Twigg: I am aware that a number of months have now elapsed since I agreed to write to the right hon. Gentleman following his parliamentary question on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 824W, about how many Armed Forces widows in each of the last five years voluntarily surrendered their pension on remarriage or cohabitation; and what the associated saving to the defence budget was in each year.

As I explained in my answer, an exercise is currently being undertaken to provide detailed figures. This has involved the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency conducting a bespoke exercise in order to generate the necessary data required by the scheme actuary to conduct an analysis to answer the second part of your question.

Unfortunately, this exercise has taken longer than originally anticipated, but I can advise that it is nearing completion and I hope to be in a position to respond to you shortly after the Easter recess.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the *(a)* Bulldog and *(b)* Vector vehicle programmes. [190726]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The recent cost estimates for the Bulldog conversion and Vector vehicle procurement programmes are £184 million and £40 million respectively, excluding through life support costs. The estimates also exclude expenditure on additional Urgent Operational Requirements, which are ongoing or that have recently been delivered, as these remain commercially and operationally sensitive.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196949]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. We have not made an assessment of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which companies have been awarded contracts by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies for (i) IT projects and (ii) human resources projects in each of the last five years; what the value of each contract awarded was; and what the purpose of each contract was. [197516]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he takes when it appears that personal data held by his Department has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* disclosed without authorisation; and if he will make a statement. [190449]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence views the loss of any personal data seriously and takes all the necessary steps following a loss to ensure that individuals are protected as far as possible against the unauthorised use of their personal information. In the recent case of the loss of recruitment data, this has included providing banks with account details where they were held in order that they can monitor accounts for unauthorised activity. In addition, MOD officials were in contact with the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Identity and Passport Service and the Border and Immigration Agency.

As announced to the House on 21 January 2008, the Secretary of State for Defence has invited Sir Edmund Burton, Chairman of the Information Assurance Advisory Council, to establish the exact circumstances and events that led to the loss of personal data. Specifically he will examine: the adequacy of the steps taken to prevent any recurrence; MOD policy, practice and management arrangements in respect of the protection of personal data more generally; and make

recommendations. It would therefore be premature to comment on any possible findings from the report.

The Ministry of Defence has formal processes in place to ensure that suspected leaks of official information, including personal data, are thoroughly investigated. Such enquiries may be conducted by the Ministry of Defence police, service police forces or the civilian police as appropriate. Memorandums of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence and the civilian police are in place detailing respective responsibilities.

Departmental Databases

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests his Department has received in each year since 1997 from the National Audit Office for access to databases containing personal information on members of the public. [170836]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197163]

Des Browne: I have not visited any of the listed venues in a ministerial capacity between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2007.

Departmental Early Retirement

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the arrangements are for *(a)* communication of pension entitlement, *(b)* payment of lump sum payment and *(c)* confirmation of pension estimate for those officials from his Department who retired under the voluntary early redundancy scheme on 31 March 2008. [199540]

Derek Twigg: The arrangements for estimating and paying those who leave the Department under the voluntary early release scheme are governed by the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. The process includes providing an estimate some four months before departure, and then a defined series of steps to enable the correct sum to be confirmed and to be paid as soon as possible following departure.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials from his Department retired under the voluntary early redundancy scheme on 31 March 2008; what proportion of them were not paid their redundancy payment; and for what reason; when he expects *(a)* lump sum payments and *(b)* confirmation of pension payments to be made to those people; whether those people will be entitled to compensation in consequence of the time taken to (i) confirm arrangements and (ii) pay the lump sum; and if he will make a statement. [199541]

Derek Twigg: 563 civilian staff left the Ministry of Defence under the early release scheme with a last day of service of 31 March 2008. Of those, authorisation of payment of lump sum had not been made for 194, primarily because of the unusually high number of leavers on the same day.

All final notification of awards is expected to be complete by 18 April, making it possible for all awards to be made by the end of April. If payments cannot be made until more than one month after departure, we do consider the case for ex-gratia compensation, depending on the circumstances of a specific case.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 734-35W, what paid leave entitlements apply to casual staff in his Department. [199667]

Derek Twigg: Casual staff receive the same paid leave entitlements as permanent staff. Entitlement is based on length of qualifying service which is currently set at 25 days on entry but may be increased to 30 days if previous reckonable service has occurred with a recognised public body. In addition all staff receive public and privilege holidays which total 10.5 days. Both are pro rata if they are part-time.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198952]

Derek Twigg: The following table displays average working days lost for MOD civilian personnel[1] per calendar year 2003 to 2007.

	Average working days lost per calendar year		
	Non-industrial	*Industrial*	*Total*
2003	9.00	13.90	10.00
2004	8.60	14.20	9.70
2005[2]	8.55	12.54	9.30
2006[2]	8.04	12.11	8.82
2007[2]	8.23	11.85	[3]8.61

[1] This includes all permanent and casual non-industrial and industrial civilian personnel, but excludes Trading Fund (except 31 December 2007 figure), Locally Engaged Civilian and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel.

[2] Figures from 2005 onwards are calculated using the Cabinet Office definition of Working Days. Figures prior to this are calculated using the Standardised definition.

[3] Total includes Trading Fund personnel, due to a change in definition. Industrial and non-industrial totals may differ from previously published figures for 2007 due to this change in definition.

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department is on course to meet sustainable operations on the Government estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [198037]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to working to meet the UK Government sustainable operations on the Government estate targets. For the target to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewable sources, it was agreed that given the very large scale of the MOD estate the MOD should achieve this target by 2010, rather than by 31 March 2008. The latest available data show that, in 2006-07, 8.8 per cent. of electricity procured by MOD through centrally let contracts was sourced from renewable sources.

In 2006-07, the MOD achieved around a 37 per cent. recycling rate. We will continue to reduce waste and are committed to recovering and recycling more commercial and industrial waste than we send to landfill by 2012 on the way towards becoming a zero-waste to landfill organisation by 2020.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme or plans to do so in the next 12 months; [198038]

(2) whether his Department met the target in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to reverse the upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [198039]

Derek Twigg: At the time of the launch of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estates (SOGE) targets in June 2006, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) had already achieved reductions in CO_2 emissions from its estate. This trend has continued for the financial year 2006-07 with the MOD achieving an 8 per cent. reduction in CO_2 emissions from the MOD Estate against a 1999-2000 baseline (adjusted in March 2008).

MOD continues to work with the Carbon Trust to trial the Carbon Management Programme on the Office Estate and this will inform adoption elsewhere within the Department. As part of this work MOD is developing the strategy necessary to ensure the carbon neutrality of the Office Estate and Top Level Budget Holders' Headquarters by 2012.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system *(a)* for its whole estate and *(b)* in some of its buildings. [198040]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Top Level Budget Holders (TLBs) and Trading Fund Agencies (TFAs) are responsible for developing Environmental Management Systems (EMSs) suitable for their different functions and estates. All of these EMSs must be based on ISO 14001 standards. TLBs/TFAs are empowered to decide whether ISO 14001 accreditation is appropriate for their organisation.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [200124]

Derek Twigg: The use of 0800, 0845 or 0870 numbers in the Department and its agencies is determined at local level in accordance with individual business requirements and ordered directly from the supplier. Records of these numbers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195885]

Derek Twigg: The MOD makes good use of video conferencing and continues to refresh the existing video conferencing facilities which have been in use for many years. No targets have been set to increase the use of video conferencing, however, we are determined to reduce the cost of travel and we have put in place the Defence Travel Modernisation programme which is designed to reduce the cost of travel to the Department but, in addition, to enable better management oversight of travel patterns and so manage the need to travel. Areas under consideration include facilities to support remote working where savings of some £10 million are expected over the next five years.

EC Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the remit of the EU Contributors' Committee is; upon what authority it is established; who the chair is; which countries are represented on the committee; what role the European Commission has in the committee; and if he will make a statement. [198796]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A Committee of Contributors is set up in advance of each ESDP operation. It plays a key role as the main forum for contributing nations collectively to discuss all problems relating to the day-to-day management of the operation. The principle of the Committee of Contributors and its role were agreed at the European Council at Nice in 2000.

Each Committee of Contributors is usually chaired by a representative of the Secretary-General/High Representative or the presidency, assisted by the chairman of the Military Committee of his Deputy.

All EU member states are entitled to be present at the Committee's discussions irrespective of whether or not they are taking part in the operation, but only contributing states will take part in the day-to-day management of the operation. Non EU European allies and other countries deploying significant military

forces under an EU-led operation will have the same rights and obligations in terms of day-to-day management of the operation as EU member states taking part in the operation, including sitting on the Committee of Contributors for that mission.

Representatives of the Commission and other stakeholders may be invited for relevant parts of the Committee's discussion, as appropriate.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199196]

Derek Twigg: There are currently no mechanisms within the MOD to monitor the amount or extent of electronically published material or correspondence. It is MOD policy to reduce the dependency and the amount of paper used within the Department and the significant majority of the Department's manuals and guidance documents are now available in electronic format. Staff are encouraged to use email internally and when appropriate for any external correspondence. Likewise, publication directly to the MOD's website (www.mod.uk) is encouraged.

Gurkha Welfare Trust: Finance

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department contributed to the Gurkha Welfare Trust in each of the last three years; what evaluation he has carried out of the Trust's work; and what plans he has for future funding. [198337]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence supports the work of the Gurkha Welfare Trust through the provision of an annual grant in aid. In the last three years this has amounted to:

Financial year	£
2005-06	878,000
2006-07	[1]679,000
2007-08	988,000

[1] A carry over of funds from the previous year meant that less money than originally budgeted was required by the trust in 2006-07

This money contributes to the administrative costs of the trust's Gurkha Welfare Scheme in Nepal and enables the MOD to fulfil its obligations to pay pensions and deal with welfare issues for serving soldiers in the more remote regions of Nepal.

The Gurkha Welfare Trust is a registered charity, independent of the Ministry of Defence. It only formally reports to the Ministry of Defence on the expenditure of the grant. However, it is the Department's view that the trust, through its field arm, the Gurkha Welfare Scheme, conducts invaluable work in Nepal, including the payment of welfare pensions to the Gurkha ex-servicemen and widows who do not qualify for a service pension. It provides, free of charge, even in the most remote areas of Nepal where ex-servicemen live, primary health care including doctors' clinics. In addition it provides secondary health care free for all those not in receipt of a service pension and subsidised by 70 per cent. for those who do have a pension. It is involved in delivering community aid including bridge building, drinking water projects and building schools, which benefits not only the ex-service community but the infrastructure of the country as a whole in the brigade's traditional recruiting areas in the foothills of Nepal.

The grant in aid is provided by the Department under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding. The terms of the arrangement are reviewed every five years.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops deployed to Iraq *(a)* were entitled to operational allowance and *(b)* received operational allowance in each year since its inception. [184310]

Derek Twigg: All Service personnel deployed to Iraq are entitled to receive the operational allowance, which can be paid for a deployment of one day or more.

Providing details of those personnel who have received the operational allowance specifically for deployment to Iraq and by year is not held, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the mission statement is for British troops in Iraq. [196615]

Des Browne: The mission of UK forces in southern Iraq is to support the government of Iraq and their security forces so that they can take responsibility for ensuring security without coalition assistance and create the conditions for economic and political development. This involves monitoring, mentoring and training the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and providing support to ISF-led operations when requested. UK forces also undertake a range of force protection and logistic duties in support of the multi-national force's mission.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army and Reservist personnel who have been deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have not undertaken Operational Training and Assessment Group training. [198835]

Des Browne: Territorial Army or Reservist personnel deploying to either Iraq or Afghanistan, or visiting either theatre for six days or more, must have completed Operational Training and Assessment Group (OPTAG) training prior to deployment. Those personnel who are visiting these theatres for a period of five days or less are not required to complete the full OPTAG training package but must, as a minimum, have viewed a training DVD and received a briefing upon deployment. All Territorial Army and Reservist personnel who have been deployed on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan have undertaken the mandated pre-deployment training.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many returnees from *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been unable to take post-operational

tour leave in accordance with the terms set out in the Army Leave Manual 2000 in each year since 2001. [199065]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but the inability to take post operational leave should only occur in exceptional circumstances.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether leave for troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan is counted from the time that a person *(a)* leaves for the airhead, *(b)* arrives at the airhead, *(c)* arrives in the UK or *(d)* arrives home. [199067]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Service personnel deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan may be granted 'Rest and Recuperation' (R and R) on the authority of the in-theatre operational commander. This is in addition to annual leave.

The maximum permissible period for each instance of R and R is 14 nights, inclusive of travelling time. As such, R and R is counted from the time that the individual leaves for the airhead. While the policy on R and R states that it would normally be taken in or as close to theatre as possible, in practice R and R is most commonly taken at home.

In addition, service personnel receive post operational leave (POL). The qualifying period for POL commences from the day that service personnel leave their permanent duty station and continues until the day they return to it.

POL, which is also in addition to annual leave, should commence as soon as possible after service personnel arrive home from the qualifying deployment. The journey home is considered as part of the deployment and not as part of POL.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he issues posthumous medals for service personnel who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan while showing courage above and beyond the course of duty. [199262]

Derek Twigg: Service in Iraq and Afghanistan is recognised by the award of the Iraq Medal and the Operational Service Medal 'Afghanistan' respectively. The medals are awarded early when a serviceman or woman leaves the operational theatre in the event of wounding or death, regardless of how long they have served there. This policy applies to any operational theatre for which a campaign medal is issued.

The full range of gallantry and meritorious service awards are also available for those serving on operations and may be awarded posthumously to those killed whilst deployed. Such awards include the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, the Military Cross and the George Medal. A number of these have been awarded posthumously to individuals who had died in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the ultimate British Military award, the Victoria Cross. By such means we ensure that individuals' distinguished actions, courage and bravery are honoured by the nation.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 629, on Iraq, whether *(a)* military personnel or *(b)* civilian personnel were represented at the meeting on 23 March 2008; and what the (i) rank and (ii) civilian pay grade was of each UK representative present. [199428]

Des Browne: Both UK military and civilian personnel attended the meeting in Baghdad on 23 March 2008. The UK representatives were Her Majesty's Ambassador for Baghdad and the Deputy Commanding General Multi-National Forces-Iraq, who is a Lieutenant General, they were supported by three other UK officials.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many violent incidents were reported in *(a)* Dhi Qar, *(b)* Muthanna, *(c)* Maysan and *(d)* Basra provinces in each of the last six months. [199470]

Des Browne: The number of violent incidents involving Iraqi civilians, Iraqi security forces and/or coalition forces in each province that have been reported to the Multi-National Division (South-East) Headquarters, in each of the last six months are as follows:

	Dhi Qar	*Al Muthanna*	*Maysan*	*Basra*
September 2007	4	0	0	108
October 2007	14	0	0	91
November 2007	6	0	0	122
December 2007	5	1	1	85
January 2008	8	0	0	62
February 2008	3	0	0	85

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British troops are deployed protecting *(a)* oil installations and *(b)* the port of Shalamchah in southern Iraq. [200194]

Des Browne: UK maritime forces, alongside our coalition partners and elements of the Iraqi Navy and Iraqi Marines, continue to focus on the defence and security of the Khawr al Amayah and Al Basra oil terminals (KAAOT and ABOT) in the Northern Gulf. UK forces do not routinely have a direct role in protecting oil installations ashore: this is carried out by the Iraqi security forces.

UK forces periodically deploy to the border crossing point at Shalamcheh and also provide mentoring and training to the Iraqi Directorate of Border Enforcement, who have primary responsibility for border security.

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any requests have been made by *(a)* the US and *(b)* the Iraqi military that the British Army redeploys into central Basra. [200195]

Des Browne: Iraqi requests for military support are made to the Multi-National Forces-Iraq, whose commanders judge whether these are appropriate or militarily viable. UK forces have—as part of the coalition effort—provided a range of support to recent Iraqi Security Force operations against criminal elements in Basra, including the deployment on the ground of elements of two of our battlegroups and small mentoring and advisory teams to Iraqi Army units.

Kosovo: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel were deployed to Kosovo in each month since August 2007; how many of those deployed received special training for civilian policing; where within Kosovo they have been deployed; and if he will make a statement. [197085]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 175 UK established military posts in Kosovo. All personnel assigned to these posts since August 2007 have been deployed to Pristina, the majority of whom provide situational awareness support to the NATO led Kosovo Force and none undertake civilian policing duties.

In addition, approximately 50 civilian Ministry of Defence police officers work throughout the country as part of the 65 strong FCO sponsored UK contribution to the UN police mission in Kosovo. Those on regular deployments to Kosovo receive a five day mission-specific pre-deployment course as well training provided by the UN once in theatre.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what command relationship has been agreed between the Kosovo Force and the EU rule of law civilian mission to Kosovo. [198707]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the EU rule of law civilian mission (EULEX) operate under two separate chains of command in Kosovo. Technical arrangements to facilitate co-ordination and mutual support between the two organisations are under discussion.

Languages

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's expenditure on language training was in each year since 1997. [199496]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Language training for armed forces personnel and MOD civilians is provided mainly by the Defence School of Languages (DSL). The school also provides some training for overseas personnel on a repayment basis.

The cost of DSL for the financial year 2001-02 to the present date is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2001-02	6.899
2002-03	6.569
2003-04	7.754
2004-05	7.611
2005-06	8.022
2006-07	7.882
2007-08[1]	8.189

[1] Until end February 2008

Information for the period prior to 2001-02 is unavailable; there is no requirement for the Department to retain financial information beyond the six year point.

Details of expenditure on language training by other MOD facilities are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many life-flying hours have been completed by the *(a)* Apache Attack helicopter, *(b)* Gazelle, *(c)* Lynx Mk3, *(d)* Lynx Mk7, *(e)* Lynx Mk8, *(f)* Lynx Mk9, *(g)* Merlin Mk1 and *(h)* Merlin Mk3 military helicopters. [198328]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The figures requested are provided in the following table.

Helicopter type	*Flying hours*
Apache Attack Helicopter	47,385
Gazelle	709,929
Lynx Mark 3	216,772
Lynx Mark 7	496,175
Lynx Mark 8	154,739
Lynx Mark 9	74,448
Merlin Mark 1	46,019
Merlin Mark 3	31,166

These figures represent the total flying hours completed by aircraft in the current fleet, and are the latest available for each airframe. They do not include the hours flown by any aircraft which have been sold or are no longer in service for whatever reason.

Military Bases: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the Ministry of Justice on using space at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester to accommodate civilian prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [199230]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government have no plan to accommodate civilian prisoners at the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester.

Mineral Waters

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many litres of bottled water were purchased by his Department in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [191250]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

MOD Aberporth: Manpower

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the workforce strength at MOD Aberporth is. [199880]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As of 4 April 2008, 268 people were employed at MOD Aberporth, broken down as follows:

	Number
QinetiQ	208
Ministry of Defence including Met Office	13
Support contractors/others	47

Navy: Piracy

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in how many incidents of tackling piracy the Royal Navy was involved in each of the last five years; and what the date *(a)* and *(b)* location of each incident was. [199820]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy has been involved in tackling three incidents of piracy over the last five years as shown in the following table.

Date	Country
January 2006	Somalia
December 2007	Somalia
February 2008	Somalia

In each of these incidents, Royal Navy ships fulfilled supporting roles, including providing situational awareness. In addition, the Royal Navy has responded to incidents of suspected piracy which transpired to be local disputes and has been made aware of other incidents where other nations' ships have been better geographically placed to become involved in tackling the piracy.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his official engagements were from 25 February to 1 April 2008. [199666]

Des Browne: Throughout the period 25 February and 1 April, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland office. In addition, on 26 February I had a video/telephone conference with the NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. On 28 February, I met the Australian High Commissioner. On 29 February, I visited HMS Gannet and met with representatives of the Scottish Pensioners Forum in Edinburgh. On 3 March, I answered Defence questions in the House of Commons and, in the evening, attended the Graduation Reception of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. On 4 March I had separate meetings with the Dutch Ambassador, with Dr. Paul Sender, the recently-returned head of the British Health Organisation in Afghanistan, and with a representative of the media. On 5 March, I answered Scottish questions in the House of Commons. On 6 March, had a meeting with Gerry Grimstone, the Chairman of Standard Life. I also had meetings with the Albanian Defence Minister, with former Chiefs of the Defence Staff in the House of Lords, and with Quentin Davies MP on the Armed Forces National Recognition Study. On 8 March, I attended a Veterans Badge Presentation Event in Edinburgh and the RBS Six Nations Scotland v. England rugby match at Murrayfield. On 19 March, I met representatives of the Scottish War Widows Association at 10 Downing Street. On 25 March, I met the bereaved mother of a serviceman. On 26 March, I gave an interview to a national newspaper and attended President Sarkozy's parliamentary address at the House of Commons. On 27 March, I attended the Anglo-French summit, which included a bilateral meeting with the French Defence Minister. On 31 March, I attended the launch for Stephen Walker's book, 'Shot at Dawn'. On 1 April, I attended the Media Launch of TA100, the 100th anniversary of the Territorial Army, at the Tower of London and the Fly Past for the RAF 90th Anniversary at MOD Main Building.

Press Offices

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, (b) its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies were in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189743]

Derek Twigg: The information requested across the Department, agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The central MOD Press Office in London cost £3 million in 2006-07, the latest year for which audited figures are available. This figure includes press officers and support staff pay and allowances capitation; programme costs such as press cuttings and electronic media monitoring.

Any data before this for the central press office could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast cost increase of £1.7 billion in his Department's budget will be spent on; and over what time period. [196348]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Any increase in the Defence budget is spent on the provision of Defence capability.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197507]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD has placed three contracts with Rackspace as detailed in the following table.

Contract number	Contract value, excluding VAT (£)
AGIA/1453	77,621.00
VCMMS/119003	129,831.00
VCMMS/119658	1,746,316.00

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what conditions in the agreement with the US for its use of *(a)* RAF Menwith Hill and *(b)* RAF Fylingdales would apply in the event of its premature termination. [199444]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: RAF Menwith Hill is made available to the United States Visiting Force under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement of 1951, and other confidential arrangements. The Status of Forces Agreement does not have a termination date. RAF Menwith Hill will continue to be made available to the United States Visiting Force for as long as it is in our mutual defence interests.

Under the terms of the agreements which apply to the use of RAF Fylingdales for ballistic missile early warning and ballistic missile defence, the US Government retains ownership and control of all of its assets in the event of either party terminating the Agreements. Should either party decide to terminate the arrangement that currently exists, that party would be obliged to continue its participation until the effective date of termination, so as to minimise the impact to the other participant. In this situation, any costs that are incurred by the terminating participant would not exceed its total financial commitment for jointly approved activities. Outwith these agreements, RAF Fylingdales would remain in place to execute its ballistic missile early warning and space surveillance missions in defence of the UK.

Reserve Forces

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Answer of 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 782-90W, on reserve forces, what the *(a)* actual strength and *(b)* unit establishment of (i) men and (ii) women (A) officers and (B) other ranks was in each of the reserve forces, broken down by (1) the Territorial Army by arm and corps and (2) (x) the Royal Navy Reserve and (y) the Royal Auxiliary Air Force by functional category in the most recent period for which figures are available. [199821]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A detailed breakdown of Territorial Army Liability figures by Arm Service is not available, as the figures are not captured in this way. However, the overall Territorial Army liability as at 1 March 2007 was 42,000 which included 3,500 Officer Training Corps.

A breakdown of the Territorial Army by Arm Service, officer/other ranks and gender can be found in the 1 March 2007 Army Monthly Manning Report, Section G, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Reliable information on Royal Navy Reserve functional categories is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. The following table shows the strength of the Royal Naval Reserve by unit, officer/rating and gender as at 31 March 2008. The total Royal Naval Reserve requirement as at 31 March 2008 was 2,280.

	Officers		*Ratings*		
Unit	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Unit total*
HMS Calliope	—	30	20	60	110
HMS Cambria	10	20	20	50	100
HMS Caroline	10	20	20	50	90
HMS Dalriada	10	20	10	40	80
HMS Eaglet	20	50	20	90	180
HMS Ferret	10	50	—	—	70
HMS Flying Fox	—	30	10	40	90
HMS Forward	10	50	20	40	100
HMS King Alfred	10	90	30	70	210
HMS President	30	80	30	90	230
HMS Scotia	10	30	20	60	120
HMS Sherwood	—	40	20	60	120
HMS Vivid	20	20	30	70	140
HMS Wildfire	20	30	20	20	80
Air branch	10	160	10	160	330
MW CD	—	—	—	—	—
Media relations	30	40	—	—	70
Total	190	730	280	920	2,120

The following table shows the strength of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force by branch/trade, officer/other ranks and gender as at 1 February 2008.

	Officers		*Other ranks*		
Branch/trade	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Total*
Other	—	—	—	10	20
Aircraft Engineering	—	—	—	—	—

Branch/trade	Officers		Other ranks		
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Avionics	—	—	—	—	—
Communications and Information Systems	—	—	—	—	—
General Engineering	—	—	—	20	20
Mechanical Transport	—	—	—	30	40
Security	—	—	20	580	600
Air Traffic Control	—	—	20	50	70
General Service	—	—	20	40	60
Telecommunications	—	—	—	10	10
Safety and Surface	—	—	—	—	—
Photography	—	—	—	40	40
Medical	—	—	50	50	100
Accounting and Secretarial	—	—	20	20	40
Supply and Movements	—	—	30	140	170
Catering	—	—	—	20	20
General Duties	—	—	—	—	—
General Duties (Pilot)	—	20	—	—	20
General Duties (Navigator)	—	10	—	—	10
Medical	10	40	—	—	50
Flying Branch	—	—	—	—	—
Administrative (Secretarial)	10	30	—	—	40
Engineer	—	—	—	—	—
General Duties (Air Loadmaster)	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Officer	—	10	—	—	10
Medical Support	—	—	—	—	—
Non Commissioned Aircrew and Weapons	—	—	—	20	20
Operations Support (Air Traffic Control)	—	—	—	—	—
Operations Support (Fighter Control)	—	—	—	—	—
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	—	20	—	—	30
Operations Support (Intelligence)	—	20	—	—	30
Operations Support (Provost Security)	—	—	—	—	—
Operations Support (Regiment)	—	20	—	—	20
Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service	—	—	—	—	—
Supply	—	10	—	—	10
Army Air Corps	—	—	—	—	—
Total	40	190	180	1,040	1,460

The following table shows the establishment of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force by unit as at 1 January 2008.

Unit	Establishment
1359 Flt (HRA)	30
501 Sqn—OPS SPT(STO)	120
504 Sqn—OPS SPT(STO)	120
600 Sqn—HQ support	140
603 Sqn—OPS SPT(STO)	120
606 Sqn—Helicopter support	160
609 Sqn—OPS SPT(STO)	120
612 Sqn—Air Transportable Surgical Sqn	70
2503 Sqn—RAF Regiment Field Sqn Support	110
2620 Sqn—OPS SPT(STO)	110
2622 Sqn—RAF Regiment Field Sqn Support	110
2623 Sqn—Joint NEC Regiment Ops	70
4624 Sqn—Movements	270
4626 Sqn—Aeromedical evacuation	160
7006 (VR) Sqn—Intelligence	80
7010 (VR) Sqn—Photographic Interpretation	60
7630 (VR) Sqn—Intelligence	30
7644 (VR) Sqn—Public Relations	20
3 (RAuxAF) Sqn Tactical Provost Wing	50
Total	1,960

Reserve Forces: Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many medical reservists there were in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [196617]

Derek Twigg: Figures are not available for 1997 due to electronic records not being retained beyond 12 months from discharge. In 2008 there were 3,585 medical reservists.

Royal Irish Regiment

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the Home Service Royal Irish Regiment part-time *(a)* soldiers and *(b)* officers serving on 1 September 2006 had (i) 0 to five years service, (ii) six to 10 years service, (iii) 11 to 15 years service, (iv) 16 to 20 years service, (v) 21 to 26 years service and (vi) over 26 years service on that date. [198732]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Somalia: Piracy

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of pirate activity in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [199206]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence keeps the piracy situation globally under review in support of maritime operations, UK economic and security interests and those of its partners and allies. This includes monitoring pirate activity off the coast of Somalia.

Policy lead for piracy across Government lies with the Department for Transport.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the security situation in Somalia and *(b)* the required (i) size and (ii) makeup of a military deployment to stabilize the country; and if he will make a statement. [199207]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The security situation in Somalia as a whole remains unstable and volatile. Without the beginnings of a definable peace process and a willingness of Somalis to engage in such a process, a military deployment to stabilize the country is unlikely. Notwithstanding this, the continued efforts of Uganda and Burundi to supply troops to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) should be commended for bringing an element of security and humanitarian assistance to critical areas of Mogadishu.

The UK has not carried out a detailed assessment of the force structure required for a military deployment to stabilize the country as this is a task for the UN. If the UN decides that conditions are right for the introduction of such a force, then UK will treat any requests for assistance on their individual merits after considering our available capacity to assist.

Warships

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 350-51W, when the decision not to accept the recommendation of his Department's 1998 operational analysis was taken; what the evidential basis for the decision was; and if he will make a statement. [199382]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence never committed to build a fifth Landing Ship Dock (Auxiliary). The four Landing Ships Dock (Auxiliary) now in service provide a significantly greater sealift capacity than the five Landing Ships Logistic that they have replaced.

TREASURY

Banks: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK banks are being investigated by the US authorities in relation to US unilateral sanctions on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [199075]

Jane Kennedy: The United States Office of Foreign Assets Control has designated a number of Iranian state-controlled banks and their overseas branches and subsidiaries under its domestic sanctions. Three of these banks have subsidiaries in the UK (Bank Melli Plc, Bank Saderat Plc and Persia International Bank Plc). Another Iranian state-owned bank, Bank Sepah, and its UK subsidiary, has been designated by the United Nations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1747 as well as by the United States domestically.

The UK Government do not comment on individual investigations by the United States authorities, which are a matter for those authorities.

Capital Allowances: Enterprise Zones

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in receipts to the Exchequer in each of the next three years from the removal of enterprise zone allowances in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms. [199021]

Jane Kennedy: As announced on 17 December 2007, enterprise zone allowances will be withdrawn from April 2011 as a consequence of the withdrawal of industrial buildings allowances. There is therefore no increase in receipts to the Exchequer in the next three years. Table A.2 (Item b) of the 2008 Financial Statement and Budget report shows the impact on government revenues estimated for those years. A link to the report can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/2/5/bud08_chaptera.pdf

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies have spent on Christmas *(a)* cards, *(b)* parties and *(c)* decorations in each of the last five years. [171447]

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in 2007. [176915]

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department's agencies spent on *(a)* Christmas cards and *(b)* postage of Christmas cards in each year since 1997. [182451]

Angela Eagle: The cost to the Treasury of purchasing Christmas cards in 2007 was £8,345. The figure for the Debt Management Office was £593. Information relating to postage costs is not available.

The Treasury's cards were purchased from Card Aid, who made a donation to charity on behalf of the Department.

Christmas parties are funded by staff themselves and not the Department. Christmas decorations are also purchased either by staff or by facilities management companies without recourse to public funds.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* estimated cost, *(b)* completion date and *(c)* function is of the Valuation Office Agency's council tax list maintenance - banding support tool database. [199019]

Jane Kennedy: As part of its investment in modern technology to deliver a more efficient and cost-effective service to the public, the Valuation Office Agency has recently introduced its banding support tool to support current council tax list maintenance. This has been delivered on time (delivery date 27 March 2008) and within budget (at £995,000). Simply stated, it assists decision making by VOA staff in relation to new or altered bandings by automatically identifying the most relevant comparable properties. This aids speed and consistency.

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 725W, on Valuation Office: Wales, how many of the appeals resulted in a *(a)* move up and *(b)* move down the council tax banding. [198925]

Jane Kennedy: Of the 12,458 appeals and/or formal proposals resulting in a council tax band amendment, 11,525 resulted in a band reduction and 933 resulted in a band increase. They represent 0.84 per cent. and 0.07 per cent. respectively of the total number of dwellings in the council tax valuation lists.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he expects the Valuation Office Agency to commence work on council tax revaluation in Wales. [199100]

Jane Kennedy: No decision has been made on any future Council Tax Revaluation in Wales.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for the Valuation Office Agency to extend the use of the Automated Valuation Model to Wales. [199115]

Jane Kennedy: No timetable has been set.

Credit

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has made to banks on restructuring the level of individual credit, with particular reference to home buyers, since May 1997. [198827]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury regularly meets with representatives of the banking sector to discuss a wide range of issues including individual credit.

In 2004, the Government put in place Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation of mortgages. The FSA's regime offers appropriate consumer protection and access to means of redress where consumers experience problems.

The OFT regulates other consumer credit business. Regulation of consumer credit is being further strengthened with the implementation of the 2006 Consumer Credit Act, due by October 2008.

Debts

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government have taken in the last 12 months to assist those with very high levels of personal debt. [199315]

Angela Eagle: The Government's assessment of personal debt and details of the steps the Government have taken to address debt problems over the last year can be found in the Government's Tackling Over-indebtedness: annual report 2007, available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42700.pdf

The Government set up the £130 million Financial Inclusion Fund for 2008-11 to support the continued provision of free face-to-face debt advice for those who are financially excluded, and to widen access to affordable credit.

On 3 March 2008, the Government announced a two-year, £12 million Money Guidance pathfinder. This pilot service offers people impartial, personalised information and support on a range of money issues to help people find ways to avoid getting into personal debt. The forthcoming financial capability action plan will set out measures to improve financial capability in the UK, including plans for taking forward the Money Guidance pathfinder.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies has spent on *(a)* locating, *(b)* recovering and *(c)* identifying the information held on lost or stolen (i) electronic equipment, (ii) documents and (iii) other data storage means in each of the last 12 months. [198981]

Jane Kennedy: The associated costs are not separable from the overall running costs and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 37W, on data protection, what estimate he has made of the *(a)* type and *(b)* volume of data processed in (i) Tyne and Wear, (ii) London, (iii) Manchester, (iv) Nottingham, (v) Worthing, (vi) Telford and (vii) Preston. [198998]

Jane Kennedy: The location of HMRC's Data Guardians is incidental to the work they do. For this reason information is not held in the form requested and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 37W, on data protection, what extra *(a)* pay, *(b)* support and *(c)* other resources each of the data guardians receives to carry out their duties. [198999]

Jane Kennedy: Data guardians are appointed from within HMRC's existing pay grades. All data guardians are provided with required training and support. HMRC will continue to monitor the data guardians' roles and responsibilities and future training needs, as part of its wider departmental data security responsibilities.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 37W, on data protection, whether he plans the role of data guardians as a permanent measure. [199000]

Jane Kennedy: The data guardian posts are permanent posts. HMRC will continue to monitor their roles and responsibilities as part of its wider departmental data security responsibilities.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 37W, on data protection, what the *(a)* amount of data processed, *(b)* type of data processed and *(c)* business unit is for which each data guardian is responsible. [199007]

Jane Kennedy: The work of each data guardian varies according to the size of their respective business unit and the amount and type of data that it processes. The information is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his departmental website. [200031]

Angela Eagle: In 2004, the website was redesigned to improve navigation and meet accessibility standards at a cost of £22,000 excluding VAT.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198285]

Angela Eagle: Two new offences were created during the relevant period:

Under the Finance Act 2007 (c.11), which received Royal Assent on 19 July 2007, for fraudulent evasion of the payment of the remote gaming duty (Sch 1, Pt 1, para 26L(2)); and

Under section 39(9) of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 (c.18), which received Royal Assent on 26 July 2007, for the disclosure, in contravention of section 39(1), of personal information held by the Statistics Board.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997. [198324]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is contained in 13 Finance Acts and could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Listed Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what applications have been made for listed building consent in relation to Treasury buildings since May 1997. [198924]

Angela Eagle: Three applications have been made for listed building consent for the Treasury building in London. They were all for the Government Offices, Great George Street building and were for: refurbishment of the West End of the building; installation of bronze castings within the kerb of the main entrance ramp; and internal alterations to partitions within the building.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment in his Department there were in each month since May 2005. [199848]

Angela Eagle: The latest civil service employment statistics are as published by the Office of National Statistics in the Civil Service Statistics document and tables available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=272

and in the HM Treasury annual report and accounts 2006-07 which can be accessed at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/A/2/annual_report07.pdf

Any further breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [199034]

Angela Eagle: The information requested will be available after the conclusion of the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit of the Department's resource accounts. Publication of the resource accounts is planned for June.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public consultations his Department has held in the last three years; and how many respondents there were to each. [198677]

Angela Eagle: A list of the public consultations undertaken by the Treasury since 2000 is available on the Department's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/consult_fullindex.cfm

61 consultations (which are now closed) have been launched since 1 April 2005 and eight consultations are currently live.

How many respondents there were to each consultation could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200014]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to the details of the services provided by polling organisations is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196749]

Angela Eagle: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198956]

Angela Eagle: The latest available data on sickness absence is published at the Cabinet Office statistics website under Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/conditions%5Fof%5Fservice/publications/

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198980]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to sickness absence by staff of the Treasury are published in the Sickness Absence in the Civil Service FY 2006-07 Report commissioned by the Cabinet Office which is accessible at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195863]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has 19 video conferencing facilities and is planning to install more. Treasury staff are already actively encouraged to use video-conferencing, instead of travelling to meetings to reduce emissions and save official time.

Exchange Controls: Economic and Monetary Union

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the European Union has to introduce exchange controls between Sterling and the euro; what his policy is on the introduction of such exchange controls; and if he will make a statement. [198795]

Angela Eagle: The Government's macroeconomic framework includes a monetary policy framework that seeks to deliver low and stable inflation through a symmetric inflation target, not an exchange rate target. By maintaining sound public finances and low inflation the Government contribute to exchange rate stability. This is consistent with their objective of a stable and competitive pound over the medium-term.

The Government remain fully committed to their macroeconomic framework and as part of that they would not choose to exercise any powers that they have through exchange controls. Any exchange controls would have to be consistent with the general prohibition in the EU treaty of restrictions on the movement of capital and payments.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of the average price of a pint of beer comprised tax in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage it will be in 2008-09; [195531]

(2) what percentage of the average price of a bottle of spirits comprised tax in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage it will be in 2008-09. [195532]

Angela Eagle: Such percentages are dependent on the particular product for which they are calculated and will vary with both the movement in prices and duty rates overtime. Some estimates based on prices included in the RPI can be found in the alcohol fact sheet at

www.uktradeinfo.co.uk

These have not yet been updated with 2007 figures shown in the following table:

	Year	*Retail price (£)*[1]	*Total tax as a percentage of retail price*
On-trade lager (pint)	2007	2.48	28
Off-trade lager four large (440ml) cans	2007	2.83	50
On-trade beer (Bitter) pint	2007	2.28	28
Off-trade whisky 70cl	2007	12.08	60
Off-trade vodka 70cl	2007	10.84	62

[1] Prices relate to April 2007

Over the last 10 years to 2007, alcoholic drinks became on average 25 per cent. more affordable in the on-trade and 33 per cent. more affordable in the off-trade, relative to consumer incomes. Tax increased by four pence per pint and 55 pence per 70cl bottle of spirits in Budget 2008. The percentage of retail prices that these increases represent in 2008-09 will depend on the industry's pricing decisions.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 38-9W, on excise duties: alcoholic drinks, what the underlying trend in alcohol consumption was to which the Answer refers; and what the absolute values for consumption were in each year. [198317]

Angela Eagle: The revenue forecast for alcohol duties reflect the underlying trend in alcohol consumption, as measured by HM Revenue and Customs data on quantities of alcohol products cleared or released for UK consumption. Published estimates of quantities for each drink type are available from the UK Trade Info website:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins

These historical estimates are used in an econometric model to forecast revenues from alcohol duties, but separate forecasts of quantities are not published. The revenue forecast from spirits, wine and beer and cider duties in 2007-08 and 2008-09 is published in Table C6 of the 2008 Budget report:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/report/bud_bud08_repindex.cfm

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to assess the effect of the level of alcohol duty announced in the 2008 Budget on people's consumption of alcohol, broken down by category of consumer. [199006]

Angela Eagle: None. The intention of the increases in alcohol duty announced at Budget was to raise revenue, not to tackle problem drinking. HM Revenue and Customs monitor receipts from alcohol duty. This is broken down by product rather than consumer.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised from *(a)* vehicle excise duty and *(b)* fuel duty in each year since 1997. [199427]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor the hon. Member for Wentworth (John Healey) to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1744W, and the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1050W.

The Treasury has published details of tax receipts as a matter of routine in successive pre-Budget and Budget reports. The most recent can be found in Table C6 of the Chancellor's 2008 Budget Report at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/7/3/bud08_chapterc.pdf

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total revenue from Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08, broken down by VED bands A to G; [200047]

(2) what the total projected HM Revenue and Customs revenue is from Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11, broken down by VED bands A to M; and how much of that relates to the (i) standard rate and (ii) first year charge; [200048]

(3) what estimate he has made of likely changes in total carbon dioxide emissions from motor vehicles in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11, as a result of the changes in rates of vehicle excise duty announced in the Budget 2008. [200051]

Angela Eagle: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) administers and collects VED.

Budget 2008 reformed the VED structure to strengthen the environmental incentive to develop and purchase fuel-efficient cars. The reforms take effect from 2009-10 and 2010-11. They are forecast to result in rising carbon savings over time as the number of low carbon cars significantly increases. In 2020 the changes are forecast to deliver carbon savings of 0.16 $MtCO_2$. The role of VED also needs to be considered in the context of the wider range of economic and other measures which influence motorists, such as fuel duty, company car tax, European regulations and the labelling scheme in car showrooms.

The following table shows the total revenue raised from VED bands A-G in 2006-07 and 2007-08. The disaggregated figures for VED revenues by CO_2 emissions banding have been estimated by the DVLA based on DFT data. The figures for 2007-08 are provisional and subject to audit.

£ million

	2007-08	*2006-07*
Band A	—	—
Band B	16.19	17.35
Band C	531.82	413.15
Band D	518.83	415.29
Band E	450.24	364.57
Band F	791.14	684.02
Band G	75.81	28.68

The following tables show the forecast of VED revenues from cars (rounded to the nearest £5 million) registered on or after 1 March 2001 in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11

Revenue figures standard rates

£ million

2008-09	
A	—
B	20
C	645
D	610
E	580
F	880
G	185

Revenue figures standard rates

	2009-10	£ million 2010-11
A	0	0
B	5	5
C	15	15
D	60	65
E	265	275
F	375	385
G	495	500
H	425	430
I	370	370
J	680	690
K	775	450
L	115	410
M	140	325

Revenue figures first year rates

	£ million
2010-11	
A	0
B	0
C	0
D	0
E	55
F	45
G	60
H	55
I	50
J	80
K	60
L	50
M	55

Far Eastern Investment Corporation

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has recently met representatives of the Far Eastern Investment Corporation. [184854]

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he or his officials have met representatives of the Far Eastern Investment Corporation in relation to Northern Rock. [185711]

Angela Eagle: Throughout the period of exploring a private sector solution for Northern Rock there were frequent meetings with the representatives of the private sector bidders.

Financial Inclusion Fund

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he proposes to allocate to the Financial Inclusion Fund in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [199248]

Angela Eagle: The comprehensive spending review in October 2007 announced that there will be £130 million available for the Financial Inclusion Fund in 2008-11. The allocations for the next three years are:

	Financial Inclusion Fund allocation (£ million)
2008-09	42.996
2009-10	43.457
2010-11	43.547
Total	130

Foreign Loans: World War II

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what means his Department has received confirmation from his US counterparts that payments by the UK to the US for assistance related to the Second World War have been concluded. [198911]

Angela Eagle: The amount of the final repayment was confirmed with the US Treasury in advance and repaid on 29 December 2006.

Government Departments: Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records the Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (e-PIMS) holds on the *(a)* rateable value and *(b)* notional rental cost of empty property. [199087]

Angela Eagle: Information on the rateable value and notional rental cost of every empty property is not held centrally on e-PIMS and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Income

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average annual income was for people in each socio-economic group in each of the last 10 years. [196662]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is given in the following tables:

Median equivalised household income, before housing costs, by socio-economic status of household reference person, 2001-02 to 2005-06, United Kingdom except where noted

Socio-economic status	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Higher managerial and professional occupations	29,000	28,000	30,000	31,000	32,000
Lower managerial and professional occupations	22,000	23,000	24,000	24,000	25,000
Intermediate occupations	18,000	18,000	19,000	19,000	20,000
Small employers and own account workers	16,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	18,000	18,000	19,000	19,000	20,000
Semi-routine occupations	15,000	15,000	15,000	16,000	16,000
Routine occupations	14,000	15,000	15,000	16,000	17,000
Never worked and long-term unemployed	[1]11,000	[2]12,000	10,000	11,000	11,000

Median equivalised household income, before housing costs, by socio-economic status of household reference person, 2001-02 to 2005-06, United Kingdom except where noted

Socio-economic status	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Not classified	[1]—	[2]—	13,000	14,000	14,000

Source:
Family Resources Survey.

Median equivalised household income, after housing costs, by socio-economic status of household reference person, 2001-02 to 2005-06, United Kingdom except where noted

Socio-economic status	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Higher managerial and professional occupations	24,000	25,000	26,000	26,000	27,000
Lower managerial and professional occupations	19,000	20,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Intermediate occupations	15,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	17,000
Small employers and own account workers	14,000	15,000	14,000	15,000	14,000
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	15,000	16,000	16,000	17,000	17,000
Semi-routine occupations	12,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	14,000
Routine occupations	12,000	13,000	13,000	14,000	14,000
Never worked and long-term unemployed	[1]10,000	[2]10,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Not classified	[1]—	[2]—	11,000	12,000	12,000

Notes:
1. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. The incomes presented here are at a household rather than individual level.
2. The figures are based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) equalisation factors and are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
3. The national median income of the survey year in question has been used (i.e. the contemporary median) instead of using a fixed median for a particular year. This is consistent with the preferred way of measuring poverty.
4. All figures are shown in nominal terms (i.e. not adjusted for inflation).
5. Median incomes have been provided rather than mean incomes because the income distribution is skewed with some outliers with high incomes.
6. Socio-economic status of household is defined by the socio-economic group of the household reference person, who is defined as the highest income householder without regard to gender.
7. Information by socio-economic group is defined by National Statistics socio-economic classification. This was introduced in 2001 and information on a consistent basis for earlier years is not available. A split between the 'never worked and long-term unemployed' and 'undefined' category is available only from 2003-04.
8. Results cover the United Kingdom, except for 2001-02 where only Great Britain is covered.

Source:
Family Resources Survey.

Income Tax: Scotland

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many individuals in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* each Scottish parliamentary constituency and *(c)* each Scottish local authority area were paying only the 10 pence starting rate of income tax as at 1 April 2008; [199169]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* each Scottish parliamentary constituency and *(c)* each Scottish local authority area who will (i) be better off, (ii) be worse off and (iii) will experience a neutral effect from the abolition of the 10 pence starting rate of income tax; [199170]

(3) how many households in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* each Scottish parliamentary constituency and *(c)* each Scottish local authority area were paying only the 10 pence starting rate of income tax as at 1 April 2008; [199171]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* each Scottish parliamentary constituency and *(c)* each Scottish local authority area which will be (i) better off, (ii) worse off and (iii) will experience a neutral effect from the abolition of the 10 pence starting rate of income tax. [199172]

Jane Kennedy: The removal of the 10p rate is part of a package of reforms announced in Budget 2007 that also involved changes to tax credits, which are awarded based on family income. As a result of these reforms four-in-five households in Scotland are better or no worse off than if they had not taken place. The average Scottish household will be £80 better off as a result of this package. It is not possible to estimate the impact of the reform package below devolved administration or Government Office Region level.

An estimate for the number of taxpayers in Scotland paying tax only at the starting rate of income tax for 2007-08 is provided in table T2.2, which is available from HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

The effect of the package of personal tax reforms announced in Budget 2007 on taxpayers paying income tax only at the starting rate will depend on their individual circumstances, for example, whether they have dependent children, or their age.

Available information on the total number of taxpayers in Scotland, Scottish local authorities and each Scottish parliamentary constituency are shown in tables T3.13; T3.14 and T3.15 respectively, which can be found at the HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the revenue to the Exchequer from an increase in the higher rate of income tax by one penny in 2008-09 from *(a)* England and *(b)* the United Kingdom; [199099]

(2) what estimate he has made of the gross revenue which will accrue from an increase in the basic rate of income tax by one penny in 2008-09 from *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK. [199112]

Jane Kennedy: The cost or yield from a 1p change in the basic and higher rate of income tax is regularly published in the "Tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs", copies of which are in the Library, and in Table 1.6 on the HM Revenue and Customs' website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm

An updated version of Table 1.6 reflecting changes announced in Budget 2007 which take effect from April 2008 is due to be published at the end of April.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department to Karian and Box since 1997. [199633]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has awarded no contracts to Karian and Box since 2002. Information on contracts prior to 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Low Incomes: Personal Savings

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government have taken in the last 12 months to encourage low income families to save money. [199316]

Angela Eagle: Since 1997, the Government have sought to support saving and asset ownership for all, from childhood, through working life and into retirement. The Government have introduced ISAs which seek to develop and extend the saving habit; one in five people from low income groups now holds an ISA. The Government have also introduced the Child Trust Fund, which will ensure that, in future, all young people have a financial asset at 18. Personal Accounts, for pension saving, will be introduced in 2012 and will promote saving for retirement. Budget 2008 announced that the Saving Gateway will be introduced nationally, with the first accounts available to savers in 2010. The scheme will provide a financial incentive to save for those on lower incomes through matching (a Government contribution for each pound saved).

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 27 February 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent. [199498]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

National Savings and Investments: Advertising

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the advertising and sponsorship spend of National Savings and Investments in 2007-08. [199527]

Angela Eagle: The estimated spend on NS and I advertising and sponsorship in 2007-08 is £8.3 million. This is an estimate and final outturn will be reported in NS and I's 2007-08 annual report.

Northern Rock

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how he plans to account for the borrowing needed to provide loans to Northern Rock; and where the borrowed funds will appear in his Department's accounts. [171170]

Angela Eagle: Current accounting arrangements for loans made by the Bank of England to Northern Rock are set out in to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1962W.

In Budget 2008, following the decision to take Northern Rock into a period of temporary public ownership, the Treasury announced it will replace the Bank of England's loan to Northern Rock with direct Treasury funding during 2008-09 (Budget 2008, Chapter 2, paras 42-46). The Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) requires disclosure of future developments, and post balance sheet events, in a Department's Resource Accounts. These requirements will be taken into account when preparing the HM Treasury's 2007-08 accounts. Future accounting arrangements will be set out in future HM Treasury departmental resource accounts.

Northern Rock: Financial Services Authority

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff at the Financial Services Authority were engaged in supervising Northern Rock prior to September 2007; and how many are currently employed in supervising Northern Rock. [199892]

Angela Eagle: The Financial Services Authority is responsible for the recruitment and management of its own executive staff. Hector Sants, chief executive of the FSA, has agreed to write to the hon. Member on this matter.

Northern Rock: Mortgages

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of whether mortgages classified by Northern Rock as undergoing a voluntary payment holiday are correctly so classified. [190301]

Angela Eagle: Northern Rock's policy on payment holidays has been considered by the Financial Services Authority as part of its supervision of the bank.

Property Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what works have been undertaken on his Department's property under the Circular 18/84 procedure and its successor since May 1997. [199109]

Angela Eagle: Planning consents were obtained for:

the refurbishment of the West End of the Government Offices, Great George Street including restoration works to the central circular courtyard, addition of a roof over a western internal courtyard, installation of new lifts and plant, enhanced goods and waste servicing on King Charles Street and associated works;

the refurbishment of part of Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London for the Office of Government Commerce; and

the refurbishment of part of Rosebery Court, Norwich also for the Office of Government Commerce.

Public Expenditure: Department for Work and Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department made of the trend in the take-up rate of *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* council tax benefit, *(c)* disability living allowance, *(d)* attendance allowance, *(e)* income support, *(f)* housing benefit and *(g)* jobseeker's allowance when establishing the spending allocation for the Department for Work and Pensions in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [199254]

Jane Kennedy: The DEL spending allocated to Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11, was set out in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review and covers the cost of administering social security benefits. The Government's forecast on spending on social security benefits is included in AME expenditure and is forecast separately at every pre-Budget report and Budget. The benefit take-up rates are not explicitly forecast for the benefits listed. The forecasts implicitly assume that recent trends in take-up rates continue into the future, which for most benefits means that future take-up rates are broadly constant.

Public Sector: Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Office of National Statistics has made of the effect on the overall inflation rate of providing a public sector pay rise of *(a)* two per cent., *(b)* three per cent. and *(c)* four per cent. [196930]

Yvette Cooper: The Office for National Statistics has made no estimate of public sector pay rises on the overall rate of inflation.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197513]

Angela Eagle: No contracts have been awarded to Rackspace by the Treasury or its agencies.

Stamp Duties

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what adjustment he has made to the previous £15 million budget for stamp duty relief for zero-carbon homes as a result of the Budget 2008 announcement that flats and maisonettes will now qualify; [200197]

(2) what assumptions he has made of the numbers of additional flats and maisonette properties which will qualify for the stamp duty relief for zero-carbon homes as a result of the Budget 2008 announcement that flats and maisonettes will now qualify; [200198]

(3) what total stamp duty relief has been claimed to date in relation to zero-carbon home purchases, broken down by stamp duty band *(a)* 1 per cent., *(b)* 3 per cent. and *(c)* 4 per cent. [200199]

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many new homes have qualified for zero-rate stamp duty for zero-carbon homes since the discount was introduced; [199973]

(2) how many of those purchasing a residential property since the zero-rate of stamp duty land tax for zero-carbon homes came into effect have been liable for any stamp duty land tax. [199950]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of his proposal to extend stamp duty zero-carbon tax relief to flats in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms; [199020]

(2) what the maximum fee is that an assessor can charge to assess whether a dwelling meets the zero-carbon standard; and whether the fee applies to *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial property; [199107]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of properties that will take up the proposed stamp duty zero-carbon tax relief for flats in the first full year of the exemption's operation. [199108]

Angela Eagle: As stated in the Budget 2007 report, the Exchequer cost of extending stamp duty zero-carbon tax relief to flats is expected to rise to around £15 million in 2011-12. This cost takes into account new flats and maisonettes as well as new houses. The stamp duty land tax relief for new zero-carbon homes only applies to residential property.

Of those transactions for which a stamp duty land tax certificate was issued between 1 October 2007 and 31 March 2008, 10 transactions claimed the stamp duty land tax relief for new zero-carbon homes. All of these transactions fell in the 1 per cent. tax band. No data currently exists for April.

450,368 residential transactions were liable for stamp duty land tax between 1 October 2007 and 31 March 2008. No data currently exists for April.

The tax relief will help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of microgeneration, and sets a gold standard for green homes.

We expect the number of qualifying transactions, including flats and maisonettes, to be initially low in the first few years but to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief go on the market. For example, in December of last year, the Government announced details of 200 new homes to be built to a zero-carbon standard in Hanham Hall, near Bristol. The media release can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/611694

The Government are committed to conducting an interim review of the relief in 2010 which will examine the effectiveness of the relief in stimulating the innovation necessary to ensure that all new homes are built to a zero-carbon standard from 2016.

The level of fees that an energy assessor can charge for assessing whether a dwelling meets the Treasury's stamp duty land tax zero-carbon standard is purely a commercial decision. However, if the energy assessment is carried out by a Government Department, not in competition with commercial suppliers, then in line with Treasury guidelines on managing public money, the charge cannot exceed the full cost of the service provided without parliamentary approval.

Stamp Duties: Tax Yields

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the receipts to the Exchequer from *(a)* stamp duty and *(b)* stamp duty land tax in each of the next three years. [199022]

Angela Eagle: Estimated and projected revenues for total stamp taxes, in 2007-08 and 2008-09, are published in Table C6 of the Budget 2008 report. The breakdown between stamp duty land tax and stamp taxes on share transactions is given in the following table:

		£ billion
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Stamp duty land tax	10.1	9.5
Stamp taxes on shares	4.2	4.0

Stamp Duty Land Tax: Shared Ownership Schemes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of his proposal to amend stamp duty rules to provide that purchases of property in shared ownership pay stamp duty land tax on the final 20 per cent. of the value of the property in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms; [199002]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of his proposal to change stamp duty land tax liability for purchases of property in shared ownership; [199024]

(3) whether his proposal to change stamp duty land tax liability for shared ownership purchases will apply to open market homebuy schemes. [199110]

Jane Kennedy: The stamp duty land tax rules for leases resulted in stamp duty land tax being payable on the upfront premium for any transaction in respect of which the annual rent exceeded £600. In Budget 2008 the Government abolished this rule for residential transactions with effect from Budget day.

As stated in the 2008 Budget report the Exchequer cost of the abolition of this rule for residential property is projected to be £5 million in each of the fiscal years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

The abolition of this rule will mean that in most cases there will be no stamp duty land tax due upfront for shared ownership schemes. Indeed in the vast majority of cases no stamp duty land tax will be due until the purchaser has acquired at least 80 per cent. of the property. This will support the Government's affordable housing agenda of assisting at least 25,000 households into homeownership through shared ownership and shared equity schemes.

The open market homebuy scheme is not a shared ownership scheme and will not therefore be affected by our amendment to the stamp duty land tax treatment of shared ownership purchasers. Shared equity schemes, such as the open market homebuy scheme, operate a different structure to shared ownership. Under shared equity schemes the purchaser owns one 100 per cent. of the property from the outset with the help of additional mortgage finance from the Government. The stamp duty land tax treatment of shared equity schemes is no different to the stamp duty land tax treatment of a property bought in the conventional way.

Tax Avoidance: Self-employed

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how HM Revenue and Customs defines bogus self-employment in the construction industry. [199094]

Jane Kennedy: There is no statutory definition for tax and national insurance purposes of employment or self employment. Whether a worker is employed or self-employed is determined on the basis of criteria established by judicial decisions. HM Revenue and Customs regards "bogus self-employment" as describing an engagement where the worker is incorrectly treated by the engager as self-employed.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of construction workers who are bogus self-employed; [199096]

(2) what estimate he has made of the national insurance and tax revenue foregone to the Treasury as a result of bogus self-employment in the construction industry in each of the last five financial years. [199097]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs believes that there could be up to 200,000 workers in the construction industry who are incorrectly being treated by their engagers as self-employed. We estimate that the consequent Exchequer loss currently is around £350 million per annum. No estimates of the Exchequer loss for earlier years have been made.

Information from the Office for National Statistics[1] for the fourth quarter of 2007 estimates that there are around 1,450,000 employees and around 850,000 self-employed working in the construction industry.

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, collects no specific data on workers within the construction industry.

[1] From the Labour Force Survey

Taxation: Aviation

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the change in the number of flights into and out of UK airports in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 as a result of the per plane duty due to come into effect from November 2009; [200049]

(2) what estimate he has made of likely changes in total carbon dioxide emissions from aviation in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11, as a result of the duty payable per plane due to come into effect from November 2009. [200050]

Angela Eagle: At pre-Budget report 2007, the Chancellor announced that air passenger duty would be replaced by a duty payable per plane, rather than per passenger, on 1 November 2009. This will ensure that the duty sends a stronger environmental signal, and is more closely correlated to environmental impacts. A consultation on the design of the new duty was published on 31 January 2008, and is available on the HM Treasury website.

The public consultation period will close on 24 April 2008. However, the final design of the new duty—and the associated rates—will not be decided until after all of the evidence submitted during the consultation period has been considered and the policy development process is complete. It is therefore not yet possible to estimate the changes in flight numbers as a result of the new duty. Similarly, it is not possible to calculate the changes in carbon dioxide level that will take place as a result of the new duty.

Taxation: Betting

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much taxation revenue was generated from machines in Tote betting shops in each of the last five years. [199015]

Angela Eagle: Due to HM Revenue and Custom's duty to maintain tax payer confidentiality information on tax revenues for individual operators cannot be released.

Taxation: Leisure

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information his Department holds for tax purposes on the number of leisure centres which do not charge extra for the use of spas and saunas but include their cost within the charge for swimming; [199295]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the levying of back-dated VAT charges on leisure centres which allowed free access to spas or saunas to British Olympic competitors and paralympic competitors. [199294]

Jane Kennedy: Neither HM Treasury nor HM Revenue and Customs hold such information.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 972W.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual self-assessment tax returns *(a)* completed online and *(b)* received in hard copy were recorded as lost in the last year for which figures are available. [199004]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 370W.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 719W, on Valuation Office, what the timetable is for the Agency to decide whether to introduce a records management system. [198912]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency has commissioned its IT partner to investigate possible electronic document and records management (EDRM) solutions. Until the proposal in respect of this is received, there is no specified timetable for the Agency to reach a decision.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many householders in England received a visit from a Valuation Office Agency representative in 2007. [199113]

Jane Kennedy: Approximately 140,000 dwellings in England received a visit from a member of Valuation Office Agency staff in 2007 in the course of it undertaking its valuation responsibilities for council tax, inheritance tax, capital gains tax, 'right to buy' and other functions requiring the inspection of property.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 507W, on Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble, what the notional cost is to the public purse for the consultancy services provided by Cole Layer Trumble in the last 12 months; and how much of that cost was attributable to the ASPIRE contract. [198913]

Jane Kennedy: The notional cost for the consultancy services provided by Cole Layer Trumble in 2007-08 amounts to £63,271. This cost is attributable to the ASPIRE contract.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 507W, on Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble, whether the consultancy work undertaken in the last 12 months on automated valuation modelling techniques related to *(a)* council tax valuations and *(b)* business rate valuations. [198914]

Jane Kennedy: Consultancy advice from Cole Layer Trumble related to various technical aspects of automated valuation modelling. It was not directly related to either *(a)* council tax valuations or *(b)* business rates valuations.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1226W, on Valuation Office: ICT, whether the proposed Geographic Information System will make use of data from *(a)* Ordnance Survey, *(b)* aerial photography, *(c)* satellite photography, *(d)* MOSAIC and *(e)* ACORN. [199114]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency's proposed Geographical Information System will make use of mapping data licensed from Ordnance Survey. The use of aerial photography, satellite photography, MOSAIC or ACORN data is not within the scope of the proposed solution.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* planned cost was and *(b)* most recently estimated cost is of the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System. [199017]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 887W. No further cost estimates have been received.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* original completion date was and *(b)* most recent expected completion date is of the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System. [199018]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 887W. No further amendments to the completion dates have been received.

Valuation Office: ICT

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 508W, on Valuation Office: ICT, what the average geographical size is of each of the 10,000 localities. [198918]

Jane Kennedy: There are approximately 10,000 localities covering the whole of England (approximately 50,350 square miles). Therefore the approximate average geographical size of a locality is 5.04 square miles.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* expected cost, *(b)* function and *(c)* expected completion date is of the Valuation Office Agency's electronic communications project. [198985]

Jane Kennedy: The VOA does not have an "electronic communications project".

Valuation Office: Measuring Instruments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* tape measures and *(b)* laser measuring devices the Valuation Office Agency has purchased in the last 24 months; and at what cost in each case. [199287]

Jane Kennedy: The Valuation Office Agency undertakes various types of valuation and surveying work on behalf of a number of public sector clients for a wide range of purposes and requires the appropriate professional equipment to perform these roles effectively.

The Agency purchases its surveying equipment from a designated supplier. The total annual spend in the last two financial years is as follows:

2006-07: £16,065

2007-08: £209,171

The nature of the equipment and the time it was purchased lead to annual variations in expenditure.

It is not possible to break these figures down into individual category purchases, except at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office: Video Recordings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any internal videos have been produced or updated by the Valuation Office Agency since 8 January. [198916]

Jane Kennedy: No videos have been updated; one video for internal use has been produced since 8 January 2008.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1018W, and 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 509W, on Valuation Office: video recordings, if he will place copies of the 23 other internal staff videos in the Library. [198917]

Jane Kennedy: The internal videos are both aimed at, and feature, VOA staff. Release of the videos would be considered unfair within the first data protection principle, as staff would have had a reasonable expectation that they were contributing to a video only for internal VOA use. The process of obtaining permissions and/or making necessary redactions could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation: Conservatories

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many domestic properties in England are classified with a dwellinghouse code of *(a)* Conservatory Type: D, *(b)* Conservatory Type: S, *(c)* Conservatory Type: G and *(d)* Conservatory Type: U, according to figures held by the Valuation Office Agency. [199116]

Jane Kennedy: As at 2 April 2008 the number of domestic dwellings in England for which the Valuation Office Agency has assigned these dwellinghouse codes are *(a)* 106,497, *(b)* 43,576, *(c)* 62,469 and *(d)* 555,800.

VAT Exemptions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 371W, on VAT exemptions, what assessment he has made of the effects of VAT exemption for supplies of certain services linked to sport by not-for-profit organisations on competition in the market for local authority leisure management, as defined under Article 133(d) of the EC Principal VAT Directive. [198809]

Jane Kennedy: Officials from HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs have met with representatives of private sector leisure providers to discuss the current VAT exemption for supplies relating to sport and physical education, and its impact on competition. Officials are also in regular discussion with local authority representatives on a range of VAT issues. Like all taxes, this VAT exemption is kept under review against the Government's broader objectives, which include increasing participation in sport.

Voluntary Work

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 50W, on voluntary pay, what the organisations are for which members of his Department have volunteered while on special leave. [199008]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury actively promotes employee volunteering and the 2007 Treasury staff survey reported that 30 per cent. of current Treasury staff volunteer. However the detailed information sought by the hon. Member is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the claimants' tax hotline returning calls to customers; and if he will place guidance issued to helpline operatives in the Library. [194474]

Jane Kennedy: The tax credit helpline along with other HMRC Contact Centre services are designed to deal primarily with a large number of incoming telephone calls. HMRC contact centres expect to handle around 59 million phone calls this year. HMRC do not have a formal policy to cover each and every circumstance when they may need to return calls to customers.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on running the *(a)* claimants' and *(b)* hon. Members' tax credit helpline in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) staffing budget and pensions contributions, (ii) administration, (iii) facilities, (iv) training and (v) other. [194487]

Jane Kennedy: The staffing cost for the tax credit helpline is estimated to be £93.5 million for 2006-07. The full year figures for 2007-08 are not yet available. Figures for earlier years are not available.

The other data are not available in the format requested.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget is for the proposed renovations and refurbishment of the Downing Street complex in 2008-09. [199118]

Mr. Watson: Information on the cost of renovations and refurbishment of the Downing street complex in 2008-09 will only be available when the Department's resource accounts for that year are fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Admiralty House: Art Works

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which works of art from the Government Art Collection are located in each of the official ministerial residences in Admiralty House; and what the title and artist of each is. [189520]

Mr. Watson: A list of artworks located in the ministerial residences in Admiralty House has been placed in the Library.

Admiralty House: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether occupants of ministerial residences in Admiralty House are liable for damage to the material condition of the property they occupy arising from their use of it; and if he will make a statement; [194999]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the tenancy agreement relating to the use of ministerial residences in Admiralty House. [195001]

Mr. Watson: Official residences are assigned to Ministers by the Prime Minister either on grounds of security or in order to allow them to perform better their official duties. Rules on the use of official residences are set out in the 'Ministerial Code'. There are no formal tenancy agreements in respect of the use of official residences. The liability for any damage to any of the residences would depend on the circumstances.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 246W, on Admiralty House, how many bathrooms each of the three official ministerial residences in Admiralty House has. [189576]

Mr. Watson: One flat has one bathroom and the other two have two bathrooms.

Census: BSL

Jim Dowd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will consider the merits of identifying users of British sign language as part of the next census. [200177]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will consider the merits of identifying users of British Sign Language (BSL) as part of the next Census. (200177)

Consultation with users on their requirements for information from the 2011 Census has identified a demand for a language question to provide information to improve resource allocation

at the national and local level and to inform service provision of, for example, the need for translation and interpreter services. There was also some demand expressed for information on the use of specific languages, including BSL. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has subsequently tested a number of variants of a language question, with a view to developing a concise question which is easily understood by respondents and gives reliable results. ONS are currently testing a question on main language used, including BSL through a write-in facility.

A White Paper setting out the proposals for the 2011 Census is scheduled to be published at the end of 2008. However it will not be possible to confirm what questions and response categories are to be included in the 2011 Census until the consultation and question testing programme is complete and formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010.

Central Office of Information: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the expenditure of the Central Office of Information on Government marketing, advertising and public relations was in each year since 1996-97. [193819]

Mr. Watson: The Central Office of Information expenditure for the years requested is shown in the following table:

£ million at outturn prices

Activity	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Advertising: media spend	69.4	59.0	105.4	113.5	161.9	141.6	134.8	167.6	165.4	154.6	135.9
Advertising: non media spend	—	—	—	—	30.5	21.0	11.1	10.7	19.5	13.3	18.8
Direct and relationship marketing	11.5	8.5	17.0	26.3	24.2	25.0	29.3	36.9	35.9	27.2	29.9
Events	1.6	3.6	5.3	4.0	4.8	9.1	6.4	5.6	9.7	7.5	10.9
Broadcast	3.5	3.8	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.0	15.9	14.4	11.3	12.0	13.7
Publications	21.9	21.4	22.0	25.7	29.6	29.2	26.3	26.6	34.3	36.5	32.1
Digital media	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.3	3.0	11.1	12.1	22.5
Research	3.0	3.6	4.9	7.1	10.1	10.8	13.1	15.9	13.2	17.7	17.4
Public relations and sponsorship	0.3	1.1	4.3	8.8	10.5	9.1	10.3	15.4	19.1	23.7	22.7
Strategic consultancy	3.2	3.7	4.4	2.2	6.6	9.9	9.0	6.0	7.9	7.2	9.7
Government news network	5.3	6.0	7.4	9.7	12.1	9.7	9.3	10.3	10.2	9.7	9.3
Other	6.2	—	—	—	2.8	9.8	(2.1)	4.5	6.2	0.8	1.1
Directgov	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13.5
Total	125.9	110.7	173.4	199.9	295.4	277.2	267.7	317.9	343.8	322.3	337.5

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* hourly and *(b)* annual pay of (i) male and (ii) female (A) childcarers in daycare settings and (B) childminders in each year since 1997; [199893]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* hourly and *(b)* annual pay of (i) male and (ii) female childcare assistants in each year since 1997; [199894]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average annual salary of *(a)* childcarers in daycare settings and *(b)* childminders qualified to level 6 in each year since 1997. [199899]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking what the average (a) hourly and (b) annual pay of (i) male and (ii) female (A) childcarers in daycare settings and (B) childminders was in each year since 1997; what the average (a) hourly and (b) annual pay of (i) male and (ii) female childcare assistants was in each year since 1997; and what the average annual salary of (a) childcarers in daycare settings and (b) childminders qualified to level 6 was in each year since 1997. (199893, 199894, 199899).

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is carried out in April each year and is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Under the Standard Occupation Classification 2000 (SOC), childcarers in day care settings, childminders and childcare assistants are all classified to the same category, which is Childminders and Related Occupations, occupation code 6122. Subdivision beyond this is not possible in ASHE.

Estimates of weekly earnings for employees by gender and SOC are available from ASHE for employees on adult rates of pay, whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence, from 1997. Annual earnings estimates are available for employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year, from 1999. ASHE results are published on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ashe

ASHE does not collect information on employee qualifications. This information is available from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, the LFS sample size for childminders qualified to level 6 is too small to provide estimates.

Civil Servants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the job specification and functions of Downing Street's *(a)* Director of Communications, *(b)* Chief of Strategy, *(c)* Director of Political Strategy and *(d)* Head of the Strategic Communications Unit. [198179]

Mr. Watson: Civil servants are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Civil Service Management Code. Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants working in his Department are related to other civil servants working in the his Department. [198723]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally.

Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what databases are *(a)* owned and *(b)* maintained by (i) the Cabinet Office and (ii) its agencies. [185429]

Mr. Watson: The information for the Cabinet Office is as follows:

Cabinet Office databases	*Owned*	*Maintained*
HR—Human Resources	Yes	Yes
CORAS—Resource Accounting	Yes	Yes
e-Rm—Electronic Records Management	Yes	Yes
CMS—Case Management System	Yes	Yes
EPCIS—Emergency Planning College Information System	Yes	Yes
Fast Stream Recruitment—Graduate Recruitment	Yes	No
Cabinet Committee Papers—Management and Distribution of Cabinet Committee Papers	Yes	Yes
E-Payfact—Payroll Administration	Yes	No
Cross Government Exercise—Crisis Management	Yes	Yes
Government Communications Network—Member Database	Yes	No
Government IT Profession—Member Database	Yes	No
Central Applications Repository—Civil Service Pensions Administration	Yes	No

This list does not include all locally-based data collections that sit across departmental networks, the collation of which would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library an electronic copy of the Cabinet Office staff handbook. [198177]

Mr. Watson: My Department no longer publishes a staff handbook. The terms and conditions of service that apply to all Cabinet Office employees are readily available to them electronically on the Cabinet Office intranet. The text on the intranet is updated periodically but could only be reproduced at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198943]

Phil Hope: The most recent published absence data for the Cabinet Office is available for the 12 months ending 31 March 2007, in the Analysis of Cabinet Office Statistics. This is available on the Civil Service Statistics website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

The number of stress-related working days lost for each of the last 24 months could only be reproduced at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198954]

Phil Hope: The average number of working days lost per person is only available from 2004 and is published on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* destination and *(b)* purpose was of each overseas visit undertaken by staff in the Cabinet Office in the last 12 months. [198278]

Phil Hope: The destination and purpose of each overseas visit undertaken by staff in the Cabinet Office over the last 12 months is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

All overseas trips undertaken by Cabinet Office staff are for official business reasons only and made in accordance in the Department's official travel policy.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195815]

Mr. Watson: Most full-time Cabinet Office employees work 41 conditioned hours per week, including five hours paid meal breaks. The Department also offers employees alternative working patterns under part-time, shift, flexible working or work-life balance policies.

Information on the total and average hours worked by Cabinet Office employees is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disclosure of Information

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance he has sent to Government Departments on disclosing the dates and locations of meetings held by Ministers. [185179]

Edward Miliband: It is for individual Departments to decide on the disclosure of details of official meetings taking account of the requirements of the ministerial code, the civil service code, Cabinet Office guidance on drafting answers to parliamentary questions and relevant legislation.

It is long established practice under successive governments that information relating to internal discussions and activities is not normally disclosed.

Employment: Inverness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* employed and *(b)* unemployed people there were in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each year since 1997. [200089]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many *(a)* employed and *(b)* unemployed people there were in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each year since 1997. (200089)

The Office for national Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. However, data prior to the 12 month period ending December 2004 are not available for this geography due to the redrawing of Scottish parliamentary constituencies in 2005.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of people in employment and the number of unemployed, aged 16 and over resident in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency for each of the last three years. Estimates for the 12 months ending September 2007 have also been provided as being the latest data available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

In order to produce estimates for small geographical areas, APS estimates are provided based on survey microdata. These are consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003, whereas the regional and national estimates published in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are based on more up-to-date population figures, so the two are not directly comparable.

Table 1: Employment and unemployed in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency

Thousand

12 months ending	In employment[1]	Unemployed[2]
December 2004	43	2
December 2005	42	2
December 2006	43	1
December 2007	43	1

[1] Persons aged 16+

Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff are employed by 10 Downing Street in relation to electronic, website and internet communications; and how many were employed on 26 June 2007. [198158]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1797W.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the value was of each contract awarded by the *(a)* Cabinet Office and *(b)* Prime Minister's office to Karian and Box since 1997. [199651]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Life Expectancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate has been made of average life expectancy in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England. [199970]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of average life expectancy in (a) Scotland and (b) England. (199970)

The table below shows life expectancies at birth for males and females for the countries requested. These are 'period' expectation of life figures, which are based on the mortality rates experienced in the years 2004 to 2006 by age and gender in the respective country and give the average number of years people would live from birth if they experienced those mortality rates throughout their lifetimes.

Period expectation of life, 2004 to 2006

	Males	Females
Scotland	74.6	79.6
England	77.2	81.5

Source:
Interim Life Tables 2004-06, http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk:=14459

'Cohort' life expectancy figures, which allow for projected changes in mortality in later years, are available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk:=15098

Migration: Statistics

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions the Office for National Statistics had with Government departments before the Office's revised methodology for allocating international migrants to regions and local authority areas was published. [199300]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question concerning what discussions the Office for National Statistics had with Government departments before the Office's revised methodology for allocating international migrants to regions and local authority areas was published. (199300).

Over a significant period of time prior to implementation, ONS officials had regular discussions with the key Departmental users of population and migration statistics, specifically:

The Department for Communities and Local Government, given their role with local grant funding;

The Department of Health, including representation on the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the Advisory Committee for Resource Allocation (ACRA); and

The devolved administrations.

Government departments and other users were kept informed at each stage in the development and implementation of the improved methodology. Papers were submitted for discussion at the regular meetings held with the population sub-group of Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP). Membership of CLIP includes representatives from Government departments, as well as from local government. The proposed new methodology was first discussed by CLIP in April 2006 prior to the announcement, in August 2006, of plans to implement the revised methods. The publication of indicative figures and explanatory papers followed in April 2007. Presentations of the methods were made at conferences and seminars, in particular at the British Society of Population Studies.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when estimates for short-term migration will be published for each local authority area. [199304]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking when estimates for short-term migration will be published for each local authority area. (199304)

An initial report on the outcome of work to explore the feasibility of producing such estimates is planned for late 2008. If this concludes that a suitable methodology can be developed using existing sources, which is at this point still uncertain, it is anticipated that estimates for short-term migration for local authorities could be published in 2009.

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which recommendations of the Inter-departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics *(a)* have and *(b)* have not been implemented since the publication of its report. [199855]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking which recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Task Force on Migration Statistics have been implemented. (199855)

Following the release of the Migration Task Force report ONS made a bid for funding of new work to implement the recommendations made. It was always intended that this would be necessary as the Task Force identified further work over and above that which ONS could have achieved on its own.

In 2007 ONS implemented some improvements to existing population estimates (mainly involving the distribution of international migration between local areas). The future work programme started on 1 April 2008.

In practice ONS has made progress where possible. In particular:

An interim Port Survey Review report was published in October 2007 identifying a series of short-term improvements that will be implemented in 2008. In addition, more emigrants are being sampled in the International Passenger Survey.

ONS published experimental statistics on short term migration at the end of 2007 and is researching the feasibility of producing these at local level.

A step towards more coherent reporting of migration statistics was made in February when the Home Office and ONS published outputs at the same time as a more joined-up package. This approach will be developed throughout 2008.

ONS has been working closely with other government departments including DWP and DCSF to explore what administrative data is available and how it might be used to improve migration statistics. A paper was published in late 2007. ONS is also looking at how data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency might be used to improve internal migration estimates at student ages.

ONS and Home Office are working together to define the statistical requirements of the new e-Borders system, gathering data on people as they enter or leave the UK.

ONS published in late 2007 indicators of volumes of migration into and out of local areas.

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the reliability of the short-term migration statistical series produced by the Office for National Statistics; and if he will make a statement. [199856]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what assessment has been made of the reliability of the short-term migration statistical series. (199856)

Short-term migration estimates were published for the first time in October 2007, together with associated standard errors which provide an indication of how much a sample estimate might vary from the true value because of random effects.

The estimates are not yet classified as National Statistics as they are still under development. At the time of publishing, ONS set out the future pathway to achieving the higher quality standards of National Statistics status. The first stage of this work is to carry out a reconciliation exercise between combined estimates of long and short-term migration and counts of international immigrants from administrative sources. Publication of this first step is planned for May 2008.

Damian Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the funding required to implement the recommendations made by the inter-departmental task force on migration statistics; what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues over such funding; and how much has been allocated to implement these recommendations in each of the next three years. [199857]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 21 April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question o the funding required to implement the recommendations made by the inter-departmental taskforce on migration statistics and discussions that have been held with ministerial colleagues. (199857)

ONS is currently in the final stages of agreeing the work programme for improving migration statistics. The initial assessment ONS made of the funding required to implement the migration task force recommendations is estimated to be £48 million over five years in full implementation were to be achieved. This estimate is made up of work needed in other government departments as well as the work ONS would do.

ONS has had discussions with departmental colleagues over the work programme and the associated funding requirements, and those colleagues have engaged their Ministers. The National Statistician has also engaged directly with John Healey and Liam Byrne on this matter but no formal ministerial meeting has been held at this state.

The statistical work programme for ONS as a whole, which will cover the first four years of migration statistics improvements, is being finalised and will be the details of the migration statistics improvement programme.

Official Residences: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1307W, on official residences: repairs and maintenance, whether any *(a)* cleaning, *(b)* minor works and *(c)* refurbishment have been undertaken on the Prime Minister's personal residence in Downing Street following the departure of the previous Prime Minister. [199106]

Phil Hope: The costs of refurbishment of the Prime Minister's official residence and the Downing Street complex are given on a regular basis following the end of the financial year.

Overseas Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of migrants to the UK entered the country to study at a UK educational institution in the latest period for which figures are available. [199658]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what proportion of migrants to the UK entered the country to study at a UK institution in the latest period for which figures are available. (199658)

The latest available estimates of Total International Migration (TIM) are for the 2006 calendar year. In 2006 27 per cent. of migrants cited formal study as their main reason for migration to the UK. This percentage excludes those migrants with another main reason for migration, such as accompanying or joining family members, but who may also undertake study in the UK.

Pensioners

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average age is of a pensioner in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England. [199968]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question on what the average age is of a pensioner in (a) Scotland and (b) England. (199968)

The median age of the population of pensionable age in both Scotland and England is 72 years. These data are based on mid-2006 population estimates which are the latest available.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many pensioners there were in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England at the latest date for which figures are available; and what percentage of the total population they represented. [199969]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls with the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many pensioners there were in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* England at the latest date for which figures are available, and what they represented as a percentage of the total population. (199969).

The following table shows the data you have requested. The latest population estimates available are for mid-2006.

2006 Mid-year estimate of pensionable age resident population

Country	*Persons of pensionable age (thousand)*	*Percentage of total population*
England	9,462	19
Scotland	983	19

Sources:
Office for National Statistics and General Register Office for Scotland.

Political Office

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was contributed from the public purse towards the cost of Downing Street Political Office staff that are part funded by the Labour Party, in the most recent year for which figures are available. [198195]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member for Horsham to the answer the Prime Minister gave on 22 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1789W.

Psychology

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which chartered psychologists have been hired by his Department in the last 24 months; at what cost; and for what purpose. [198181]

Mr. Watson: Information on whether individual management units have used chartered psychologists is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Public Participation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1307W, on public participation: incentives, what the criteria by which Ipsos MORI recruited participants to attend; what methodology they used to ensure a group of people from all walks of life were selected; and whether membership of a political party was one of the criteria used to select or not select individuals; [198194]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1344W, on public participation: incentives, what steps were taken to determine whether participants in the deliberative forum had party political affiliations. [198097]

Mr. Watson: Ipsos MORI managed the recruitment process for the national workshop and selected a group of people by face to face interviews from across the UK and all walks of life to be reflective of the population to attend. Ipsos MORI used a number of quotas to ensure that the recruitment was a good reflection of the general public as a whole, including key demographic questions on age, gender, socio-economic group, etc. They also asked attitudinal questions, such as views on whether the Governments policies are likely to improve public services or not and questions on political activism, including party membership, to ensure people with a good range of views and people with different levels of political activism attended the event.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many individuals have responded to his Department's "Have Your Say" consultation. [198196]

Mr. Watson: The Crime and Communities review's "Call for Evidence" has by the end of March 2008, attracted 944 responses to its questionnaire, and in addition, 606 community activists have also attended evidence gathering events across the country. The deadline for the end of the evidence gathering process is the 11 April 2008.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the value was of each contract awarded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies to Rackspace in the last year for which figures are available. [199524]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Security: Greater London

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2846W, on security: Greater London, whether projects within the Government Security Zone include implementation of recommendations made by Project George. [198089]

Mr. Watson: The GSZ Programme is about the physical security of Government buildings within the zone. The Cabinet Office took into account the GSZ when planning and implementing refurbishment works to its Whitehall buildings.

Staff: 10 Downing Street

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people working in *(a)* Number 10 Downing Street and *(b)* the Cabinet Office are not employed by the Civil Service. [197497]

Phil Hope: The Prime Minister's Office forms part of the Cabinet Office.

From latest available figures as at 31 December 2007, there were 87 members of staff (FTE) working in the Cabinet Office who are not employed by the civil service. This figure includes staff seconded in from outside the civil service, fee-paid staff, agency staff and consultants but excludes service contractors.

Suicide: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people *(a)* under and *(b)* over 21 years of age committed suicide in (i) Barnsley, (ii) Doncaster and (iii) South Yorkshire in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [199354]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people (a) under and (b) over 21 years of age committed suicide in (i) Barnsley, (ii) Doncaster and (iii) South Yorkshire in each of the last five years for which figures are available. (199354)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death for persons aged (a) under 21 and (b) 21 years and over, in (i) Barnsley metropolitan district, (ii) Doncaster metropolitan district and (iii) South Yorkshire county, for 2002 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1: number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death,[1] Barnsley metropolitan district, Doncaster metropolitan district and South Yorkshire county,[2] by age group[3], 2002-2006[4]

Area	*Age*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
						Deaths (persons)
Barnsley	15 to 20	2	0	1	1	0
	21 and over	13	21	15	31	10
	Total	15	21	16	32	10
Doncaster	15 to 20	1	3	1	2	2

Table 1: number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death,[1] Barnsley metropolitan district, Doncaster metropolitan district and South Yorkshire county;[2] by age group[3], 2002-2006[4]

Area	Age	2002	2003	2004	2005	Deaths (persons) 2006
	21 and over	22	28	26	25	24
	Total	23	31	27	27	26
South Yorkshire	15 to 20	5	5	3	3	4
	21 and over	98	111	96	114	95
	Total	103	116	99	117	99

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the coroner's verdict was pending).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Unemployment: Inverness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many workless households in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency there were in each year since 1997; [200090]

(2) how many children were living in workless households in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each year since 1997; [200118]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 April 2008:

As national Statistician I have been asked to reply to your two parliamentary questions. The first asks how many workless households in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency there were in each year since 1997 [200090]. The second asks how many children were living in workless households in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each year since 1997 [200118].

Estimates are provided from the labour Force Survey (LFS). There is currently no annual household dataset, so the figures are given for the April-June quarter to be consistent with those published in the 'Work and worklessness among household first Release' (see web link http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0807.pdf). The boundaries for parliamentary constituencies in Scotland were redrawn in 2005, and data is only available for 2006 and 2007 using the LFS household datasets.

There were approximately 1,000 workless households in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in 2006 and 2007. Estimates for the number of children (aged under 16) living in these workless households are disclosive and cannot be released under confidentiality rules.

A workless household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age (a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64) where no one aged 16 or over is in employment.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

United Kingdom Statistics Authority: Finance

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how the budget of the UK Statistics Authority is determined. [199277]

Phil Hope: In the 2007 Budget the Government announced a funding settlement of £1.2 billion over five years for the new Statistics Authority. The settlement applies to the years 2007-08 to 2011-12, providing planning and funding certainty for the development of the new Authority and the effective discharge of its remit from the establishment of the new system on 1 April 2008.

In order to reinforce the new Statistics Authority's statutory independence, the Government set funding for the Authority outside the normal Government spending review process.

Within this funding settlement, it will be for the Authority to decide on spending allocations for the Authority's functions, the census, new statistical initiatives and the Office for National Statistics.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199609]

Phil Hope: The Cabinet Office paid to Zurich Financial Services the following amounts:

Financial year	£
1999-2000	4,112.50
2000-01	5,062.71
Total	9,175.21

Information prior to 1999-2000 is not held. There have been no payments since 2000-01. Details of the purpose of the payments can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Trade

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimae his Department has made of the number of small arms which were imported into the UK and immedately re-exported in each of the last three years; and what assessment he has made of the *(a)* destination and *(b)* end use of such arms. [200041]

Meg Munn: Cumulative records of small arms imported and immediately re-exported are not maintained. It is therefore not possible to say how many small arms entered the UK and were then immediately re-exported. Information on licences issued for the export of small arms has been published in the Government's quarterly and annual reports on strategic export controls, which can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls

Licenses for arms exports are considered on a case by case basis and rigorously assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licencing Criteria ("The Code of Conduct"). This takes into account conditions and circumstances in the country of destination and the end use of such arms.

There is a limited number of exemptions or variations to this rule. For example, in the case of export of small arms by an individual when Part IV, Article 11 (8) or (9) of the Export of Goods, Transfer of Technology and Provision of Technical Assistance (Control) Order 2003, as amended, applies. In such cases an export licence may not be required if the criteria set out in the order can be met. Similarly, an individual could make use of the Open General Export Licence (Accompanied Personal Effects: Sporting Firearms) if they meet the criteria set out in that licence. In cases where the criteria for these exemptions are not met an export licence, assessed against "The Code of Conduct" as described above, will be required.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates and with whom in the US Administration he has discussed talks between Russia and the US on deployment of the US Ballistic Missile Defence programme. [197910]

David Miliband: The UK continues to discuss ballistic missile defence issues with the US Administration, on a number of levels. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign governments. We are, however, kept well informed of discussions between the US and Russia on the deployment of US missile defence assets and we welcome the continued constructive engagement by both sides in the debate.

Bombs

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has for *(a)* UK representation and *(b)* a negotiating mandate at the forthcoming conference on an international treaty on cluster munitions in Dublin in April 2008; what the UK's policy is on (i) cluster munitions and (ii) a treaty reducing or banning their deployment; and if he will make a statement. [198113]

Dr. Howells: At the Dublin Diplomatic Conference (19-30 May) John Duncan, our Ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, will lead the UK delegation, which will include Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development officials.

The Government recognises the humanitarian concerns raised by cluster munitions. Our policy is therefore to work to achieve legally binding instruments within both the Oslo Process and the UN framework, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, that will prohibit the use, production and stockpiling of those cluster munitions which cause unacceptable harm to civilians. The mandate of the UK delegation in Dublin will reflect that objective. We want a strong treaty that will have the widest possible support from the start, particularly from the major users and producers, and thereby achieve the greatest practical humanitarian effect.

China: Human Rights

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many individual cases of human rights abuses by China he raised with his Chinese counterpart in each of the last five years. [197615]

Meg Munn: We regularly raise individual cases of human rights abuses with the Chinese government, both bilaterally and through the EU. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised three priority cases with the Chinese Foreign Minister during his visit to China in February. We also handed over a list of 42 individual cases of concern at the most recent round of the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, which took place in Beijing just prior to this visit, at the end of January. We are unable to detail how many individual cases my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has raised over the last five years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions he has raised the issue of human rights abuses with his Chinese counterpart in the last five years. [197616]

Meg Munn: We regularly raise human rights concerns with the Chinese Government. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in regular contact with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi over the last two weeks to register concern for the situation in Tibet. He also raised a number of issues, including ratification of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and media freedom, with the Chinese Foreign Minister during his visit to China in February 2008. We are unable to detail how many times my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has raised human rights concerns with Chinese counterparts over the last five years without incurring disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in China. [197618]

Meg Munn: We regularly monitor the human rights situation in China. We use the annual UK-China Human Rights Dialogue to discuss our priority concerns in detail and to gain up to date information,

including on individual cases. We also regularly raise our concerns and request information from the Chinese government both bilaterally and through the EU. Our assessment of China's human rights record for 2007 is included in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Annual Human Rights Report, published on 25 March 2008, available on the FCO website at:

www.fco.gov.uk

China: Olympic Games

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on a boycott of *(a)* all and *(b)* part of the Olympic Games in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [197617]

Meg Munn: We are aware of calls to boycott the 2008 Olympic Games. The Government do not support a boycott of any part of the Olympics. We shall continue working with China to make the Olympics a success.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in respect of the Beijing Olympic Games in the event of worsening political violence in China. [198127]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* We monitor political developments in China closely, and we will continue to make clear to the Chinese government where we have concerns, as we have done in respect of recent violence in Tibet. We have made clear, however, that we do not support a boycott of any part of the 2008 Olympics. We are determined to continue working with China to make the Olympics a success, as part of China's re-engagement with the world.

Climate Change

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on climate change; and if he will make a statement. [197619]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular discussions with his US counterpart on a range of issues, including on climate change, as do ministerial and policy colleagues. Tackling climate change is key to global security and prosperity and that is why we have made "promoting a high growth, low carbon economy" one of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's four priorities. We will continue to hold regular discussions with the US, and with other international partners, to deliver an ambitious and fair post-2012 deal at the UN conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

Corruption

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what meetings his Department has held with officials of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's anti-corruption working group in the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [198007]

(2) what progress has been made in implementing the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development anti-bribery convention in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [198008]

(3) what documents the Government has *(a)* provided and *(b)* been asked to provide to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development working group on bribery; and if he will make a statement. [198009]

David Miliband: The UK is a founder signatory of the 1997 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Convention on Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (OECD Anti-Bribery Convention) which we ratified in 1998—one of the first member countries to do so. My noble Friend the Advocate-General for Scotland, Lord Davidson of Glen Clova, represented the UK at the OECD High Level Conference to mark the 10th anniversary of OECD Anti-Bribery Convention in Rome in November 2007. The Working Group recognised in their Phase 1 bis review that the UK's laws comply with the requirements of the Convention. We continue to work closely with the OECD on improving our anti-bribery procedures. The importance that the UK attaches to this area is reflected in my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's appointment of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform as the Government anti-corruption champion and the range of measures proposed in the 2007 and 2008 anti-corruption action plans.

The OECD Working Group on Bribery is the body responsible for monitoring compliance with the convention. It operates through an established peer review process intended to raise standards across the Group's membership. The Group meets formally in Paris four times a year. The UK has been represented on every occasion by Government officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, home departments and UK law enforcement agencies, including the Attorney-General's Office, city of London police, Crown Prosecution Service, Department for Business, Enterprise, and Regulatory Reform, Ministry of Justice, and the Serious Fraud Office. There are, of course, frequent ad hoc meetings between OECD and member country officials, including the UK.

We shall continue to play a full and active part in the group and in its peer review procedures. Preparation for such reviews usually entails the provision of supporting written material such as laws, regulations and judicial decisions. To ensure the OECD is kept fully abreast of developments, it is also open for member countries to provide these on their own initiative in the interim. The UK has, for example, recently provided the OECD with core documents submitted to the Judicial Review by the Serious Fraud Office, the Law Commission Consultation Paper "Reforming Bribery" and the Constitutional Renewal White Paper and draft Bill.

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department contributes *(a)* direct funding, *(b)* informal support and *(c)* personnel to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and if he will make a statement. [197850]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK does not directly fund the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). PACE is funded from the Council of Europe ordinary budget, to which the UK contributed £18 million in 2008—to equal to the contributions of the other major contributors: France, Germany, Russia and Italy.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office informally supports the UK Parliamentary Delegation to PACE through our staff at the UK Delegation in Strasbourg.

We do not contribute personnel to PACE.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a mechanism exists to enable the Government to respond formally to resolutions passed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [197851]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government may choose to respond formally to resolutions passed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe when they are part of a recommendation or opinion addressed to the Committee of Ministers. The Committee of Ministers should reply within six months. The Rules of Procedure and the Statute of the Assembly are available at:

http://assembly.coe.intMain.asp?link=/RulesofProcedure/PACERuleIndex_E.asp.

The Government are unaware of any recent representations on this issue.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196737]

Meg Munn: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195865]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) recognises the advantages of video-conferencing and had a target to increase usage, for staff in the UK, by 10 per cent. by 31 March 2008. Between September 2007 and March 2008, usage on the main video-conferencing network increased by 51 per cent. Figures are not available for usage before then, or for the other (smaller) video-conferencing network. The target for 2008-09 is still to be finalised but it will encourage further usage, including by staff overseas.

The FCO continues to expand the availability of video conferencing and currently has over 140 suites in its UK offices and posts.

Diego Garcia: Rendition

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 547, on terrorist suspects (renditions), whether UK officials met either of the people rendered through Diego Garcia in 2002. [198021]

Dr. Howells: We have no evidence to suggest that the two individuals concerned met UK officials while on Diego Garcia.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 547, on terrorist suspects (renditions), if he will instigate a public inquiry into the use of Diego Garcia by the US for rendition purposes. [198022]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has written to US Secretary of State Rice, further to his statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, to request clarification on a number of specific issues raised by the new information passed to us on 15 February regarding two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002. In advance of concluding this work, it would be inappropriate to speculate on whether a more formal inquiry is necessary. Our officials continue to work with their US counterparts on the details and implications of the new information.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 547, on terrorist suspects (renditions), who the two men were who were rendered through Diego Garcia in 2002. [198023]

Dr. Howells: As set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, neither of these two individuals was a British national or a British resident. One is currently detained at Guantanamo Bay and the other has been released. However, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no further information to disclose regarding these two individuals.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 547, on terrorist suspects (renditions), when the two men rendered through Diego Garcia in 2002 *(a)* arrived on and *(b)* were transported off the island. [198024]

Dr. Howells: The two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia referred to in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, took place in January and September 2002 respectively. In both cases a US plane with a single detainee on board arrived and refuelled at the US facility in Diego Garcia before departing. The detainees did not leave the plane.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 547, on terrorist suspects (renditions), (1) where the two men rendered through Diego Garcia were held prior to their transfer from Diego Garcia; and whether either of them were held on the island itself or on ships close to Diego Garcia; [198025]

(2) where the two men rendered through Diego Garcia were taken having been transferred through Diego Garcia; and what steps he has taken since their rendition to assess the treatment of the men whilst in custody of the US or another state. [198026]

Dr. Howells: Our officials continue to work with their US counterparts on the details and implications of the new information passed to us on 15 February regarding two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has written to US Secretary of State Rice, further to his statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, to request clarification on a number of specific issues. While my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no further information that he is able to disclose regarding these two individuals, the US has assured us that no detainees have been held at Diego Garcia.

Europe: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on gender responsive budgeting. [190919]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 4 March 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with EU counterparts on the specific issue of gender responsive budgeting.

However, the Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn) on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 643W.

Exports: Licensing

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which countries the UK has refused an export licence on the grounds of human rights since 1997. [197791]

David Miliband: Human rights considerations are at the forefront of the UK assessment of all export license applications. Criterion 2 of the consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing criteria requires us to assess the attitude of the country of final destination towards principles established by international human rights instruments.

Information about the refusal of certain export licence applications under the EU and National Arms Export Licensing consolidated criteria has been published in the UK strategic export control annual reports available since 2001. This information can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's website at www.fco.gov.uk

We do not as a matter of course collate information about refusals broken down by the criteria applied, for example, over concerns over human rights in individual countries. It would incur disproportionate cost to provide this information for the period requested.

Fiji: Foreign Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what permission *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office or *(b)* his Department gave to Fiji to use his image to promote a tourism campaign; and what assessment he has made of the effect on the UK's diplomatic relations. [198250]

Meg Munn: The Prime Minister's Office does not give permission for images of my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to be used in commercial promotions, as was made clear at the time of the Fiji Visitors Bureau's February 2008 advertising campaign. I do not believe this incident has had an impact on the UK's diplomatic relations.

Football Banning Orders

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions his Department has been consulted by the Home Office on banning orders on visa applicants wishing to visit the UK in the last three months. [197333]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintains regular contact with the Home Office over additions and deletions to UN Security Council and EU travel ban lists, over exclusion decisions and over visa applications. The Government do not keep central statistics for these contacts.

France: European Council Presidency

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on France's presidency of the European Council in the second half of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [190600]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed possible priorities for the French presidency with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs at the UK-France Summit on 27 March 2008. This discussion was continued at an informal meeting with other EU Foreign Ministers in Paris on 31 March.

My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, and Foreign Secretary and I have regular contact with our French counterparts and discuss a wide range of EU issues. There is also frequent contact at official level.

The joint UK-France declaration, issued after the Summit, outlines key areas for UK-French co-operation, including during the French presidency. These include work on a new EU Migration Pact, an EU-wide strategy for tackling climate change and securing energy supplies, taking action to reduce global poverty and improving civilian crisis management capabilities.

Gaza: Weapons

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representation he has made to the Government of Egypt on stopping the smuggling of weapons into Gaza. [199564]

Dr. Howells: Arms smuggling into Gaza remains a great concern. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met his Egyptian counterpart Aboul Gheit on 19 February 2007 to discuss the situation on Gaza. The Quadrilateral Committee, which consists of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and the US has been working closely to address the issue of smuggling and border control.

Human Rights

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of international compliance with conventions banning torture and other degrading practices; what steps the UK Government is taking to *(a)* encourage other countries to ratify such conventions and *(b)* monitor compliance; and if he will make a statement. [197610]

Meg Munn: Despite the fact that a large number of states have ratified various international conventions prohibiting torture, torture continues to be committed with impunity in many parts of the world. The UK remains fundamentally opposed to torture and continues to be one of the most active countries in the world in the fight to eradicate it.

For example, we continue to support wider ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT) through bilateral lobbying campaigns, EU demarches and our work in UN fora such as the Human Rights Council. We also use a combination of project work and diplomatic activity to encourage implementation of OPCAT, including by the establishment of national preventative mechanisms. Since September 2006, 13 additional states have ratified OPCAT. This marks significant progress, although there is of course more to be done.

The UK continues to support various bodies which have a role to play in monitoring and promoting compliance with international conventions and standards relating to the prohibition of torture, including the UN treaty bodies formally mandated to help enforce the CAT and OPCAT, and the European Court of Human Rights.

Further information on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) work in this area can be found in the FCO's 2007 Annual Human Rights Report. The report is also available on the FCO's website at:

www.fco.gov.uk.

Indonesia: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr. Manfred Nowak, on the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by Indonesian security forces in Indonesia and West Papua; whether he plans to make representations to the government of Indonesia on the report's findings; and if he will make a statement. [197732]

Meg Munn: We welcome Dr. Manfred Nowak's visit to Indonesia in November 2007, at the invitation of the Indonesian government. In an address to the UN Human Rights Council on 4 March, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Hassan Wirajuda, expressed appreciation for the importance of the work of the Special Rapporteurs and undertook to sustain Indonesia's dialogue with them. The report of Dr. Nowak's visit as published to the UN Human Rights Council on 10 March. It notes the considerable progress made in Indonesia since 1998 and the commitment of the current government to uphold and promote human rights. It also raised concerns about torture and ill treatment in places of detention, particularly in the metropolitan areas of Java. We are continuing to study Dr. Nowak's report and are consulting with EU partners on how we might engage with the Indonesian government on its findings. Indonesia is currently participating in a process of Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council. The UK is a member of the UN Human Rights Council and we look forward to a further discussion of Dr. Nowak's recommendations in due course.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to respond to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr Manfred Nowak, on the use of torture by the Indonesian security forces in Indonesia and West Papua. [197843]

Meg Munn: We welcome Dr. Manfred Nowak's visit to Indonesia in November 2007, at the invitation of the Indonesian Government. In an address to the UN Human Rights Council on 4 March 2008, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Hassan Wirajuda, expressed appreciation for the importance of the work of the Special Rapporteurs and undertook to sustain Indonesia's dialogue with them. The report of Manfred Nowak's visit was published to the UN Human Rights Council on 10 March. It notes the considerable progress made in Indonesia since 1998 and the commitment of the current government to uphold and promote human rights. It also raised concerns about torture and ill treatment in places of detention, particularly in the metropolitan areas of Java. We are continuing to study Dr. Nowak's report and are consulting with EU partners on how we might engage with the Indonesian Government on its findings. Indonesia is currently participating in a process of Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council. The UK is a member of the UN Human Rights Council and we look forward to a further discussion of Dr. Nowak's recommendations in due course.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints have been received relating to the behaviour of individuals employed by private military companies under contract to the UK Government in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2003, broken down by type of complaint. [198011]

David Miliband: One complaint has been received about the alleged discharge of a weapon by an individual working for a private security company contracted to the Government in Iraq. On investigation the complaint proved to be unfounded as the incident involved a company that had no connection with the Government. No complaints have been received about the behaviour of individuals working for private security companies contracted to the Government in Afghanistan.

Maldives: Elections

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on participating in an election-monitoring mission to the Maldives in relation to elections expected in 2008; and what plans he has for the UK to do so. [198112]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has received no specific representations on election monitoring in Maldives. I refer my hon. Friend to the answers I gave on 27 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1704-05W, to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) and to my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay).

Mexico: Foreign Relations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to improve the relationship between the UK and Mexico. [199834]

Meg Munn: The UK and Mexico enjoy extensive and growing bilateral relations. Co-operation on climate security, sustainable development and trade are the cornerstones of this relationship. In addition to regular official and ministerial visits in both directions, formal economic and high level political talks are held annually. Mexican Deputy Foreign Minister Lourdes Aranda headed the Mexican delegation at the most recent political talks in London on 1 April 2008 which I chaired.

Michael Shields

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Bulgaria on a pardon for Michael Shields; and if he will make a statement. [199563]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made no representations to the government of Bulgaria in support of a pardon for Mr. Shields. Consular officials remain in contact with Mr. Shields' legal team and continue to advise them to pursue those avenues available to them in accordance with Bulgarian legal processes.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government have had any discussions with the prospective candidates for the US presidency on the Israel-Palestine conflict and its humanitarian implications; and if he will make a statement. [198069]

Dr. Howells: The Government, both in London and through our embassy in Washington, discuss a wide range of issues—including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—with the US presidential candidates and their advisers on a continuing basis. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister met Senator John McCain on 20 March.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution his Department made to the United Nations Development Programme Trust Fund to support the work of Quartet Special Envoy James Wolfensohn in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005; and if he will make a statement. [198068]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development gave to him on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1273W.

The Department for International Development was the main Departmental lead on assistance to James Wolfensohn when he held the role of the Quartet Representative for Gaza disengagement.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received a response from his counterparts in the five Non-Proliferation Treaty nuclear weapons states to the United Kingdom offer to host a technical conference on the verification of nuclear disarmament. [197838]

Des Browne: I have been asked to reply.

My offer to host a conference of scientists from the nuclear laboratories of the five recognised nuclear weapon states was made in a speech to the Conference on Disarmament on 5 February 2008. Since then, senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and Foreign and Commonwealth Office have written jointly to their counterparts in each of the respective capitals describing the offer in more detail. We are waiting for formal responses before making further announcements.

Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to make progress on the fissile material cut-off treaty. [197840]

Dr. Howells: The UK considers a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) to be a key priority for making further progress on multilateral disarmament. We will continue to press for the start of negotiations without pre-conditions at the Conference on Disarmament (CD). My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence, spoke to the Conference on 5 February 2008 and highlighted the urgent need for the Conference to redouble their efforts to move forward on a FMCT.

As the holder of one of the six CD presidencies in 2008 we are working with like-minded countries to try to bring about the start of negotiations this year. We will continue to lobby the states which remain opposed to the start of this process.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [198236]

Dr. Howells: Parliamentary and provincial elections took place in Pakistan on 18 February 2008. The EU Election Observation Mission recognised the elections as competitive. The political parties of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Awami National Party (ANP) with the Jamiat Ulema Islami-Fazlur (JUI-F) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) grouping have formed a coalition government. The National Assembly elected a new Prime Minister, Yusuf Raza Gillani, on 24 March. He was sworn in by President Musharraf on 25 March. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has written to Prime Minister Gillani to congratulate him on his election.

We welcome the statement made by Prime Minister Gillani on 29 March, setting out the priorities for the first 100 days of his coalition government in the National Assembly, announcing measures to combat terrorism, tackle inflation and unemployment, improve media freedoms and strengthen the judiciary. Pakistan faces considerable challenges, not only political, but also economic, developmental, educational and health. We are looking forward to working closely with the new government to help them to meet these challenges.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether he has held discussions with the new government of Pakistan on the treatment of religious minorities and the use of the blasphemy laws; [198237]

(2) if he will urge the government of Pakistan to fully repeal the blasphemy laws. [198238]

Dr. Howells: The UK strongly supports freedom of religion. We condemn instances where individuals are persecuted because of their faith or belief, wherever this occurs and whatever the religion of the individual or group concerned. Both bilaterally, and together with our EU partners, we have raised our concerns with the Government of Pakistan over the situation of religious minorities, including the excessive punishments prescribed in cases of blasphemy and the frequent abuse of the blasphemy legislation. We will continue to raise the concerns of minorities with the new Government of Pakistan and encourage reform or repeal of discriminatory legislation through the National Assembly.

Papua

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the treatment of the population of West Papua by the Indonesian authorities; and if he will make a statement. [197842]

Meg Munn: Our embassy in Jakarta follows the situation in Papua closely and is in regular contact with human rights organisations, non-governmental organisations and academics who provide reports on developments in the region. Embassy staff also visit Papua regularly, most recently from 15-20 February 2008. While there they held discussions with local officials, non-governmental organisations and representatives of religious organisations on a range of issues, including human rights.

We assess that the Indonesian Government are committed to making improvements in the human rights situation as well as promoting wider development efforts in Papua. The invitations from the Indonesian Government to the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, Hina Jilanai, and Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, to visit Papua are encouraging signs of this.

Piracy

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department issues to *(a)* UK-registered and *(b)* Royal Navy ships operating in or passing through areas where there is a risk of piracy on (i) intervention in and (ii) taking active steps to prevent acts of piracy. [199822]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not issue guidance to UK-registered ships in respect of piracy. This is the responsibility of the Department for Transport (DFT), which relies on data supplied by the International Maritime Bureau, a specialised division of the International Chamber of Commerce, and other sources. The DFT also issues guidance on how ships can take steps to avoid being the object of a piracy attack. The Ministry of Defence is responsible for managing the operations of its own vessels.

Rendition

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken in international forums to raise concerns on the use of extraordinary rendition. [198020]

Dr. Howells: We have cooperated fully with previous investigations by the European Parliament and the Council of Europe on rendition and have informed them of the new information we received from the US on 15 February regarding two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002. We will continue to cooperate with such international forums on this issue.

Mr. Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 547, on terrorist suspects (renditions), which officials are responsible for receiving and administering US requests for permission to use British airports and air bases, including US bases on British territory, for rendition of individuals. [198019]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is the lead Department on rendition policy and officials in its Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) are the designated points of contact for this issue. All UK overseas missions are aware that they must notify CTD of any potential rendition requests from the US or third countries. Our officials continue to work with their US counterparts on the details and implications of the new information passed to us on 15 February regarding two cases of rendition through Diego Garcia in 2002. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has also written to Secretary Rice, further to his statement to the House on 21 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 547-48, to request clarification on a number of specific issues and to clarify the appropriate arrangements for any future rendition requests.

Russia: BBC

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information he has received from the BBC on interruptions and suspensions of the BBC Russian language service in Russia and Kazakhstan. [197665]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The BBC World Service keeps the Foreign and Commonwealth Office fully informed of any interruptions and suspensions of the BBC Russian language service in Russia.

There have been no major interruptions to the BBC's short or medium wave (MW) services in Russia or Kazakhstan in recent years. Since November 2006, the World Service has lost three FM partnerships—with Radio Leningrad in St. Petersburg, with Radio Arsenal in Moscow and with Bolshoye Radio in both cities.

There was a brief interruption to the Moscow MW frequency in early 2007. The BBC understands this was a technical issue related to the operational licence of the MW service provider in Russia. This was rectified and the service resumed.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the closure of FM stations in Russia and Kazakhstan carrying the BBC Russian language service in the last two years. [197666]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The BBC World Service has kept the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and our embassy in Moscow, fully briefed on all FM radio developments in Russia. Since November 2006, the World Service has lost three FM radio partnerships: with Radio Leningrad in St. Petersburg, with Radio Arsenal in Moscow and with Bolshoye Radio in both cities. Since 2000, the BBC World Service has had no FM partnerships with radio stations in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the *(a)* reasons for and *(b)* effects of the suspensions of the BBC Russian language service carried by local FM partners in Russia in the last two years. [197667]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The BBC World Service has kept the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) fully briefed on the suspensions of the BBC Russian language service carried by local FM radio partners in Russia. The FCO reported on the most recent incident with Bolshoye Radio to the Foreign Affairs Committee. This partnership was ended because of pressure by the Russian authorities on Bolshoye Radio to remove BBC content. Given the short lifespan of the FM partnership (Bolshoye Radio—four months, Radio Arsenal—18 months and Radio Leningrad—20 months), the BBC World Service was unable to collate meaningful statistics to measure the impact of the closures.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding is planned for *(a)* the BBC World Service and *(b)* its Russian language service in each of the next three years. [197668]

Mr. Jim Murphy: BBC World Service funding for the next three years was announced in the Government's spending review in October 2007 and will be £265 million/£272 million/£271 million over the next three years. Of this, the amount directly apportioned to the Russian Service will be approximately £4.4 million in year one. In addition to this, there are a number of infrastructure and administration costs which are not allocated out to individual services. Funding for years two and three has not yet been finalised.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to reinstate the broadcasting of BBC Russian language services on short wave. [197569]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The BBC Russian language service continues to broadcast on shortwave. This service has not been suspended.

Saudi Arabia: Overseas Residence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 836W, on Saudi Arabia: overseas residence, if he will make representations to the government of Saudi Arabia to permit non-Muslims to practise their faith in public. [199353]

Dr. Howells: This is an internal matter for the Saudi government. They are well aware that the Government believe freedom of worship is a right that people should enjoy everywhere. There are no additional plans to make representations to the Government of Saudi Arabia to permit non-Muslims to practice their faith in public.

Simon Mann

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in the week beginning 21 April to monitor the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* risk of torture of Mr. Simon Mann in Black Beach Prison, Equatorial Guinea; and whether Mr. Mann is still being continuously shackled. [198171]

Meg Munn: Our consul from the British deputy high commission in Lagos was refused consular access to Simon Mann during his last visit to Equatorial Guinea in March 2008. We have expressed our concern to the Equatorial Guinea authorities and are urgently seeking another consular visit. Mr. Mann's welfare remains our primary concern.

Sri Lanka: Christianity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to make representations to the government of Sri Lanka on recent attacks against Christians. [198239]

Dr. Howells: Our high commission in Colombo has expressed concern to the Sri Lankan government over recent reports of religious intolerance. We condemn the persecution of individuals or groups because of their faith or belief. We take very seriously issues of discrimination on grounds of religion and press for adherence to the principles of religious freedoms enshrined in the UN Charter and international conventions.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in the peace talks for Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [197951]

David Miliband: Due to fragmentation among rebel movements and intensified fighting between the Government of Sudan and rebel groups, there has been no recent progress in the political process. The UK set out, at a meeting convened in Geneva on 18 March by the UN and African Union envoys, proposals for a cessation of hostilities and actions to revitalise the political process including the urgent appointment of a single chief mediator and deeper engagement with civil society.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what progress has been made in meeting the helicopter requirements of the UNAMID deployment in Sudan; how many of the six light tactical attack helicopters have been provided; how many of the 18 medium utility transport helicopters have been provided; how many trained crews, including pilots and mechanics, are now available to fly and maintain any helicopters provided; what countries are involved in providing helicopters, crews and training; whether the UK is meeting any of the costs involved; and if he will make a statement; [197792]

(2) if he will make a statement on the offer by Ethiopia of helicopters to the UNAMID mission made in February 2008; how many of each type of helicopter have been offered; and how this deployment will be maintained and paid for; [197795]

(3) what countries have offered to provide, or are in talks with, the UN on providing helicopters for the UNAMID mission in Sudan. [197796]

David Miliband: The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has lobbied over 60 countries for helicopters and continues to seek offers to fill the remaining shortfalls. We are working closely in support of DKPO to lobby potential providers and we continue to explore all options for provision of helicopters.

DKPO has accepted an Ethiopian offer of four light tactical helicopters, including crew and maintenance personnel. These are Mi-35 type helicopters. Up to 4 April 2008, the requirement for the 18 medium utility transport helicopters remains unfilled.

Helicopter contributions offered by countries must meet the requirements specified by the UN. This ensures there are enough crews and mechanics to operate and maintain the airframes. Ethiopia's helicopters will be maintained by Ethiopia and funded through the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur budget, which UN member states pay for through their assessed contributions.

Up to 4 April 2008, Ethiopia is the only country to offer helicopters that the UN considers meets its specifications. The UK is assisting their preparation with expert advice from the UK Joint Helicopter Command on conducting an overseas deployment. We are meeting the costs associated with this ourselves.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government has had with other EU and NATO countries on providing funding to underwrite the costs of the provision of helicopters, parts and crews for the UNAMID mission to Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [197793]

David Miliband: We have had extensive discussions with several countries, including EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) partners, about options to meet the urgent requirement for helicopters for the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). These options include possible funding and support arrangements for helicopters provided by third countries. We are working closely in support of the UN and we continue to explore all options for provision of helicopters.

On 27 March 2008, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and French President Sarkozy announced the establishment of a trust fund that could improve the availability of helicopters to European partners and NATO allies. This initiative will increase support available to multilateral operations, such as UNAMID.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government of Sudan has placed any obstacles in the way of the deployment of helicopters by UNAMID; and if he will make a statement. [197794]

David Miliband: We understand the Government of Sudan have declared they will not object to any country providing helicopters for the UN-African Union (AU) Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The Government of Sudan signed a Status of Forces Agreement with the AU and the UN on 9 February 2008, which should remove a number of related obstacles to UNAMID deployment, including movement of equipment and visas for UNAMID personnel. The UN, AU and the Government of Sudan continue to negotiate over limitations on UNAMID flights. We have, in regular contacts with the Government of Sudan, pressed the Government of Sudan to co-operate fully with the AU and the UN over UNAMID and remove limitations on flights.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions the Government have had with the government of Chad on Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [197953]

David Miliband: The UK is represented in Chad through our high commission in Yaounde. Officials from the high commission regularly visit Chad and have raised the issue of Darfur on numerous occasions. The last visits to Chad were on 19 November 2007 and 5-8 February 2008, where Darfur was raised with the Chadian Foreign Minister Ahmad Allam-mi and the Deputy Foreign Minister respectively.

The Government will also continue to work multilaterally through the UN and the EU to support initiatives to reduce tensions between Chad and Sudan. We have repeatedly called on the Governments of both Chad and Sudan to end support for armed groups in the region.

Tibet: Politics and Government

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he has received on the compliance with international law of actions taken by the People's Republic of China in relation to the self-determination movement in Tibet. [198845]

Meg Munn: As noted in the Ministerial Code, the fact and substance of legal advice to the Government remains confidential. This enables the Government to obtain frank and full legal advice in confidence.

China is identified in our recently published Human Rights Annual Report as having a poor human rights record, including in relation to Tibet. We regularly raise our human rights concerns with the Chinese authorities and continue to urge full respect for international human rights standards including: inter alia, rights to freedom of association, expression, religion, access to a fair trial and respect for prisoners' fundamental rights. We have urged the Chinese authorities to exercise maximum restraint in dealing with any further unrest in the Tibetan region.

Tibet: Press Freedom

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on reporting restrictions placed on foreign journalists in Tibet; and what representations he has made to the government of the People's Republic of China on the matter. [198128]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* Foreign journalists, along with all other foreigners, are currently only able to travel to Tibet after acquiring a time-limited entry permit from the Chinese authorities. Applications by journalists for these permits have often been refused in the past. A recent exception to this was the one-day tour of Lhasa organised by the Chinese Ministry for Foreign Affairs for a select group of foreign correspondents on 26 March. We continue to urge the Chinese authorities to allow free media access to Tibet. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister did so in his telephone call to Chinese Premier Wen on 19 March. The group of diplomats, including a representative from our embassy in Beijing, which visited Lhasa on 28 and 29 March, also raised the issue of free access for journalists with the Chairman of the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Torture

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy on *(a)* water-boarding and *(b)* other physical and degrading interrogation techniques is; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that policy is adhered to. [198050]

David Miliband: As I have said previously, I consider that water-boarding amounts to torture.

The UK unreservedly condemns the use of torture. We work hard with our international partners to eradicate this abhorrent practice. The UK abides by its obligations under international law, including under the UN Convention Against Torture and the European Convention on Human Rights, and expects all other countries to comply with their international obligations.

The Government never use torture for any purpose, including obtaining information, nor would we instigate or encourage others to do so. Our rejection of the use of torture is well known by our liaison partners.

The UK has implemented a range of measures, practices and policies to ensure compliance with our obligations.

Trade: Intellectual Property

Mr. Caborn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights; and if he will make a statement. [196719]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Progress on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) is considered at the TRIPs Council which meets three times a year Reports of its meetings are available on the WTO website at:

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/intel6_e.htm.

The most recent meeting of the Council took place on 13 March 2008. It reviewed national implementing measures and discussed technical co-operation and the relationship between the TRIPs agreement and the convention on biological diversity.

It also noted that 41 member states (including EU member states) had accepted the amendment to the agreement which provides flexibility for countries unable to produce pharmaceuticals domestically to obtain supplies of generic versions of patented drugs from other countries. This amendment arose from commitments made by WTO Ministers in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health in 2001, and will formally be written into the agreement when two-thirds of the 151 members accept it. Until that date, a temporary solution, adopted in 2003, will remain in force.

Turkey: EU Accession

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to increase support for Turkish accession to the European Union amongst EU member states. [199833]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government are a strong advocate and supporter of Turkish accession to the EU, and reaffirm this at each possible opportunity.

The UK works closely with other EU member states on enlargement issues, co-operating actively to support Turkey's reform process and to ensure that progress remains on track. At the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council in December 2007, EU Foreign Ministers reiterated that the EU will keep its previously agreed commitments towards countries in the enlargement process.

Zimbabwe: Elections

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many election monitors the UK will provide to the presidential elections in Zimbabwe. [197785]

David Miliband: The Government of Zimbabwe stated that 'unfriendly' countries would not be invited to observe the elections. This meant that no formal EU Observation Mission observed the 29 March elections and no formal UK observers were sent. 10 British embassy diplomatic staff, who are based in our embassy in Harare, were permitted to observe the elections informally along with other members of the diplomatic corps in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what precautions have been taken to assist UK citizens living in Zimbabwe following the elections. [199260]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) takes its role of providing consular support to British nationals overseas seriously and their safety is our top priority. As with many other British diplomatic missions across the world, our embassy in Harare holds a civil contingency plan. The Zimbabwe contingency plan focuses on assisting the departure of British nationals from Zimbabwe by non-military means and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis. At present, we do not anticipate an assisted departure or evacuation, but we will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our plans accordingly.

The FCO travel advice for Zimbabwe is under constant review. We are currently advising against all but essential travel to the whole country. We are also advising British nationals in Zimbabwe to avoid specific areas and to have their own contingency plan for how they would leave at short notice. A full copy of the travel advice can be found at:

www.fco.gov.uk/travel/Zimbabwe

If the situation in Zimbabwe deteriorates further, we will reflect this in our travel advice and provide appropriate guidance. To ensure that we can effectively communicate this information, British nationals in Zimbabwe are urged to register with our Embassy in Harare.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* lottery distributors have contributed towards projects aimed at increasing participation in the arts by priority groups, with particular reference to (i) black and minority ethnic, (ii) limiting disability and (iii) lower socio-economic groups in each year since 1997. [198334]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS funding for the arts is channelled through Arts Council England (ACE). Increasing participation by priority groups is a strategic aim which cannot be disaggregated from overall funding, but which is supported by a large number of activities and initiatives.

There have been a range of initiatives over the last 10 years aimed at this objective, including the New Audiences Programme (1998 to 2003), the work of audience development agencies and the decibel initiative. Other activities and initiatives include:

The Grants for the Arts lottery programme has been weighted in favour of first time applicants and those from disadvantaged areas—draft figures indicate that in 2007-08, 29 per cent. of applications were for work largely of benefit to areas of social deprivation.

ACE rolled out its first race equality scheme in 2004. The scheme included the production of a tool kit to support regularly funded organisations (RFOs) in their work on race equality and diversity.

ACE reached its target for 10 per cent. of the value of its Grants for the Arts programme to go to BME artists/organisations. BME-led organisations also now make up 5.7 per cent. of the RFO portfolio (an annual investment of £7.4 million).

ACE is also rolling out a disability equality scheme (DES) which runs till 2010, with the aim of achieving disability equality within its own organisation, and within the arts and creative sector they fund and support. 3 per cent. of the value of the Grants for the Arts programme was allocated to disability-led organisations in 2007-08; this is an annual investment of £1.6 million.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the implementation of the McMaster Review of excellence in the arts. [198390]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* Work is already under way within DCMS, Arts Council England and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, and across the sector more widely on many of Sir Brian McMaster's recommendations.

A number of the recommendations can be implemented swiftly, for example DCMS has now completed an audit of its sponsored bodies and already meets the recommended target of two artists or relevant practitioners on each board.

Some of the other recommendations will take longer to develop and implement, for example the new judgment-based system of assessment—encompassing peer review and self-assessment—is expected to take around a year to develop, test and evaluate before being fully implemented.

To help facilitate this work a Programme Board and Steering Group have been convened to discuss the details of implementing some of the longer-term recommendations in Sir Brian's review. The Programme Board will meet for the second time later this month to approve the complete delivery plan, which we hope will be launched before the summer.

Arts: Bureaucracy

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has for reducing the burden of administration on arts organisations. [198391]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* As part of his report on excellence in the arts, Sir Brian McMaster recommended a new, light-touch and non-bureaucratic system for judging the quality of the arts in the future. The starting point for this will be a system of self-assessment within organisations, designed to allow them to measure themselves against their own and shared objectives and a cyclical process of peer review, led by respected practitioners.

Underpinning both will be a move away from measurement of data to a more judgment-based approach, where qualified individuals who have the confidence and respect of the arts sector can make value based judgments of performance, without the need to burden arts organisations with overly complex reporting procedures.

This reflects the wider work the Department is doing to reduce the burden we place on our NDPBs. A process of risk assessment will enable us to focus our scrutiny on the few areas of higher risk and adopt a more light-touch approach in most cases. Funding agreements will be shorter, with fewer targets, fewer monitoring returns will be required, and where possible and appropriate we will extend NDPBs' delegated powers.

Arts: Rural Areas

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what Government support has been given to the *(a)* performing and *(b)* visual arts in rural areas of England since May 2005. [198625]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Arts Council do not record allocations by rural, urban or suburban area. A list of Arts Council England's funding for the performing and visual arts between 2005-06 to 2007-08, broken down by constituency, will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In 2005 Arts Council England published "Arts in rural England" which looked at the diversity of arts and creativity in rural England. It is available at:

http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/publications/publication_detail.php?rid=0&sid=&browse=recent&id=491

Arts: Standards

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has for reducing the number of targets which are applied to the arts sector. [198696]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* Arts Council England is responsible for funding agreements with their regularly funded organisations, and therefore target setting for arts organisations rests with them. As part of his report on excellence in the arts, Sir Brian McMaster recommended a move away from 'top-down' targets towards a more judgment-based system.

Work is now underway to implement Sir Brian's recommendations both within DCMS and Arts Council England and in the arts sector more widely. Part of this work will be developing, testing and implementing a new judgment-based assessment framework.

Association for Physical Education

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how often his Department has met the Association for Physical Education in each of the last three years; and what the outcome was of those meetings. [199028]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Our records indicate that this Department has not met the Association for Physical Education (AfPE) since its formal launch in March 2006, although officials are due to meet them in April with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). DCSF has had regular keeping in touch meetings with AfPE since its establishment.

Baseball

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had recent discussions on the governance of baseball; and if he will make a statement. [199027]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My officials continue to work closely with both Sport England and UK Sport in relation to the governance and funding of baseball in the UK.

Following a recent independent audit of Baseball/Softball UK (BSUK), Sport England have confirmed that they are fully satisfied that BSUK can appropriately manage and account for public funds.

Sport England also hold quarterly reviews with BSUK to consider progress of their Whole Sport Plan.

I would like to congratulate the GB team in successfully qualifying for the 2009 IBAF World Championships.

Cultural Heritage: Climate Change

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what account he takes of climate change when developing the Department's heritage strategy, with particular reference to the protection of buildings of historic importance and landscapes. [198232]

Margaret Hodge: This Department is taking account of climate change in developing our strategic policy on the historic environment. English Heritage, the Government's strategic advisor on the historic environment, held a climate change summit in January at which I gave a keynote speech. Heritage professionals were also present at DCMS' seminar on climate change in January and are working with DEFRA on the development of its climate change adaptation policy framework. English Heritage continues to undertake research and provide guidance on issues such coastal erosion; adapting historic buildings, parks and gardens for climate change and how to incorporate energy saving technologies into historic buildings.

Cultural Heritage: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his estimate is of the number of hours of arts and culture children receive each week. [194920]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is very difficult to estimate the number of hours of art and culture that children currently receive each week. Schools offer many cultural experiences, for example in music, art, drama and poetry, both within and beyond the curriculum. Many schools also give pupils opportunities to visit museums, local theatres and galleries.

The exact number of hours will, however, depend on the age of the pupils involved, the subjects chosen at the end of key stage 3, and the extended activities available outside curriculum time. Similarly, we are aware that access to arts and culture outside of school time is varied.

Our Taking Part youth survey showed that 61 per cent. of young people said that they had engaged in cultural activities at least once a week during the previous 12 months, and a further 21 per cent. said that they had engaged in cultural activities at least once a month.

The numbers quoted here relate to the percentage of 11 to 15-year-olds living in private households in England, both in and out school. The survey's definition of cultural activities includes, among other things, participating in an arts activity, visiting a museum or gallery and visiting a historic environment site. The interviews were conducted between January and December 2006.

The 10 pilots which will be selected as part of our recently announced 'Find your Talent' scheme will be asked to audit current level of arts and culture provision and the take up of these activities by children and young people in more detail.

Cultural Relations: Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to improve cultural ties between the UK and Israel; and if he will make a statement. [198728]

Margaret Hodge: I have no plans at present to take any special steps to improve cultural relations with Israel. There are no barriers to organisations in the UK and Israel forming cultural relations and I am aware that there have been and will continue to be good cultural relations between our two countries. I welcome this.

Culture Online: Standards

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 545W, on Culture Online, what targets were set for the Culture Online related projects *(a)* Artisan Cam City, *(b)* Heritage Guides, *(c)* Every Object Tells a Story, *(d)* Film Street, *(e)* Headline History, *(f)* Icons, *(g)* MadforArts, *(h)* My ArtSpace, *(i)* Origination, *(j)* Plant Cultures, *(k)* Playground Fun, *(l)* Rosetta Requiem, *(m)* Sound Junction, *(n)* Stagework and *(o)* The Dark; and what progress has been made towards achieving those targets. [198363]

Margaret Hodge: Each Culture Online project was set a number of appropriate targets in its delivery contract with partner organisations. I am arranging for extracts from the relevant contracts to be deposited in the House Libraries.

Progress towards achieving the targets for each project is set out as follows. The statistics provide interim figures. Although Culture Online closed in March 2007, a number of the projects are still running and visitors are still accessing the websites.

(a) ArtisanCam

January 2005 to January 2007: 192,169 visits to the website.

(b) City Heritage Guides

September 2005 to January 2007: 1,062,140 visits to the website.

(c) Every Object Tells a Story

January 2005 to February 2007: 915,599 visits to the website.

Project outreach work involved over 2,140 people. A video booth travelled around England, visiting shopping centres, libraries and bus stations to enable people to capture their object and story in a short video.

(d) Film Street

April 2006 to February 2007: 156,166 visits to the website.

(e) Headline History

May 2005 to February 2007: 349,040 visits to the website.

(f) Icons

January 2006-January 2007: 1,521,017 visits to the website.

(g) MadforArts

Visits to the website were unrecorded

1,000 people were involved in project outreach work

The films made as part of the MadforArts project had an audience of 2 million on Channel Five and the Community Channel.

(h) My Art Space

January 2006 to February 2007: 19,402 visits to the website.

(i) Origination

January 2005 to October 2006: 49,961 visits to the website

Over 7,000 young people took part in schools website building competition

300 people took part in the national programme of workshops encouraging hard-to-reach audiences to build personal websites.

(j) Plant Cultures

Visits to the website were unrecorded

An average of 1,000,000 unique visitors in the first 18 months, inspired over 20,000 new visitors to gardens and museums in London, Leicester, Liverpool and Bradford

500 people were involved in project outreach work.

(k) Playground Fun

August 2005-February 2007: 78,243 visits to the website

2,500 youngsters took part in the Playground Fun day at the Museum of Childhood in London (August 2005), playing games and contributing to the website.

(l) Rosetta Requiem

October 2005 to February 2007: 24,788 visits to the website

Worked with 177 hospice users to create music and films with them

An audience of over 2 million for national radio and TV coverage

22,000 copies of "We Laughed" sold, reaching number 11 in the UK singles chart.

(m) Soundjunction

October 2005 to January 2007: 175,152 visits to the website

100 people were involved in project outreach work.

(n) Stagework

January 2004 to February 2007: 488,520 visits to the website

7,400 downloads recorded up to February 2007.

(o) The Dark

February 2005 to January 2006: 39,717 visits to the website

More than 35,000 visits to the 3D soundscape installation.

Culture: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on strategic commissioning in *(a)* museums *(b)* galleries and *(c)* libraries in each of the last five years. [199838]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Over the past five years through our Strategic Commissioning programme DCMS and DCSF (formerly DfES) have jointly provided the following funds for education and community based work delivered by museums and galleries across England.

	Funding (£ million)
2003-04	2.6
2004-05	2.35
2005-06	4.7
2006-07	4.7
2007-08	4.7

Culture: Young People

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to his Department's press release of 13 February 2008 on the Find Your Talent scheme, whether cultural events attended outside school hours will count towards the intention to offer children five hours of culture a week. [196515]

Margaret Hodge: The Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots will trial ways of offering young people a range of cultural opportunities for five hours a week.

This will include activities which take place during the core school day, in extended schools and those offered by local authorities and other providers outside of school time.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government have taken to provide opportunities for young people to engage in cultural activities. [196889]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* We are committed to giving young people access to high quality cultural activities and continue to make significant investment in this area.

For example in November 2007 we announced a total investment of £332 million in school music over the next three years.

We also recently announced that a further £110 million will be allocated to the successful Creative Partnerships programme and that £5.5 million will go towards supporting youth dance over the same period.

We continue to invest in museums education, through both our programme of strategic commissioning which we will invest over £13 million in the next three years, and through our support for the Renaissance in the Regions programme.

Building on this, we announced on 13 February 2008 our plans for a Find Your Talent programme of 10 pilots that will trial ways of offering young people a range of cultural opportunities for five hours a week in and out of school.

We are seeking applications from partnerships in local areas around the country and have published a prospectus setting out a core range of activities we believe young people should be able to engage with. What we learn from this will inform our plans for a national roll out.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196586]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following contracts were awarded by the Department in the last 12 months:

Company	Contract	Value (£)
(a) KPMG	—	—
(b) PricewaterhouseCoopers	Assessment of World Heritage Site	69,000
	Impact of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games	78,000
(c) Ernst and Young	—	—
(d) McKinsey	Consultancy Support for DCMS Transformation Programme	38,500
(e) Deloitte	Review and compliance of ICT Security Strategy	58,000
	Support for delivery of transformation programme	104,000
(f) TFG International	Specialist Advice to Government Olympic Executive on 2012	50,000
Organisation Consulting Partnership LLP	Advice on Horserace Betting Levy	59,000
Veredus	Recruitment of Chair for Sport England	21,000
The Work Foundation	Consultancy on Creative Economy Programme Green Paper	49,000
Saxton Bamfylde Hever	Recruitment of Chair for English Heritage	36,000
Odgers Ray Berndtson	Recruitment of Chair for Olympic Delivery Authority	35,000
	Recruitment for Head of Projects in Government Olympic Executive	35,000)
	Recruitment of Director for Culture	10,000
Ql Consulting	Security Audit of Business Continuity Planning	28,000
Stanton Harris	Facilitation of DCMS Board Awayday	15,000

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contracts his Department has with Euclid; and what the combined monetary value of such contracts is. [198226]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* Euclid is currently contracted by DCMS to act as the UK's cultural contact point for the European Union's Culture programme. This contract has a monetary value of £50,000 per year for two years. This sum is match funded by the European Commission. Euclid also holds the contract to promote the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in the UK. The cost of this contract was a one off payment of £10,000.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what new criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198310]

Margaret Hodge: No new criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport since July 2007.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199625]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of permanent staff and temporary and agency workers in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in the table. There are no permanent non-civil service posts. Civil service statistics are collected on the number of employees and not the number of posts.

	Permanent staff	Temporary staff
May 2005	522	18
June 2005	517	18
July 2005	505	25
August 2005	505	26
September 2005	513	29
October 2005	514	29
November 2005	520	32
December 2005	517	35
January 2006	517	37
February 2006	520	38

	Permanent staff	Temporary staff
March 2006	520	38
April 2006	523	39
May 2006	526	36
June 2006	533	33
July 2006	533	34
August 2006	538	29
September 2006	543	20
October 2006	547	17
November 2006	546	16
December 2006	547	13
January 2007	542	15
February 2007	538	25
March 2007	527	24
April 2007	526	23
May 2007	524	23
June 2007	527	23
July 2007	523	22
August 2007	517	23
September 2007	510	22
October 2007	503	21
November 2007	503	21
December 2007	502	21
January 2008	490	24
February 2008	477	24

Departmental Property

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what property has been lost or stolen from his Department since 1997; and what the cost of replacement was. [187466]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following items have been lost or stolen from the Department since 1997:

1998: four laptops. Cost of replacement not available.

2000: one laptop. Cost of replacement not available.

2001: two laptops. Cost of replacement not available.

2002: one laptop. Cost of replacement not available.

2003: one laptop. Cost of replacement not available;

one Personal Digital Assistant. Cost of replacement not available.

2004: four Personal Digital Assistants. Cost of replacement not available.

2006: low value art work. Cost recorded in losses register £450.

five Personal Digital Assistants. Cost of replacement not available.

2007: four Personal Digital Assistants. Cost of replacement not available.

In 2007 the Department reviewed security at its buildings. As result a number of additional security measures have been put in place.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding agreements his Department has made with *(a)* departmental agencies, *(b)* non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* private companies for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [199840]

Andy Burnham: Most of the funding agreements with our executive non-departmental public bodies, covering the 2008-11 period, will be finalised during April. Our only agency, the Royal Parks, has been set operational targets but does not have a full funding agreement. There are no funding agreements with private companies apart from those which are also non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many public consultations his Department has held in the last three years; and how many respondents there were to each. [198679]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has held 67 public consultations over the last three years. The number of respondents to each are summarised in the table. A further two consultations are currently live:

Name	Duration	Number of respondents
Consultation on proposal to introduce a simplified process for minor variations to premises licences and club premises certificates	28 November 2007 to 20 February 2008	111
McMaster Review: Supporting excellence in the arts—from measurement to judgment	1 November to 30 November 2007	572
Consultation on draft regulations for museums on the publication of information about cultural objects on loan under Part 6 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007	21 September to 21 December 2007	18
Regulatory Reform Order: Proposal to Remove the Requirement for the Designated Premises Supervisor for Community Premises	8 August to 31 October 2007	116
The Governance of Britain, Flag Flying	27 July to 7 November 2007	305
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a European agenda for culture in a globalizing world	29 June to 10 September 2007	23
The Gambling Act (Small Society Lotteries) (Registration of Non-Commercial Societies) Regulations 2007	12 June to 30 July 2007	7

Name	Duration	Number of respondents
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Temporary Use Notices	31 May to 23 August 2007	9
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Draft Regulations under sections 235(5), 240 and 241 of the Gambling Act 2005	Technical regulations—submitted to three stages of consultation:	
	June 2006 (2 weeks)	16
	February to May 2007 (12 weeks)	20
	1 May to 1 June 2007 (4 wks)	8
DCMS Equality Scheme 2007-10 Consultation	27 April to 23 July 2007	1
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on the Review of Premises Licence Regulations	26 April to 15 July 2007	15
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Gambling at Non-commercial Events	28 March to 22 June 2007	6
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Lottery Machine Interval Order	26 March to 18 May 2007	19
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Club Gaming and Club Machine Permits	22 March to 16 May 2007	6
Consultation—Gambling Act 2005: Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits Regulations	22 March to 16 May 2007	6
Consultation on DCMS Welsh Language Scheme 2007-11	12 March to 20 April 2007	0
Consultation on The Gambling Act 2005 (Limits on Prize Gaming) Regulations	12 March to 31 May 2007	9
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century—White Paper	8 March to 1 June 2007	341
Gambling Act 2005: Definition of Dual-Use and Domestic Computers	6 March to 27 May 2007	16
Sports Ground Safety Legislation	5 March to 13 April 2007	22
Gambling Act 2005: Gambling (Inviting competing applications for Casino Premises Licences) Regulations	21 February to 2 May 2007	21
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Gaming Machine Regulations	9 February to 3 May 2007	20
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Gaming in Clubs and on Alcohol-licensed Premises	25 January to 20 April 2007	50
Consultation on draft revised guidance to be issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003	16 January to 11 April 2007	162
Gambling Act 2005: Premises Licence and Permits Fees Consultation	14 November 2006 to 19 January 2007	35
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation on Prize Gaming Permits and Family Entertainment Centre Gaming Machine Permits	27 October 2006 to 26 January 2007	[1]10
		[2]13
Consultation and partial Regulatory Impact Assessment on extending the remit of the Football Licensing Authority to the Football Conference	3 October 2006 to 13 February 2007	36
Consultation on Community Audio Distribution Systems	24 October to 5 December 2006	21
Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums	23 October 2006 to 19 January 2007	57
Gambling Act 2005: Consultation Document: Inspections	13 October to 22 December 2006	28
Gambling Act 2005: Responsible Authority for Vulnerable Adults consultation	13 October to 22 December 2006	18
Consultation on creative economy programme working groups draft report	8 August to 20 September 2006	78

Name	Duration	Number of respondents
Gambling Act 2005: Premises Licence Regulations Consultation	22 September to 15 December 2006	41
Gambling Act 2005: Premises Licence Hearings Regulations Consultation	22 September to 15 December 2006	37
Proposals for Personal Licences—Consultation Paper	13 September to 8 November 2006	20
Draft Gambling (Premises Licences: Mandatory and Default Conditions) Regulations for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005—Consultation Document	18 August to 10 November 2006	40
Categories of Gaming Machines—Consultation Paper	14 August to 27 October 2006	18
Gambling Act 2005: Fees—Costings Exercise	9 August to 22 September 2006	44
Draft Core Receiver Requirements Consultation Document	27 July to 8 September 2006	12
Proposals for Gambling Commission Fees—Consultation Paper	20 July to 13 October 2006	234
Welcome Legacy: Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games—A Consultation	19 July to 17 November 2006	171
Consultation Paper on Future Sponsorship Arrangements for the Museum of London	10 July to 8 September 2006	157
Consultation on Restitution of Objects Spoliated in the Nazi-Era	10 July to 10 November 2006	18
Gambling (Categories of Casino) Regulations and draft Order for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005—Formal Consultation Exercise	5 July to 27 Sep 2006	5
Proposal by the European Commission for the Revision of 'The Television Without Frontiers' Directive (Directive 89/552/EC, amended by Directive 97/36/EC)	6 June to 8 September 2006	48
Data Limits and Data Services on Radio Multiplexes This consultation has now ended. The consultation period was 24 April to 12 June 2006.	24 April to 12 June 2006	21
Consultation Paper on Amendments to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (Revised) England and Wales	6 April to 26 June 2006	15
Consultation on Welsh Language Forms and Documents to be prescribed under the Licensing Act 2003	31 March to 28 April 2006	15
BBC White Paper—"A Public Service for All: The BBC in the Digital Age" and Draft Royal Charter and Framework Agreement	14 March to 28 April 2006	1200
Consultation on providing immunity from seizure for international works of art on loan in the UK	8 March to 10 May 2006	23
Consultation on the European Commission's proposal for European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008	8 February to 5 May 2006	9
Transitional Arrangements and Draft Order for the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005—Consultation Paper	2 February to 3 June 2006	37
The 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999	6 September to 2 December 2005	54
Final date for applications for new casinos under 1968 Act—Consultation Paper	23 December 2005 to 23 March 2006	3
National Lottery Shares 2009 Consultation Consultation on the share of National Lottery support to the arts and film, heritage and sport	25 November 2005 to 28 February 2006	11,476
Three-year Licensing Policy Statement Regulations Consultation	22 November 2005 to 4 February 2006	34
Advisory Committee on Historic Ships Consultation	7 November to 16 December 2005	49

Name	Duration	Number of respondents
Consultation on the European Commission's Communication i2010: Digital Libraries	24 October 2005 to 13 January 2006	17
Consultation on Permitted Temporary Activities and Temporary Event Notices	9 August to 5 October 2005	187
Consultation on the New EU "Citizens For Europe" Programme	5 August to 28 October 2005	14
Consultation Paper on a Cultural Test for British Films	29 July to 21 October 2005	39
Big Lottery Fund Interim Order and Directions	29 July to 30 September 2005	15
Revisions to Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings: Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 Consultation Paper	25 July to 17 October 2005	126
Big Lottery Fund's Transformational Grants Programme	8 March to 30 April	27
A Giving Culture: Getting the best out of the relationship between the voluntary and community sector and DCMS	22 March to 22 June 2005	16
The BBC Charter Review Green Paper: "A Strong BBC, Independent of Government"	2 March to 1 May 2005	4000+
Understanding the Future: Museums and the 21st Century	27 January to 30 June 2005	75

[1] On Prize Gaming.
[2] On FEC.
[3] Approximately.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200024]

Margaret Hodge: The following table shows services provided to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport by polling companies for financial year 2007-08.

	Services		
Polling company	*Surveys*	*Questionnaires*	*Other*
BMRB	1. Taking Part 2. Omnibus survey for Olympics legacy	1. Taking Part 2. Questionnaire for Olympics legacy survey	1. Taking Part data cleaning and analysis 2. Omnibus survey data and analysis 3. NetQuest development
ORC International	1. DCMS Staff Survey 2. Non-departmental public body (NDPB) survey		1. Analysis and presentation of DCMS staff survey data 2. Basic analysis of NDPB survey data

Departmental Research

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on research in each of the last three years, broken down by policy area or departmental division. [199828]

Margaret Hodge: Our records show the following research spends broken down by financial year and by departmental division.

Division	*Research spend (£000)*
Financial year 2005-06	
Arts	33
Broadcasting	58
Creative Industries	75
Gambling	[1]c 100
Humanitarian Assistance	16
Strategy	1,260
Tourism	29
Total	1,571
Financial year 2006-07	
Broadcasting	148
Creative Industries	130
Gambling	80
Humanitarian Assistance	44
Local, Communities and International	44
Libraries	160
Licensing	91
Museums	29
Olympics	23
Sports	15
Strategy	1,825

Division	Research spend (£000)
Tourism	34
Total	2,623
Financial year 2007-08	
Arts	45
Heritage	29
Licensing	97
Olympics	114
Strategy	1,540
Tourism	15
Total	1,840

[1] Includes US$83,000 estimated as £46,000

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198967]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested can only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, the percentage of stress-related sick leave taken by staff in the last three financial years is as follows:

	Percentage of sick leave
2004-05	3
2005-06	10.5
2006-07	13

As part of our attendance, health and welfare programme for staff, we have a range of policies in place to reduce stress. These include: a stress management policy; a revised sickness absence policy; a full range of flexible working patterns to support work-life balance; an on-site gym and yoga classes.

The Department also provides an Employee Assistance programme, which includes a confidential advisory service and counselling service for all staff.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which of his Department's public sector agreement targets have been discontinued following his speech on 7 November 2007 at the Equity Diversity conference. [198819]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Public service agreements (PSAs) are agreed between Departments and HM Treasury as part of each spending review. Details of the most recent PSAs, agreed as part of comprehensive spending review 2007, were published in the CSR White Paper on 9 October 2007, copies of which are available in the House Library. As part of the CSR process the number of PSAs across Government was reduced from over a hundred to thirty. No PSAs have been discontinued following the 7 November 2007 speech by my right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell).

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [200122]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Neither my Department nor the Royal Parks Agency has any 0800, 0845 or 0870 numbers for public use.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times the Digital Radio Working Group taskforce has met in 2008; and how much has been spent on its administration since November 2007. [198229]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 1 April 2008]:* The Digital Radio Working Group (DRWG) has met once in full session since November 2007. However, the DRWG has established four sub-groups to consider the following issues:

Technology and Consumer Proposition;

Spectrum;

Manufacturers; and

Mechanisms for Growth

These sub-groups have met five times in total.

My Department has spent approximately £4,500 directly on the work of the DRWG to date.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to complete his assessment of the costs and benefits of upgrading his core research requirements for digital switchover help scheme freeview resources to include billing menus, billing channels and programme information; and when he plans to make a decision on this matter. [199526]

Andy Burnham: An Emerging Technologies Group (ETC) has been established as a sub-group of the Help Scheme's Policy Review Group, with a remit to keep the Core Receiver Requirements (CRR) for Scheme equipment under review.

This review process will be ongoing throughout the lifetime of the Help Scheme, evaluating any technical developments in digital television provision. If the ETC believes that a particular technology should be included within the CRR, then it will make a recommendation to that effect to the Policy Review Group.

The equipment for the Help Scheme already includes the ability to receive an Electronic Programme Guide, which enables programme information to be displayed on screen.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what targets his Department has set in relation to the employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199048]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has disability targets set across the civil service grades until the end of April 2008 as follows.

	Percentage
SCS	3.2
A	3
B	7
C	3
D	7

We are currently reviewing these targets for the next three years to ensure they are challenging to the Department.

English Heritage: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the aims of the Hearth and Home research project by English Heritage are; and if he will make a statement. [199367]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage's Hearth and Home research project aims to compare the predictions from models with the actual performance of traditionally constructed homes in order to challenge the assertion that such buildings are inherently energy inefficient. The project will monitor the energy usage of a group of occupied Victorian terraced homes to work out best practice in measuring energy efficiency, to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of energy-saving options, and ultimately to provide guidance on measures to reduce domestic fuel usage and carbon emissions.

Euclid

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much he expects his Department to pay to Euclid in each of the next three years. [199830]

Margaret Hodge: My Department expects to pay Euclid £50,000 per year, for the next two years for its work as the UK's Cultural Contact Point (CCP) for the European Union's Culture Programme. The current CCP contract runs until December 2009. Euclid also holds the contract to promote the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in the UK. The cost of this contract was a one-off payment of £10,000.

Film: Video Piracy

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he intends to introduce legislation to make the use of a video camera in a cinema a criminal offence. [199086]

Margaret Hodge: Camcording for commercial gain is already an offence under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, but the existing offences require proof of "distributing" or "communicating". The distribution of illegally camcorded films is also an offence under a range of other legislation, including the Fraud Act 2006. We will be considering in consultation with the film industry what further action is necessary to address its concerns.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the annual loss to the UK film industry as a result of intellectual property theft. [199089]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government's strategy for the creative sector "Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy", published in February, states that the value of pirate audio-visual goods and illegal downloads in 2006 was £460 million. This reflects the findings of the 2006 British Video Association/IPSOS study.

Football: Insurance

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to require the Football Association to establish a national insurance scheme to cover injuries caused to one player by another player in matches organised by county football associations. [199276]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The FA currently has no plans to establish a county football association national insurance scheme.

The FA reviewed this issue in 2006 and took the decision to make liability insurance mandatory for all affiliated clubs with effect from season 2007-08.

The FA explored the possibility of a liability insurance scheme for all those participating in the national game below the FA Premier League, Football League and National League system levels 1 to 4. The scope of the insurance cover required by county associations was reviewed, and the FA says this confirmed that a centrally arranged scheme would be impracticable.

The FA decided that county associations should comply with the implementation of mandatory public liability insurance, with the option to decide locally the level of cover and indemnity limits required.

The review also included a tender process to identify insurance brokers prepared to offer county associations a range of public liability options including player to player cover.

I intend to raise this issue with the FA at our next meeting.

Gambling: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 86-87W, on gambling: advertising, if he will place in the Library a copy of the voluntary code. [198361]

Andy Burnham: I am arranging for copies of the Gambling Industry Code for Socially Responsible Advertising to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Historic Buildings: Sustainable Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance and assistance is available from English Heritage on the use of renewable technology in buildings of historic importance. [199366]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage has published guidance for home-owners on the application of small-scale renewable energy technologies to traditional buildings. A series of guides explains how each system works, how it can be installed without damaging the appearance, significance or performance of traditional buildings and provides guidance on sources of further information and assistance. To date, guidance on micro wind generation, small scale solar thermal and small scale solar electric (photovoltaic) energy in traditional buildings have been produced and are available on English Heritage's website at:

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Additional guides on low carbon systems will be published this year.

English Heritage is launching a new website Climate Change and Your Home in June 2008 to provide information about how traditional buildings are likely to respond to climate change and provide advice on how any necessary adaptations, including energy savings measures, might be made.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199619]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's records show there were no payments made to J P Morgan in each year since 1997.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department to Karian and Box since 1997. [199630]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not awarded any contracts to Karian and Box in the period specified.

Ofcom: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided to Ofcom in each of the last three years; and for what purposes each payment was made. [199837]

Andy Burnham: DCMS has paid the following sums to Ofcom in each of the last three financial years in support of Ofcom work to promote Media Literacy and Community Radio.

	Media Literacy	£ Community Radio
2005-06	559,000	444,026
2006-07	559,000	828,775
2007-08	559,000	466,215

Own Art Programme: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much he expects his Department to spend on *(a)* the Own Art programme and *(b)* the Take It Away instrument scheme in each of the next three years. [199829]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Own Art and Take It Away are Arts Council initiatives delivered through ArtCo Trading Ltd., for which funding has been agreed up to 2009-10.

The Own Art scheme will receive grants of £300,000 in 2008-09 and £300,000 in 2009-10. The Take It Away scheme will receive grants of £700,000 in 2008-09 and £700,000 in 2009-10.

Recreation Spaces

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* athletics tracks, *(b)* golf facilities, *(c)* grass pitches, *(d)* health and fitness suites, *(e)* ice rinks, *(f)* indoor bowls facilities, *(g)* indoor tennis centres, *(h)* ski slopes, *(i)* sports halls, *(j)* swimming pools and *(k)* synthetic turf pitches listed on the Active Places website are (i) public and (ii) private facilities. [198817]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England's Active Places database does not collect data on sport facility types broken down by (i) public and (ii) private facilities.

However, the database records ownership type of the requested sports facilities and this is provided in the table, as at November 2007.

Ownership type does not necessarily equal access type, for example, although many educational facilities will be open to the public this will not be the case for all of them.

	Local Authority	Education	Commercial	Others	Total
Swimming Pools	1,699	1,095	1,694	126	4,614
Sports Halls	1,202	6,527	158	483	8,370
Grass Pitches	13,697	24,616	241	15,491	54,045
Athletic Tracks	185	124	3	28	340
Golf	264	42	1,534	1,131	2,971
Health and Fitness	1,098	1,793	2,742	308	5,941
Ice Rinks	16	1	22	3	42
Indoor Bowls	107	8	88	147	350
Indoor Tennis	43	33	142	74	292

	Local Authority	Education	Commercial	Others	Total
Ski Slopes	19	3	103	32	157
Synthetic Turf Pitches	262	1,152	44	123	1,581

Notes:
General notes applied to ail facilities
All facilities in England, which meet criteria (see following for specifics) are included;
Facilities included according to Active Places definitions (see www.activeplace.com About the Data);
All facilities that are open for use, by the public, this includes, pay and play, membership, club use and sports club / community association
Facilities that are recorded for private use only are also included within the above figures, e.g. a school pool that is not open to the public
All operational facilities are included within the above figures, including planned, under construction and temporarily closed. Facilities that are permanently closed are excluded.
Individual Notes on Facilities
Athletics Tracks
Figures refer to number of tracks not sites (i.e. there may be more than one track on a site);
Golf
Figures refer to number of golf facilities including standard, par 3 and driving ranges. For example a golf club site may have more than one facility, i.e. two standard courses and a driving range.
Grass Pitches
Figures refer to count of individual pitches, not sites;
Does not include primary school sites which have not been surveyed;
Does not include mini soccer or rugby pitches;
Excludes a number of sites where pitch type and numbers are yet to be classified;
Pitch numbers are likely to vary season by season depending on management decisions;
Unknown ownership types included in 'others'
Health and Fitness
Figures refer to the number of facilities not sites or stations;
Unknown ownership types included in 'others'
Ice Rinks
Figures refer to number of rinks not sites (i.e. there may be more than one rink per site)
Indoor Bowls
Figures refer to the number of facilities not sites or rinks;
Indoor Tennis
Figures refer to counts of facilities and not individual courts, or sites;
Figures include all surface types;
Swimming Pools
Figures refer to the number of pools not sites;
Includes both indoor and outdoor pools (all sub types);
All sizes and length of pools are included
Unknown ownership types included in 'others'
Ski Slopes
Figures refer to the number of slopes not sites;
Synthetic Turf Pitches
Figures refer to the count of pitches not sites.

Regional Cultural Consortiums: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department provided for Regional Cultural Consortia in 2007-08; and what funding will be provided in 2008-09. [199839]

Margaret Hodge: The figures in the table reflect the funding that the Department has provided for Regional Cultural Consortia in 2007-08, and the funding that will be provided in 2008-09.

		£000
Regional Cultural Consortia	2007-08[1]	2008-09
Yorkshire Culture	230	215
West Midlands Life	223	215
Culture South East	230	215
Culture East Midlands includes SIB funding	556	215
Culture North West	230	215
Culture South West	230	215
Living East	230	215
Culture North East	230	215

[1] Allocations following the Spring Supplementary estimate

In addition to this, there is an agreement with the Regional Cultural Consortiums for funding amounting to £200,000 from DCMS in 2008-09, to take forward work on the Cultural Olympiad.

Sports: VAT

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on HM Revenue and Customs' decision to apply VAT at the standard rate retrospectively to inclusive membership packages offered by sports and leisure trusts; what representations he has received on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [196754]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this subject, although as Minister for Sport I have held discussions with HMT and DCMS officials have been in regular contact with their counterparts at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). I have received a number of representations on the issue of VAT and its application in respect of leisure trusts. This included a meeting with Sporta, the leisure trust umbrella body, to hear their concerns. I have been assured by HMRC that there has been no recent change in policy on VAT and leisure trusts and that discussions have taken place, and will continue to take place as necessary, between HMRC and businesses and organisations. In relation to retrospective charges in particular I am informed that trusts who can show that they have misunderstood the tax position in relation to

their services or have been misdirected by HMRC can ask for consideration to be given to remitting the retrospective tax.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 12 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 6W, on television: licensing, how many people in Northern Ireland were penalised for not having a valid television licence in 2007. [199270]

Andy Burnham: During 2007, 4,331 persons were convicted in Northern Ireland under section 363 (2) of the Communications Act 2003 for not having a television licence.

Tourism Strategy Fund: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's planned expenditure on the Tourism Strategy Fund is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [199836]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no planned expenditure for these years from the Tourism Strategy Fund, which is no longer a current DCMS budget.

VisitBritain: Property

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average cost per square metre of *(a)* stand alone VisitBritain offices outside the UK and *(b)* VisitBritain offices incorporated in other Government offices abroad was in the latest period for which figures are available. [184311]

Margaret Hodge: As part of the strategic review of tourism support, VisitBritain is leading a discussion across the public and private sectors about the best use of the British Government's overseas offices and infrastructure in promoting the tourism industry. The review will include a full consideration of best value in the use of these assets, to that end.

In advance of the review's findings, VisitBritain has advised DCMS that the costs of its stand-alone offices outside the UK are on average £17.63 per square foot; and that the average costs in the 11 locations where VisitBritain rents office space at embassy, high commission, or British Council premises are £30.71 per square foot. However the average cost figures do not reflect the particular circumstances of particular locations and it is therefore difficult to make accurate cost comparisons.

Furthermore additional charges for administration and offices services are made in respect of British Council, high commission, and embassy locations, and these are not included in the above average figures.

World Heritage Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to publish the World Heritage Review; and what the cost of the review is expected to be. [198393]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* My Department will publish a public consultation on the World Heritage Review shortly. The public consultation will include a paper by PricewaterhouseCooper on the costs and benefits on World Heritage Site status; the cost of this work was £94,734.38 (including VAT). Additional staff costs have fallen to my Department but these are included in overall running costs and are not separately recorded.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199605]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's records show there were no payments made to Zurich Financial Services in any year since 1997.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advertising Standards Authority: Complaints

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints were made against the Advertising Standards Authority in relation to the Mail Preference Service in each year since 2000. [191369]

Mr. McFadden: No complaints have been made against the Advertising Standards Authority in relation to the Mail Preference Service.

Biofuels

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to promote the use of *(a)* bio-diesel and *(b)* other non-fossil fuels in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [198686]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Government introduced the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) on 15 April 2008. The RTFO requires a proportion of the road fuel supplied in the UK to comprise renewable fuels such as biofuels. The level of the obligation is 2.5 per cent. in 2008-09 and the eligible biofuels under the obligation includes biodiesel, bioethanol and biogas.

Biofuels: Carbon Emissions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* evidence he has evaluated and *(b)* what research he has commissioned, on the whole life carbon emission consequences of the replacement of fossil fuels with biofuels for power generation; and if he will make a statement. [200068]

Malcolm Wicks: There has been significant research in this area. DTI/BERR commissioned work up to

2003 from both Sheffield Hallam University and Imperial College. This aimed to produce a set of baseline energy and carbon balances for a range of electricity, heat and transport fuel production systems based on biomass feedstocks. The latest report is "Carbon and Energy Balances for a range of Biofuels Options" (URN 03/836) and can be viewed on the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file14926.pdf?pubpdfdload=01%2F1342

From 2003, this work was taken forward by the Environment Agency, where the Biomass Environmental Assessment Tool (BEAT) was developed three years ago to provide lifecycle emissions data for a variety of biomass feedstocks and plant, compared to fossil alternatives. In response to the recommendations of the Biomass Task Force, DEFRA and the Environment Agency jointly updated the BEAT to make it widely available and BEAT2 is now almost ready for release. Meantime present information can be seen at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=14484&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=nf0434&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description

This analysis also underpinned the development of the Biomass Strategy in 2007 ref. Working Paper 1—Economic analysis of biomass energy (URN 07/950) on the BERR website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39040.pdf

Elsewhere, the International Energy Agency under their Bioenergy Task 38 are investigating greenhouse gas balances of biomass fuelled systems:

http://www.ieabioenergy-task38.org/description/

and the UK Energy Research Centre has carried out life-cycle analysis of renewable energy systems:

http://www.ukerc.ac.uk/AboutUs/AboutUSHomepage.aspx.

The University of Aberdeen has also carried out work in this field:

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/biologicalsci/staff/details.php?id=pete.smith

and the Carbon Trust are presently looking at embodied emissions associated with per unit of energy from biomass, contrasting that to fossil fuel emissions:

www.carbontrust.co.uk

This is an area that will continue to be studied as the Government develop their Renewable Energy Strategy.

Carbon Emissions

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the contribution to the Government's target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by between 26 per cent. and 32 per cent. by 2020 to be made by the development of new nuclear power stations. [199466]

Malcolm Wicks: New nuclear power stations may not begin generating or contributing to our carbon reduction targets much more before 2020. We see new nuclear power stations as having a significant role to play from around 2020 onwards, in particular in reaching our goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by at least 60 per cent. by 2050.

Cars: Industry

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely future performance of the UK car industry; and if he will make a statement. [196768]

Malcolm Wicks: 2007 was a very successful year for the UK automotive industry with vehicle output up 6 per cent. on 2006. Over 1.75 million vehicles and around three million engines were manufactured in 2007, with 77 per cent. of cars and 61 per cent. of commercial vehicles being exported. Nissan's Sunderland plant, Honda manufacturing facility at Swindon, and MINI at Oxford produced record number of cars in 2007. At Solihull and Halewood, Land Rover achieved another record, with almost 235,000 vehicles manufactured. On 26 March 2008, Ford announced it had entered into a definitive agreement to sell Jaguar Land Rover to Tata Motors, providing the assurances needed to deliver the best results for the Jaguar Land Rover businesses going forward.

These activities provide a solid foundation for the fixture. BERR will continue to work closely with the UK automotive industry to ensure its sustainability and success.

Government are engaged on a number of initiatives aimed at building on its success and improving its performance. For example, in Budget 2008, Government announced a new £40 million research programme to support the development of low-carbon vehicle technology in response to the King Review of Low Carbon Cars.

Certification Officer: Labour Turnover

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have *(a)* resigned and *(b)* retired from the Office of the Certification Officer in each year since it was established. [198495]

Mr. McFadden: Since the establishment of the Office of the Certification Officer in 1976 there have been five Certification Officers (COs), including the present incumbent. The first four COs left office on retirement.

Certification Officer: Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have been employed by the Office of the Certification Officer in each year since it was established. [198494]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the number of people employed by the Office of the Certification Officer in each year since it was established. The Certification Officer holds no records for 1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981.

	Number of Staff
1976	22
1977	14
1978	2

	Number of Staff
1979	[2]
1980	[2]
1981	[2]
1982	10
1983	10
1984	11
1985	17
1986	16
1987	16
1988	14
1989	16
1990	15
1991	15
1992	15
1993	15
1994	15
1995	15
1996	15
1997	10
1998	9
1999-2000[1]	11
2000-01	13
2001-02	12
2002-03	11
2003-04	10
2004-05	10
2005-06	10
2006-07	9
2007-08	9

[1] Reporting year for Certification Officer changed from calendar to financial year in 1999-2000
[2] No records available.

Construction: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the number of construction operatives who have the employment status of *(a)* workers, *(b)* employees and *(c)* genuine self-employed; [199084]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of construction operatives *(a)* in direct employment and *(b)* registered as self-employed. [199088]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs believes that there could be up to 200,000 workers in the construction industry who are incorrectly being treated by their engagers as self-employed. We estimate that the consequent Exchequer loss currently is around £350 million per annum. No estimates of the Exchequer loss for earlier years have been made.

Information from the Office for National Statistics[1] for the 4th quarter of 2007 estimates that there are around 1,450,000 employees and around 850,000 self-employed working in the construction industry.

[1] From the Labour Force Survey

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, collects no specific data on workers within the construction industry.

Energy: Fees and Charges

Albert Owen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent comparisons his Department has made between the cost to domestic energy users of *(a)* mains gas and *(b)* liquefied petroleum gas; and if he will make a statement. [199432]

Malcolm Wicks: Comparison of the costs to heat a property are used in the modelling of fuel poverty and are sourced from the Sutherland Comparative Domestic Heating Cost tables, available through http://www.sutherlandtables.co.uk/.

The latest figures are from October 2007 and show the following estimates of the "costs of space and water heating for an average size three bedroom house":

£

Heating fuel	Type of heating system	South-east	South-west and Wales	Midlands	Northern England	Scotland
Gas—B.Gas two tier rate	Boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	682	653	698	728	754
	Condensing boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	571	547	584	609	630
LPG propane (bulk)	Boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	1,437	1,344	1,433	1,531	1,504
	Condensing boiler, radiators and DHW cylinder	1,189	1,113	1,186	1,266	1,245

Energy: Finance

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 334W, on renewable energy: finance, how much of the £500 million allocated to be spent from 2002 on research and development and capital grants for emerging renewable and low carbon technologies has been spent; what the allocation of the spend has been to different categories of project; and what projects have been supported under each category. [199306]

Malcolm Wicks: Spend so far (to end March 2008) under the programmes listed in the table, which were introduced at different points over the period, totals £233.5 million. All of these programmes except the Major PV Demonstration Programme and Clear Skies

are projected to continue to spend during the CSR period and in some cases well beyond.

Spend on the main programme activities are set out as follows. It has not been possible to provide a breakdown of the Clear Skies and R and D Programme spend by technology or projects supported under each category in the time available at proportionate cost.

Programme/technology	*Spend to date (end 2007-08) (£ million)*
Off shore wind capital grant programme	76.75
Bioenergy capital grant programme	32.8
Major PV Demonstration Programme	30.1
Clear Skies (Micro wind, Biomass, Heat Pumps, Micro hydro, Solar Thermal Hot Water)	12.1
Marine Renewable Deployment Fund	1.62
Low Carbon Buildings Program Phase 1 (LCB)	7.5
Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2 (LCB)	1.9
Hydrogen and Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Demonstration Programme (HFCAT)	0.20
New and Renewables R and D programme/ Technology Programme	71
Total	233.5

Flexible Working

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which of the recommendations of the Walsh Review of flexible working he plans to implement; and when he plans to implement them. [199874]

Mr. McFadden: Imelda Walsh, HR director of J Sainsbury plc, is in the process of leading an independent review to consider the questions of what the age cut-off of an older child should be for the purpose of extending the right to request flexible working to parents of older children; and whether that extension should be staged. Ms Walsh will make her recommendations this spring. The Government will then consult on how they intend to proceed.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress is being made on proposals to extend the right to flexible working to all parents with children under the age of 16 years. [200066]

Mr. McFadden: On 6 November last year, the Prime Minister announced that the Government have decided to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of older children. Imelda Walsh, HR director of J Sainsbury plc, was appointed to lead an independent review to consider the question of where the age cut-off of an older child should be set for this purpose. Imelda Walsh is expected to make her recommendations this spring.

Fraud: Internet

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has responsibility for tackling the use of the internet to conduct fraud; and if he will make a statement. [198512]

Malcolm Wicks: My Department does not have direct responsibility for law enforcement nor does it regulate the services provided by the hundreds of UK intefnet service providers. The general law on fraud applies by whatever means it is conducted, including over the internet.

We are working closely with internet service providers to continue to develop practical measures to reduce the impact of harmful content, including the work they are doing to prevent fraud committed using the internet. The Office of Fair Trading, among others, provides advice to consumers on how better to protect themselves from such fraud.

Last year, the Government pledged to provide over £28 million to fight fraud.

The money will fund:

A new National Fraud Strategic Authority.

A Lead Force, centred on the City of London Police, as a centre of excellence to increase the UK's capability to investigate fraud and bring fraudsters to justice.

A National Fraud Reporting Centre, hosted by the Lead Force, to streamline the way that fraud is reported and to make the best use of the intelligence gathered.

Pilot projects to measure the impact and cost of fraud.

Reforms to the criminal justice system to make sure that fraudsters are brought to justice and that victims are better able to get redress.

The new powers enshrined in Part 3 of the Serious Crime Act will also will help provide the means to make the UK the most hostile environment for fraudsters.

The UK's law enforcement authorities are also collaborating with police forces abroad to reduce the incidence of internet fraud being perpetrated in the UK from overseas.

Fuel Poverty: Inverness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* households, *(b)* children and *(c)* pensioners were living in fuel poverty in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each year since 1997. [200087]

Malcolm Wicks: The Scottish House Condition Survey, run by the Scottish Government, collects data on fuel poverty but the sample size is too small to produce meaningful estimates at a level below local authority. No low level modelling of fuel poverty has been conducted by the Scottish Government.

The following table shows estimates of the number of households in fuel poverty in the Highland Council region, the lowest geographical area at which it is produced, for each available year since 1997.

Fuel poverty in the Highland Council region

	Fuel poor		*Not fuel poor*		
	Thousand	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Total*
2002	20,000	22	70,000	78	89,000
Combined 2003-06	29,000	29	70,000	71	99,000

Geothermal Power

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the potential thermal generation capacity of geothermal technologies in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [192949]

Malcolm Wicks: Between 1976 and the early 1990s the UK carried out a major Geothermal Research Programme at a cost in excess of £50 million. The key conclusions from the programme were that the UK was unlikely to see major developments based upon geothermal aquifers or the hot dry rock (HDR) method due to a limited resource, limited scope for their application and unfavourable economics.

The programme produced estimates of the potential geothermal resource for both HDR and aquifers. Its final report estimated the accessible HDR resource in the UK regardless of cost to be 1,500 Terawatt hours of electricity, that if exploited over 25 years would result in 60 TWh/year or 7,600 MW of net output power at 90 per cent. availability. However, once possible constraints were taken into account it estimated that the practicable HDR resource could be as low as 4 TWh/year or 500 MW over 375 years.

A final report of the Geothermal Aquifers Programme estimated the UK resource for three temperature ranges:

Temperature range	*Mtce (million tonnes coal equivalent)*
Over 60C	183
40 to 60C	1771
20 to 40C	2285

Although these figures are large the report estimated that the exploitable resource was much smaller when taking account of the coincidence of high heat load density and resource. It estimated that the possible take-up of the resource based on a total of 100 schemes being developed would produce a total saving of 0.35 Mtce per annum.

To make geothermal power a more attractive economic prospect in the UK now would depend on addressing the technical and practical constraints identified by this previous Geothermal Programme.

Notes:

1. Geothermal Hot Dry Rock UK Government R and D Programme 1976-1991, ETSU-R-59, 1992

2. Geothermal Aquifers Department of Energy R and D Programme 1976-1986, ETSU-R-39, 1986

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 329W, on industrial diseases: compensation, how many of the 3,021 claimants paid an award after 27 March 2004 were advised that they could make a claim for an award under the Pneumoconiosis etc Workers' (Compensation) Act 1979. [198750]

Malcolm Wicks: The 1979 Act is the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions.

It is not the role of the Department's claims handlers to advise on eligibility for an award under the Pneumoconiosis etc. Workers' (Compensation) Act 1979.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department received from the renewable energy industry prior to the relaunch of the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [199373]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department had a formal meeting with representatives of the microgeneration industry on 11 February 2008, and also had various discussions and correspondence with the industry around this time, both to discuss this issue and in the normal course of business.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what budget has been set for the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. [199376]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings programme has a £36 million budget of which £18 million is currently allocated for the household stream.

Mailing Preference Service: Complaints

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints were made against the Mail Preference Service in each year since 2000. [191368]

Mr. McFadden: The number of complaints made to the Mail Preference Service in each year since 2000 are as follows:-

	Number
2000	795
2001	633
2002	1,637
2003	1,636
2004	3,675
2005	4,668
2006	4,847
2007	4,173

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter of 29 January 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North concerning a constituent. [193546]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 12 March 2008]:* I apologise for the delay in responding to my hon. Friend. A response was sent on 31 March, I have arranged for a copy to be faxed to your office.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects a reply to be sent to the hon. Member for West

Worcestershire in response to his letter of 21 December, Reference: PT/33280, transferred from his Department to Ofcom. [199121]

Mr. Thomas: The hon. Member's letter was transferred to Ofcom for response. Ofcom have advised that their reply was dispatched on 1 April.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Wycombe of 29 February 2008 on individuals registered in the UK in relation to businesses. [199343]

Mr. Thomas: I apologise for the delay in responding to the hon. Member, this was due to an administrative error. A reply will be issued shortly.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letters of 28 January 2008 and 6 March 2008 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on his constituent Mr. J. Burrows. [199895]

Mr. Thomas: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this was due to an administrative error. A response from my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Employment Relations and Postal Services was sent on 15 April 2008.

Microgeneration: Solar Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* assessment he has made of the complexity and *(b)* estimate he has made of the cost of participation in the microgeneration certification scheme to solar technology suppliers interested in qualifying for the low carbon buildings programme. [200192]

Malcolm Wicks: The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) was designed in consultation with key stakeholders, including representatives of the solar thermal industry. MCS scheme standards and requirements have been set by an industry-led Steering Group and expert working groups. The scheme's principal objective is to provide information and assurance to consumers unfamiliar with these technologies, by ensuring that products and companies eligible for grants, meet more robust standards.

MCS is working towards accreditation by the UK Accreditation Service (UKAS), which, to an extent, places certain requirements on the scheme in order to comply with EN 45011. UKAS accreditation should help to deliver the quality and reliability that the Government and consumers want to see in the microgeneration market.

UKAS is appointed in the UK to assess and accredit the activities of third party certification bodies against internationally agreed standards. The costs of certification under MCS are determined according to the same International Accreditation Forum guidelines used for other equivalent UKAS accredited schemes which operate in other industry sectors.

As part of the development of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme, the Department provided £350,000 to give 50 per cent. discounts to installer businesses during the first year (reducing first year costs to £900). Discounts have been offered to 250 Clear Skies/PV programme installers who applied before 31 January 2008. The remainder of the £350,000 has been allocated to support 139 new installers, on a first-come, first-served basis (with a 50 per cent. discount). Discounts are payable on successful completion of the MCS assessment. Further funding of £250,000 remains to be allocated, following discussions with the MCS Steering Group.

After September 2008, MCS will be opened up to other certification bodies and the Department hopes to see further cost reductions coming from open competition.

National Minimum Wage: Migrant Workers

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps HM Revenue and Customs has taken to implement the recommendations of the Low Pay Commission on prioritisation of targeted enforcement of the minimum wage in sectors employing significant numbers of immigrant workers. [199854]

Mr. McFadden: As recommended by the Low Pay Commission, we have chosen two sectors that employ large numbers of migrant workers and British workers for targeted enforcement. In 2007-08 we focused on the hotel sector. For 2008-09 we will be looking at the wider hospitality sector, which includes hotels, camping sites and other provision of short-stay accommodation, restaurants, bars, canteens and catering.

Natural Gas: Transport

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what estimate he has made of the number of households in the United Kingdom which pay additional charges to independent gas transporters for the supply of gas; and what estimate he has made of the average additional costs for this form of distribution; [199083]

(2) if he will make a statement on the use of independent gas transporters for the distribution of gas supplies in the United Kingdom. [199085]

Malcolm Wicks: The decision to have a connection provided by an independent gas transporter (IGT) rather than the regional Gas Distribution Network rests with developers or individual householders. In January 2007, 840,000 domestic meter points were connected to IGT networks.

The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) regulates gas transportation, distribution and supply. To promote connections as a whole, and competition in their provision, Ofgem previously allowed IGTs to levy a supplementary connection charge, recoverable over 20 years. Since 2003, to encourage more connections of existing domestic infill properties (that is, existing properties without a gas supply) to the mains gas network, IGTs have been able, under the Relative Price Control, to apply a surcharge on the transportation charge to such properties. Otherwise, the Relative Price Control for IGTs caps transportation charges at a level consistent with those of the Gas Distribution Networks. Around 580,000 customers already used networks regulated under

previous arrangements. Relative Price Controls will be phased in for these customers.

Once a connection has been made and the supply activated, households are not billed by transporters or distributors, whose charges are met by the gas supplier. It is for the supplier to decide whether or not to recover any additional element in the charge from the customer, or whether, for administrative simplicity, to apply a standard charge to all customers of IGT networks. Individual suppliers have different approaches, and it follows that the number of households that pay additional charges will depend on which supplier a household is contracted with at any one time. Neither British Gas nor Scottish and Southern Energy applies a surcharge to IGT customers; other suppliers' surcharges lie in the range £30-£60 per IGT customer.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings he has held on nuclear power issues with *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* environmental non-governmental organisations since he took up his post; on what dates each meeting took place; and what decisions arose from each meeting. [199279]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, hosted a round-table meeting on 17 September which was attended, among others, by the trade union Prospect and by the environmental non-governmental organisation, SERA. Other environmental groups were invited, but consistent with their decision to disengage from the nuclear consultation they chose not to attend.

The meeting was part of the consultation on the future of nuclear power and it enabled my right hon. Friend to hear directly the views of key stakeholders on the issues. As the meeting was part of the consultation, the views expressed were considered by the Government, alongside all of the other information received, when making its decision on the future of nuclear power in the UK.

My right hon. Friend also addressed a conference about nuclear power organised by the trade union Unite on 26 March 2008.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what sites other than existing nuclear sites are under consideration for the potential development of new nuclear power stations. [199288]

Malcolm Wicks: It will be for companies to bring forward proposals to build new nuclear power stations. The suitability of sites will be assessed through the Strategic Siting Assessment process. We will be consulting on draft criteria for this process shortly.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the timescale for new nuclear power stations to produce more electricity than is currently produced by existing nuclear power stations. [199290]

Malcolm Wicks: We are not setting a target, or a limit, to the amount of electricity to be generated in the future by new nuclear power stations.

Nuclear Power Stations

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make available resources to non-governmental organisations to assist in their participation in the consultation on the process for prospective new nuclear plants. [199699]

Malcolm Wicks: It is not our practice to make resources available to people or bodies outside Government to help them respond to consultations. However, we designed our consultation on nuclear power to make it as easy as possible for people who wanted to respond to do so.

Nuclear Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the likely carbon footprint of new nuclear power stations in the UK. [199902]

Malcolm Wicks: We published information on the full lifecycle emissions of carbon dioxide from the generation of electricity by nuclear power in chapter 2 of our consultation document "The Future of Nuclear Power" at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39197.pdf

Following our consultation, we published a summary of responses received and our conclusion on pages 48 to 53 of our White Paper on Nuclear Power at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/nuclear-whitepaper/page42765.html

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to his Oral Answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 903-04, on the nuclear industry, if he will place in the Library a copy of the analysis which underlay his estimate of new jobs which will be created through spending on new nuclear power. [199706]

Malcolm Wicks: The Secretary of State's statement that a significant expansion of nuclear in the UK in the coming decades could potentially create up to 100,000 jobs was based on the experience of jobs created from past nuclear construction in the UK and in other countries. This includes jobs in the nuclear power stations, off site jobs for corporate, business, maintenance and fuel cycle functions, construction jobs, and jobs in the engineering and construction supply chains.

Nuclear Power: Employment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the evidential basis is for his estimate, made at the UNITE conference on 28 March 2008, that up to 100,000 new skilled jobs could be created by a new nuclear programme. [199255]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State said that a significant expansion of nuclear in the UK in the coming decades could potentially create up to 100,000 jobs, thousands of which would be highly skilled and well paid. That estimate was based on experience of jobs created from past nuclear construction in the UK and in other countries, and includes jobs in the nuclear power stations, off site jobs for corporate, business, maintenance and fuel cycle functions, construction jobs, and jobs in the engineering and construction supply chains.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of new jobs which will be created in a programme of new build nuclear power stations by *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015, *(c)* 2020 and *(d)* 2025. [199289]

Malcolm Wicks: The timetable of facilitative actions in our Nuclear White Paper is intended to deliver a framework that would enable energy companies to begin construction of the first new nuclear power station in 2013-14 and start operation in 2017-20. We believe that a programme of new nuclear power stations has the potential to create many thousands of jobs but it is not possible to be precise about timing.

Nuclear Power: Safety

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will ask the Chief Nuclear Safety Inspector at the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to evaluate the safety of the use of diamond nanoparticles in the secondary cooling system of water cooled reactors. [199160]

Malcolm Wicks: The possible use of this technology in a commercial power reactor seems some years off. Should any present or future nuclear operator in the UK propose modifying the reactor coolant in this way, the safety implications would need to be fully justified in a safety case, and this would be considered by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate according to its regulatory processes.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what additional resources will be required to fulfil the commitments on nuclear regulatory co-operation set out in the UK-France Summit communiqué of 27 March. [199257]

Malcolm Wicks: The French and UK nuclear safety regulating authorities announced enhanced co-operation on 27 March. It is not intended that any additional resource will be allocated to this collaborative work in the short term, although this will be reviewed regularly to ensure that maximum benefit is being gained from the relationship.

Nuclear Power: Uranium

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the future availability of uranium reserves; and how long they are expected to last according to *(a)* high and *(b)* low global growth scenarios for nuclear new build. [199292]

Malcolm Wicks: As stated on pages 104 to 106 of our Nuclear White Paper, our view is that uranium resources will be available for the period likely to be covered by the operation of new nuclear power stations in the UK and that more focused exploration will lead to increased availability over time.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment has been made of the traditional Post Office functions which are now undertaken remotely, online or other than by post office branches. [198150]

Mr. McFadden: The Post Office is one of a number of ways to deliver Government and other traditional services and still has an important role to play. But we cannot ignore the fact that people increasingly want to access services in different ways such as direct debits, ATMs, the telephone and the internet.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice his Department plans to provide to communities who wish local authorities to take over the running of post offices facing closure. [198156]

Mr. McFadden: Where a local authority is interested in funding continued post office service provision in communities where branches are scheduled for closure, we have encouraged Post Office Ltd. to talk to them. However, local authorities should understand that Post Office Ltd. will want to ensure that all relevant costs are covered, that there is a commitment for several years and that there will not be a damaging impact on other post offices in the area not scheduled for closure. Ultimately, it is for Post Office Ltd. and the local authority to discuss and agree the details of any such arrangements and to ensure that the arrangements are compatible with EU rules on state aid.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will request Post Office Ltd not to proceed with its proposed changes to the post office structure; and if he will make a statement. [199556]

Mr. McFadden: Following a national public consultation, the Government announced in May 2007 a new framework of minimum access criteria to maintain a national network of post offices and to support strategic changes to the network with up to 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new outreach locations. There is widespread recognition that the post office network was unsustainable at its pre-programme size. Post Office Ltd is responsible for implementing the network change programme and management of the programme is an operational matter for the company. The network change programme is continuing as scheduled.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many post office franchises are due contractually to terminate in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [200140]

(2) what conditions are contained in leases associated with franchise agreements to run post offices should lessees not maintain a post office function on the estate for the duration of the lease agreement; and if he will make a statement; [200154]

(3) how many post office franchisees have given notice to terminate their agreement *(a)* prior to the end of the franchise contract and *(b)* at the end of the franchise contract in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [200160]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many lessees of Post Office Ltd freehold estates have triggered a call option requiring the landlord to sell the revisionary estate to the lease; and if he will make a statement; [200141]

(2) whether at the termination of a post office franchise agreement the leasehold on that estate automatically reverts to the freeholder; and if he will make a statement; [200142]

(3) how many franchised post offices had franchises that were terminated at the end of the franchise agreement *(a)* by the franchisor, Post Office Ltd., and *(b)* by the franchisee in each year since 2001. [200155]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many post office leases include a call option requiring the landlord to sell the revisionary estate to the lease; whether that is triggered on lease termination; and if he will make a statement; [200143]

(2) what conditions are contained in franchise agreements to run post office facilities that trigger the early termination of the property lease agreement should those facilities not be maintained; and if he will make a statement. [200156]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) whether at the time a post office franchise agreement is terminated, any leasehold agreement on that estate similarly terminates, even if held by a different organisation, individual or legal entity than the franchise; and if he will make a statement; [200144]

(2) what conditions are contained in franchise agreements to maintain running post offices on an estate where the lease is a different organisation, individual or legal entity than the franchise. [200145]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Subsidies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what level of subsidy will be available to the Post Office network after 2011; and if he will make a statement. [199872]

Mr. McFadden: In its response to the national consultation on the post office network in May 2007, the Government recognised that further funding will be required beyond 2011 as parts of the network can never be commercial. They also concluded that it would be premature to make a judgment about what level of funding would be required after 2011 given the changes planned for the network in the intervening period.

Postal Workers: Dog Attacks

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what his analysis is of the performance of the Health and Safety Executive's record of monitoring Royal Mail's dog attack procedure; and if he will make a statement; [195334]

(2) what plans he has to review the Royal Mail dog attack procedure; what discussions he has had with *(a)* Royal Mail, *(b)* the Communication Workers Union and *(c)* other organisations about reviewing the Royal Mail dog attack procedure; and if he will make a statement. [195333]

Mr. McFadden: Compliance with Health and Safety rules is an operational matter for Royal Mail management. Royal Mail takes dog attacks on post men and women very seriously and has developed procedures to ensure that its staff are not put at risk of attack while delivering the post.

Regional Development Agencies

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* (i) pay and (ii) non-pay administration and *(b)* estate costs of each regional development agency were in each year since 2000-01. [198897]

Mr. McFadden: For question *(a)* (i) pay and (ii) non-pay administration, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1076W.

For question *(b)* estate costs of each RDA, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 722W. Information for 2000-01 and 2001-02 is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what properties each regional development agency (RDA) owns; how many RDA-employed staff are located at each such property; what the square footage of space available at each is; and what estimate has been made of the value of each such property. [198898]

Mr. McFadden: The regional development agencies own a range of properties for various purposes including redevelopment for the regeneration and economic growth of the region.

RDA staff are mostly housed in leased accommodation.

The information has been placed in the Library.

Renewable Energy: Housing

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many renewable energy systems have been installed on or in UK dwellings in each year since 2000. [199378]

Malcolm Wicks: These numbers are not routinely collected through any one source, and we cannot provide yearly figures for anything except installations funded through Government grants.

Research commissioned by the DTI in 2005 on the Potential for Microgeneration found that in 2004 there were approximately 82,000 microgeneration installations in the UK. We have recently commissioned further research to update this work which is due to be completed by spring 2008.

The final Report on the Potential for Microgeneration can be viewed on:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/index.html

Solar Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the UK's global position in the construction of integrated solar photovoltaics; and if he will make a statement. [199380]

Malcolm Wicks: Since 2000, the Government have supported the UK Solar PV industry with over £35 million in capital grants and field trials and currently Solar PV installations receive capital grants through the £86 million Low Carbon Buildings programme. There are a number of wider measures supporting Solar PV including grants for R&D through the Technology Programme. As a result the UK Solar PV industry has strengths in the design and manufacture of building integrated products.

More information on how PV development in the UK compares with developments at an international level is available on the International Energy Agency website:

http: //www.iea-pvps.org

Solicitors

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to his Department's written evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on Coal Health Compensation Schemes (HC350, EV17), what the equivalent figures are for each firm of solicitors listed for total *(a)* debt, *(b)* recovered debt and *(c)* outstanding debt at the most recent date for which figures are available. [198864]

Malcolm Wicks: With respect to the Public Accounts Committee report on Coal Health Claims, the following table shows how much claimants' representatives owed the Department, the amount that has been recovered from them and amount outstanding to be recovered for the cost for processing claims under the 'fast track' Optional Risk Offer Schemes, as at 31 March 2008. Outstanding debts are due to be repaid by 30 May 2008.

£ million

Claimants' representatives	*Total debt (including interest)*	*Total debt recovered (incl offset and write off)*	*Totall debt outstanding*
Thompsons	5.2	5.2	0.0
Beresfords	14.0	10.2	3.8
Hugh James	5.8	5.8	0.0
Raleys	5.4	5.4	0.0
Bromell Smith and Co	4.2	4.2	0.0
Mark Gilbert Morse	1.2	1.2	0.0
Avalon [1]	8.7	5.2	3.4
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	2.4	0.2	2.2
Watson Burton LLP	2.5	2.5	0.0
Graysons Solicitors	1.8	1.8	0.0
Total [2]	51.1	41.7	9.4

[1] A modified repayment schedule has been agreed with Avalon.
[2] Figures do not always add up due to rounding.

Targeted Advertising Technology

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what assessment he has made of the implications for personal privacy of the use of targeted advertising technology by companies; [198365]

(2) whether he has had discussions with BT on its use of targeted advertising technology. [198366]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of the Information Commissioner made a statement on 3 March 2008 that it was in discussion with one company about the nature of its service and the way it uses information about ISP customers. My Department will consider the continued relevance of the current safeguards and legislation in the light of the outcome of those discussions. I have had no discussions with BT on this matter.

Telephones: Fees and Charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to respond to the Ofcom report on the extra charges imposed on those paying for telephonic use who choose not to use direct debit. [195588]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 March 2008]:* Additional charges levied by communications providers on their customers' bills are a matter for the regulator and not the Government, and have been addressed by Ofcom's review. Because of the widespread concern about extra charges, such as not paying bills by direct debits, Ofcom is currently consulting on its review of additional charges and the introduction of new guidance for communications providers who levy such charges on consumers. The consultation process will end on 8 May 2008.

Ofcom is then proposing to allow three months for companies to bring their contract terms and marketing material into line with the guidance. It will also publish a checklist for customers on what to look out for before they sign on the dotted line.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 407-8W, to the hon. Member for Chichester, on the union modernisation fund, if he will publish any declarations of political activity made by each of the members of the Independent Supervisory Board. [191502]

Mr. McFadden: At the time of their appointment, the members of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board declared the following interests:

Bill Connor declared that he had spoken on behalf of a party or candidate and canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election (for the Labour party);

Adrian Askew declared that he had held office such as Chair, Treasurer or Secretary of a local branch of a party and canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election (for the Labour party);

William Brown declared no political activity;

Danny Carrigan declared that he had canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election and a member of the National Executive Committee (for the Labour party);

Jeannie Drake declared that she had canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election and a member of the Labour Party National Policy Forum (for the Labour party);

Judith Hackett declared no political activity[1];

David Metcalfe declared that he had canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election and undertaken any political activity which is considered relevant (for the Labour party)[1];

Bruce Warman declared no political activity.

[1]Has since resigned from the Board

HEALTH

Abortion: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinics are registered to perform abortions in Gloucestershire; and whether they receive public funding to carry out these procedures. [198101]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no clinics in Gloucestershire approved by the Secretary of State for Health to perform abortions. National health service hospitals do not require approval to perform abortions.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what opinion surveys have been conducted by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS, on the views of (i) general practitioners, (ii) hospital doctors, (iii) nurses and (iv) allied medical professionals on the outcomes of hospital reconfigurations which involved the downgrading of blue light accident and emergency facilities. [198583]

Ann Keen: Proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

The Department has not conducted an opinion survey relating to the reconfiguration of accident and emergency facilities and does not collect data relating to individual surveys which may have been conducted by the local NHS.

Alliance Boots: Finance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to Alliance Boots Ltd. in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each such payment was. [199688]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Departments financial records only go back to April 2001 and they show that no payments have been made to Alliance Boots Ltd. for the period April 2001 to March 2008.

Antidepressants: Prescriptions

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will *(a)* undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of and *(b)* issue new guidance on prescribing selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressants. [198667]

Dawn Primarolo: A review of the safety of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) by the Government's expert working group on the safety of SSRIs was published in December 2004 and updated prescribing advice has been issued by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as new information has become available. Most recently, a summary of the current regulatory position with respect to SSRIs was released by the MHRA on 6 March 2008 and copies have been placed in the Library.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published its clinical guideline on depression, 'Management of Depression in Primary and Secondary Care', in December 2004. NICE plans to review its guidance in December 2008.

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry: Finance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each such payment was. [199685]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's financial records only go back to April 2001 and they show that no payments have been made to the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry for the period April 2001 to March 2008.

Byotrol: Finance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to Byotrol in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each such payment was. [199686]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's financial records only go back to April 2001 and they show that no payments have been made to Byotrol for the period April 2001 to March 2008.

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the criteria are for assessing someone as being at *(a)* low, *(b)* moderate and *(c)* high risk as a result of a vascular risk assessment as referred to in Putting Prevention First. [198843]

Ann Keen: In terms of assessing personal risk following a vascular risk assessment, a person would be classified at high risk with the presence of one or more of the following:

over 20 per cent. cardiovascular risk;

high cholesterol ratio (ie TC:HDL greater than six);

diagnosis of hypertension (high blood pressure) according to Joint British Societies' guidelines on the prevention of cardiovascular disease in clinical practice;

detected to have impaired glucose regulation (pre-diabetes).

At moderate risk with the presence of one or more of the following and without any of the high risk factors:

insufficient physical activity;

obese; and/or

smoker;

and at low risk in the absence of any of the high or medium risk factors detailed.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the costs associated with the vascular risk assessment programme, as proposed in Putting Prevention First; and what proportion of that cost he estimates will arise from (i) the risk assessment process and (ii) consequent interventions. [198849]

Ann Keen: We estimate the costs associated with the vascular risk assessment programme will be in the order of £250 million per annum once the programme reaches full implementation. Of this, an estimated 10 to 15 per cent. is the cost of the risk assessments themselves (ie the cost of the work force time and laboratory tests required for the assessment). The remainder of the costs will fund the consequent interventions.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the difference between take-up rates by men and women of vascular risk assessments. [198850]

Ann Keen: In modelling the proposed systems of vascular checks we have a 75 per cent. uptake for both men and women. There is no relevant reliable data on likely differences in gender uptake. In working with stakeholders on how best to implement and deliver the policy, we will look at ways of ensuring the highest take up amongst all sections of the population between the ages of 40 and 74.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what risk assessment tool his Department used in modelling the effects of the proposed vascular risk assessment programme, published in Putting Prevention First. [198851]

Ann Keen: The risk assessment tool used to assess for cardiovascular risk (ie coronary heart disease and stroke) was Qrisk. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is publishing guidelines on lipid modification later this year and these will be considered once their recommendations are available. We are currently refining the risk assessment tool for diabetes. In modelling a system of vascular checks, we have used the FINDRISC questionnaire to identify people who should go on to have their blood glucose measured. To assess risk for chronic kidney disease we are using a high blood pressure reading.

Care Homes: Inspections

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place a copy of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's code of practice for inspectors of care homes in the Library. [196656]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it does not have a specific code of practice for inspectors. CSCI issues a set of employment standards which apply to all staff, not just inspectors. There are eight standards:

anti-fraud and corruption policy;

corporate conduct;

employee relations;

gifts and hospitality;

information and communication technology security policy;

organisational change;

redundancy policy; and

valuing diversity.

Copies of the Standards have been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* private, *(b)* public and *(c)* voluntary sector care homes for the elderly in the North East were subject to regulation and inspection by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [197261]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the numbers of care homes active in the North East region and subject to regulation and inspection by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) since 2002-03 is shown in the following table.

Homes are not registered by CSCI as, for example, care homes for older people. CSCI inspectors will decide at the time of an inspection whether to inspect a home against the national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes for older people or vulnerable adults. This decision is based on the age profile of the occupants of the home.

The figures in the following table are the number of homes active at the end of each financial year that had been inspected against the standards for older people (though not necessarily during the year in question).

Number of care homes active at end financial year (31 March) in the CSCI North East region inspected against national minimum standards for care homes for older people

	Financial year				
Type of ownership	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Local authority	29	61	54	47	41
National health service	—	1	1	1	1
Other	1	2	2	2	—
Private	434	483	495	481	476
Voluntary	32	39	37	36	40
Total	496	586	589	567	558

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database.

Child Health

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of the appendices to the Child Health Interim Application Options Appraisal Process final report. [176948]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following appendices have been placed in the Library: 1; 2; 3; 5; 6; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12; 14; 15 and 16. It is not possible to publish appendices 4, 7, 13 and 17 because approval was not granted by the suppliers of the information, as the documents are commercially sensitive.

Childbirth

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 13-14W, on childbirth, what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* timetable of the national perinatal epidemiology unit's programme of reviews are; and if he will make a statement. [198743]

Ann Keen: The National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit is conducting the programme of systematic reviews referred to in my previous answer in line with a research proposal that has been peer reviewed and agreed with the Department. The primary aim is to make best use of existing national and international research evidence to identify the key interventions that are most likely to contribute to meeting the 2010 infant mortality target and, in the longer term, to improving maternal and child health and a sustainable reduction in health inequalities. The reviews will also help identify evidence gaps where there is a need for new research.

The work runs until September 2009, and the research team will provide outputs on a staged basis during the life of the project. Review outputs will cover generic public health interventions as well as the major medical causes of infant mortality. The research team have appointed a multi-disciplinary advisory group to support the work.

Children: Health

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the likely cost of introducing mandatory weighing and measuring of all children in England in each year. [199454]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has no intentions to introduce mandatory weighing and measuring of all children in England in each year, and has therefore not estimated the likely cost of a mandatory programme. Furthermore, we do not intend to make it mandatory for children or parents to participate in the current programme of weighing and measuring pupils in reception year and year six.

Chlamydia

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with chlamydia in each year since 1997-98; and what proportion in each year were *(a)* men and *(b)* women. [197823]

Dawn Primarolo: Table 1 shows the number of uncomplicated chlamydia infections diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England from 1997 to 2006, by sex. Table 2 shows the percentage of uncomplicated chlamydia infections diagnosed in men and women in GUM clinics in England from 1997 to 2006.

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) does not undertake diagnostic testing as it provides screening to asymptomatic people in England. Table 3 shows the number of positive chlamydia screens by sex among those aged 13 to 24 years who were screened for chlamydia as part of the NCSP during the period 2003-07. Table 4 shows the proportion of male and female of the positive screens among those aged 13 to 24 years as part of the NCSP for the period 2003-07.

Table 1: The number of uncomplicated chlamydia infections diagnosed in GUM clinics in England, by sex, 1997-2006

	Men	*Women*	*Total*
1997	16,180	22,659	38,839
1998	18,937	24,975	43,912
1999	21,776	29,184	50,960
2000	26,579	34,791	61,370
2001	29,562	38,618	68,180
2002	34,331	43,786	78,117
2003	37,996	47,520	85,516
2004	42,681	50,267	92,948
2005	45,155	50,775	95,930
2006	48,863	50,367	99,230

Table 2: The proportion of uncomplicated chlamydia infections diagnosed in men and women in GUM clinics in England: 1997-2006

	Percentage	
	Men	*Women*
1997	42	58
1998	43	57
1999	43	57
2000	43	57

Table 2: The proportion of uncomplicated chlamydia infections diagnosed in men and women in GUM clinics in England: 1997-2006

	Percentage	
	Men	*Women*
2001	43	57
2002	44	56
2003	44	56
2004	46	54
2005	47	53
2006	49	51

Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. Individual patients may have more than one diagnosis in a year.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are not yet available for 2007. Data are collected by calendar year.

Table 3: Number of positive chlamydia screens by sex, NSCP, 2003-07

	Unknown/ Not specified	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
2003-04	0	157	1,599	1,756
2004-05	0	918	5,866	6,784
2005-06	0	2,023	8,980	11,003
2006-07	20	3,439	12,539	15,998
2007-08[1]	31	4,347	14,166	18,544
All years	51	10,884	43,150	54,085

[1] Data are available for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2007. Data as at 27 February 2008.
Source:
The Health Protection Agency (HPA)—NCSP Core Dataset.

Table 4: Proportion of males and females who were screened and tested positive and the total number of positive chlamydia screens as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme: 2003-07

	Proportion (percentage) positive male	*Proportion (percentage) positive female*	*Total number positive*[6]
2003-04	9	91	1,756
2004-05	14	86	6,784
2005-06	18	82	11,003
2006-07	22	78	15,978
2007-08[2]	23	77	18,513
All years	20	80	54,034

[1] Total number screened excluding screens with sex marked as unknown, unspecified, or missing.
[2] Data are available for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 December 2007. Data as at 27 February 2008.
Notes:
1. The data from the NCSP Core Dataset are for positive chlamydia screens made outside of GUM clinics only and include positive screens made by the Boots pathfinder project.
2. The data available from the NCSP are the number of positive screens made and not the number of patients who tested positive.
3. The data include those aged 13 to 24 only.
4. The NCSP began screening on 1 April 2003.
5. The data are specific to the financial year 1 April to March: 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.
6. The increase in number of positive chlamydia screens each year may also be due to an increase in screening volumes.
Source:
The HPA—NCSP Core Dataset.

Chlamydia: Information Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which national information resources on the subject of chlamydia were produced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's arm's length bodies in each year since 1997; what the date of publication or release was of each; what the cost to the public purse of producing these resources was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [197814]

Dawn Primarolo: Expenditure since 1997 on sexual health campaigns is in the following table. It is not possible to separate resources on chlamydia specifically from the overall programme of work. This work includes prevention of sexually transmitted infections, HIV public education, contraception awareness and public helplines.

	£ million
1997-98	4.7
1998-99	4.8
1999-2000	6
2000-01	4.6
2001-02	4.6
2002-03	6.6
2003-04	6.6
2004-05	6.6
2005-06	5.12
2006-07	11.25
2007-08	[1]10.25

[1] Provisional figure.

Chlamydia: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the National Chlamydia Screening programme invited feedback from local and regional networks on men's perceptions and experiences of chlamydia screening, as stated in the Health Protection Agency's "Men too... strategy"; what feedback has been received; from which networks; for how long he plans the programme of inviting feedback to continue; and if he will make a statement; [197815]

(2) what steps the National Chlamydia Screening programme is supporting at a local level to *(a)* raise men's awareness of chlamydia screening, *(b)* address men's concerns about the chlamydia screening process and *(c)* dispel misconceptions about the screening process amongst men, as described in the Health Protection Agency's "Men too... strategy"; [197816]

(3) what progress the Health Protection Agency has made in reviewing existing *(a)* practice and *(b)* evidence to determine the best ways of engaging young men in chlamydia screening, as stated in the Health Protection Agency's "Men too... strategy"; [197817]

(5) what progress the Health Protection Agency has made in developing *(a)* background information, *(b)* guidance and *(c)* a toolkit for local use, as described in the Health Protection Agency's "Men too... strategy"; when he plans each of these resources to become available; which parties the Health Protection Agency is consulting on developing the resources; and if he will make a statement; [197826]

(4) which *(a)* individuals, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* other parties the Health Protection Agency is consulting in order to further develop the steps proposed in the Health Protection Agency's "Men too... strategy"; [197818]

(6) what assessment he has made of the extent to which local NHS organisations include provision for equal access for men and women to chlamydia screening in their gender equality schemes. [198760]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) published the Men too Strategy in November 2007 in response to the variation observed

in the proportion of men screened in the local Chlamydia Screening programmes. All chlamydia screening offices (CSOs) have been made aware of the need to address the issue of equitable access to screening.

Discussions on ways to increase uptake amongst men have been undertaken at a number of region-wide chlamydia screening co-ordinator networks. Work in relation to identifying interventions supporting male engagement and the success of each activity is underway through consultation with local Chlamydia Screening programmes. This feedback will be collated to inform a working group which has been convened to advise and steer the implementation of the "Men too Strategy" later in 2008.

The working group includes representatives from the Men's Health Forum; a men's health promotion specialist from a primary care trust (PCT); a sexual health network director, who commissions and facilitates sexual health service provision; the chief executive of Brook, the young persons sexual health service; and a CSO coordinator.

Work in relation to men's perceptions and experiences has been discussed by the working group but no formal study of this has commenced yet.

Work on background information and guidance is in the early stages of development. These will be published in the form of a toolkit planned for launch in November 2008.

To date, examples of local initiatives include the Greater Manchester strategy to use sport to engage male participation in screening. In partnership with both Oldham Athletic Football Club and Oldham Rougheyeds Rugby Team, targeted sexual health education and chlamydia screening of the playing staff is being undertaken followed by a mass screening event for fans on match day. Chlamydia information and promotion of screening will be included in match day programmes for four weeks prior to the screening event.

Other relevant work includes participation in the forthcoming Men's Health Week in June 2008. This week will have a focus on the workplace and will provide an opportunity to raise awareness, address men's concerns and dispel misconceptions about the chlamydia screening process. There will also be engagement with key media organisations whose target audience is young men.

Access to screening for men is monitored quarterly by the Health Protection Agency by measuring at PCT and local programme level the proportion of screens that are taken up by men. These figures are currently fed back quarterly to the programme areas. These figures will be available on the NCSP website later this year.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets he expects to set for primary care trusts for chlamydia screening in 2008-09; and how much central funding was given to the NHS for chlamydia screening in each year since 1997-98. [197821]

Dawn Primarolo: In National Planning Guidance, primary care trusts (PCTs) have been asked to plan to screen 17 per cent. of their population aged 15-24 for chlamydia in 2008-09.

Funding to the national health service for chlamydia screening has been allocated as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	1.5
2003-04	4.9
2004-05	4.6
2005-06	12

From 2006-07, funding to support chlamydia screening was not allocated separately to PCTs but is contained within the mainstream revenue allocations made to PCTs. The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to PCTs separately identified £211 million in 2006-07 and £342 million in 2007-08, around half of the £1 billion promised to support implementation of the "Choosing Health White Paper". For the two years covered by this allocation, a total of £70 million was identified nationally to invest in chlamydia screening.

From 2008-09 this funding has been included in PCT baselines. It is the responsibility of PCTs to commission the health services they need to meet the health requirements of the local populations they serve.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* evaluation of measures to support equitable access to chlamydia screening (i) his Department and (ii) the Health Protection Agency has undertaken in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [197827]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Chlamydia Screening Programme is undertaking research, to explore the relationship between deprivation, screening volumes and chlamydia positivity. The work will be used to develop an evaluation process that can be used to improve equitable access to the screening programme.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of screens for chlamydia undertaken in the most recent year for which figures are available were in *(a)* men and *(b)* women, broken down by chlamydia screening programme area. [197828]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) screens for asymptomatic chlamydia outside of genito-urinary medicine services.

Table one shows the number of chlamydia screens among those aged 13-24 years broken down by sex and programme area for England, as part of the NCSP for the period 1 April 2006 to 31March 2007. Table two shows the proportion male and female who were screened for chlamydia by programme area, among those aged 13-24 years as part of the NCSP for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

Table One: Number of screens by sex and NCSP programme area for the period 1 April2006 to 31 March 2007

Programme area	*Unknown/ not specified*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Ashfield	0	13	15	28
Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton	[1]—	453	1,556	[1]—
Berkshire East	0	1,201	1,444	2,645
Birmingham	0	780	5,956	6,736

Table One: Number of screens by sex and NCSP programme area for the period 1 April2006 to 31 March 2007

Programme area	Unknown/ not specified	Males	Females	Total
Bournemouth and Poole	[1]—	234	459	[1]—
Bradford and Airedale	0	181	867	1,048
Brent and Harrow	0	500	1,753	2,253
Brighton	0	1,001	4,735	5,736
Buckinghamshire	0	[1]—	11	[1]—
Cambridge and Peterborough	0	458	1,048	1,506
Camden and Islington	0	246	3,158	3,404
Central Lancashire	0	176	1,202	1,378
City and Hackney	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Cornwall	0	2,787	5,289	8,076
Coventry	0	345	1,563	1,908
Cumbria	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Dorset	0	362	232	594
Durham and Teeside	0	3,797	3,335	7,132
East Cheshire	12	536	3,386	3,934
East Kent	0	583	2,617	3,200
East Lancashire	0	105	377	482
East Yorkshire	0	283	474	757
Enfield and Haringey	0	363	1,511	1,874
Greater Manchester	59	1,336	6,530	7,925
Halton, St. Helens and Warrington	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Hampshire	0	2,283	3,508	5,791
Hastings	0	108	424	532
Hounslow	0	58	176	234
Hull	0	633	3,035	3,668
Lambeth and Southwark	0	1,526	7,937	9,463
Leeds	0	1,472	4,037	5,509
Leicester	[1]—	44	167	[1]—
Lewisham	0	1,157	5,341	6,498
Liverpool	54	1,646	9,810	11,510
Mid Essex	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Milton Keynes	0	532	2,261	2,793
Norfolk and Waveney	0	552	1,987	2,539
North Staffordshire	0	647	3,589	4,236
Northern Lincolnshire	0	42	90	132
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	0	446	759	1,205
Nottingham	0	822	5,953	6,775
Plymouth	0	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Portsmouth	0	560	4,237	4,797
Sheffield	0	802	4,234	5,036
South East Essex	0	266	2,137	2,403
South Staffordshire	0	43	306	349
Southampton	0	103	289	392
Suffolk	0	160	1,033	1,193
Tower Hamlets	0	0	[1]—	[1]—
Wakefield District and Dewsbury, Batley	0	46	290	336
West Cheshire	0	137	1,640	1,777
West Kent	[1]—	307	1,472	[1]—
West Sussex	[1]—	17	26	[1]—
Wirral	14	726	4,516	5,256
York	0	1,064	2,508	3,572

Table One: Number of screens by sex and NCSP programme area for the period 1 April2006 to 31 March 2007

Programme area	Unknown/ not specified	Males	Females	Total
Boots Pathfinder	0	2,572	9,157	11,729
Total	146	34,515	128,446	163,107

[1] Cell sizes between 1 and 4 (and totals that would allow for them to be deduced) have been masked to prevent deductive disclosure in accordance with ONS guidelines.

Note:
Data as at February 2008.

Source:
Health Protection Agency (HPA)—NCSP.

Table Two: Proportion male and female screened for chlamydia by NCSP programme area for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Programme area	Percentage male	Percentage female	Total[1]
Ashfield	46	54	28
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	23	77	2,009
Berkshire East	45	55	2,645
Birmingham	12	88	6,736
Bournemouth and Poole	34	66	693
Bradford and Airedale	17	83	1,048
Brent and Harrow	22	78	2,253
Brighton	17	83	5,736
Buckinghamshire	21	79	14
Cambridge and Peterborough	30	70	1,506
Camden and Islington	7	93	3,404
Central Lancashire	13	87	1,378
City and Hackney	0	100	[2]—
Cornwall	35	65	8,076
Coventry	18	82	1,908
Cumbria	0	100	[2]—
Dorset	61	39	594
Durham and Teeside	53	47	7,132
East Cheshire	14	86	3,922
East Kent	18	82	3,200
East Lancashire	22	78	482
East Yorkshire	37	63	757
Enfield and Haringey	19	81	1,874
Greater Manchester	17	83	7,866
Halton, St. Helens and Warrington	0	100	[2]—
Hampshire	39	61	5,791
Hastings	20	80	532
Hounslow	25	75	234
Hull	17	83	3,668
Lambeth and Southwark	16	84	9,463
Leeds	27	73	5,509
Leicester	21	79	211
Lewisham	18	82	6,498
Liverpool	14	86	11,456
Mid Essex	0	100	[2]—
Milton Keynes	19	81	2,793
Norfolk and Waveney	22	78	2,539
North Staffordshire	15	85	4,236
Northern Lincolnshire	32	68	132
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	37	63	1,205
Nottingham	12	88	6,775
Plymouth	33	67	[2]—
Portsmouth	12	88	4,797
Sheffield	16	84	5,036
South East Essex	11	89	2,403
South Staffordshire	12	88	349

Table Two: Proportion male and female screened for chlamydia by NCSP programme area for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Programme area	*Percentage male*	*Percentage female*	*Total*[1]
Southampton	26	74	392
Suffolk	13	87	1,193
Tower Hamlets	0	100	[2]
Wakefield District and Dewsbury, Batley	14	86	336
West Cheshire	8	92	1,777
West Kent	17	83	1,779
West Sussex	40	60	43
Wirral	14	86	5,242
York	30	70	3,572
Boots Pathfinder	22	78	11,729
Total	21	79	162,961

[1] Total number screened excluding screens with sex marked as unknown and unspecified.
[2] Cell sizes between 1 and 4 (and totals that would allow for them to be deduced) have been masked to prevent deductive disclosure in accordance with ONS guidelines.
Notes:
1. Data as of 27 February 2008.
2. The data from the NCSP are for screens outside of GUM clinics only and include screens from the Boots pathfinder project.
3. The data available from the NCSP are the number of screens done and not the number of patients screened. The number of screens is assumed to be a close proxy of the number of people screened.
4. The data only include those aged 13-24 years.
5. The data are for 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 because the NCSP receives data on a quarterly basis and follows the financial year.
6. The data provided are based on NCSP programme areas, not postcode of residence. The programme areas are geographically distinct areas formed by one or more primary care trusts and are responsible for coordinating local screening.
Source:
HPA-NCSP.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will establish an independent scientific committee to oversee research into myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome. [199903]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently no plans to establish an independent scientific committee to oversee research into myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS). However, the Medical Research Council (MRC) is planning to set up a panel of experts from different disciplines to look more closely at the area. The panel will come from varied fields including neuroscience, immunology, toxicology and imaging, and will involve interested parties and focus on the subtypes and causes of ME/CFS.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that Government funding for biomedical research on ME/CFS is equal to Government funding for psychological research on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. [199904]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is committed to funding scientific research into all aspects of myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) including evaluations of other treatments and studies into the biological and psychological basis of the condition. The amount provided by the MRC to each type of research depends on the quality and number of proposals received.

Community Hospitals: Closures

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community hospitals in England have *(a)* closed and *(b)* partly closed since May 2005. [198450]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures are not routinely collected. However, since May 2005 we have announced 23 schemes to develop or refurbish local community hospitals and services. These schemes have a total value of £272 million of which £190 million is funded from the community hospitals and services budget. These are in addition to the 158 new primary care and community facilities already delivered through the Local Improvement Finance Trust programme.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1st January 2005 to 31st December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197161]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is as follows:

Harrogate International Centre

18 October 2006—Speech to CPHVA & Amicus Mental Health Nurses Association Professional Conference

International Conference Centre, Birmingham

18 September 2007—Health Day Event

11 October 2007—Speech to NHS Employer's Annual Conference

Manchester Central

23 November 2007—Speech to NHS Alliance Annual Conference

Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow

No records held.

Edinburgh International Conference Centre

No records held.

Bournemouth International Conference Centre

26 April 2006—Speech to Royal College of Nursing Congress

23 November 2006—Speech and present Awards to NHS Alliance Annual Conference

28 March 2007—Speech to MIND Annual Conference

18 October 2007—Speech to LGA/ADSS National Children and Adult Services Conference

Brighton Centre

No records held

Riviera Centre, Torquay

10 May 2006—Speech to Royal College of Midwives Annual Conference

Queen Elizabeth Centre

6 June 2006—Speech to Public Service Reform

23 October 2006—Speech to International Society for Quality Conference

Excel Conference Centre, Docklands

20 June 2007—Speech to NHS Confederation Annual Conference

22 November 2007—Speech to NHS Next Stage Review Clinical Summit

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1179W, on the departmental intranet, whether his Department's activity on Wikipedia was in keeping with the Civil Service Code; and if he will break down the number of creations and amendments by month. [195343]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information on Wikipedia is in the public domain and could have been edited by civil servants within the Department using departmental resources up until August 2007 in either a professional or private capacity. The Department's IP address has been refused editorial rights since August 2007 in line with Wikipedia policy to block anonymous contributions to the site. Reasonable use of departmental resources for personal reasons is permitted and any activity should be in line with the general principles:

it does not break the law;

it does not risk bringing the Department into disrepute or place it in a position of liability;

it does not violate any provision set out in this or any other departmental policy, or go against the Department's standard of conduct; and

it does not cause damage or disruption to the Department's systems or business.

Using information available from the Wikipedia site, between 22 August 2005 and 3 August 2007, the number of occasions when the Department's IP address has been associated with the creation or amendment of entries on the Wikipedia site has been broken down by month in the following table:

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
January	0	19	187
February	0	27	162
March	0	61	217
April	0	60	67
May	0	33	100
June	0	21	5
July	0	67	13
August	1	122	1
September	2	138	0
October	0	154	0
November	0	233	0
December	16	95	0

The Department reaches the world wide web via the Government Secure Intranet (GSI). The internal IP address is changed on the route out. This means that external web sites and the Wikipedia site would see a centralised GSI gateway address rather than a specific individual internal personal computer (PC) IP address. Internally the IP address is set dynamically rather than being static, e.g. fixed. This means that when someone logs in, their PC is given an IP address from a central pool of any one of around 4,500 IP addresses in daily use in the Department. To collect the information about who edited the Wikipedia site and for what purpose on the approximate 1,800 occasions reported by the Wikipedia site reporting tool would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [198986]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table outlines cost of departmental spending on publicity and advertising during 2007-08.

Departmental spending on publicity and advertising, 2007-08

	£ million
Tobacco control	19.0
Tobacco legislation	8.7
Sexual health[1]	6.9
Drugs prevention[2]	2.0
Alcohol[3]	1.3
Hepatitis C	2.1
Flu immunisation	1.4
Social work/care	3.1
Keep warm, keep well[4]	0.5
Maternal and infant nutrition	1.2
Respiratory and hand hygiene	0.8
NHS Direct	4.0
Antibiotics	0.6
5 A DAY	1.3
NHS Injury Benefits Scheme	0.4
Total	50.3

[1] Including the Department for Health's (DH) contribution to joint campaign with the Department for Children, Schools and Families.
[2] DH's contribution to joint campaign with the Home Office and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.
[3] DH's contribution to joint campaign with the Home Office.
[4] DH's contribution to cross-government campaign.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether consideration has been given to applying gender responsive budgeting to his Department's budget. [192115]

Mr. Bradshaw: The United Kingdom Government are supportive of efforts to achieve gender equality and continue to work very closely with both the Women's National Commission and the Women's Budget Group on promoting gender equality within the UK.

In 2004, HM Treasury undertook a pilot project on gender analysis of expenditure with the Women's Budget Group. The project demonstrated the value of gender analysis in some areas and identified what tools and expertise were necessary within Government to carry out gender analysis, but concluded that further work was needed before gender responsive budgeting could be implemented.

In 2008, HM Treasury will be conducting further work that will determine whether it is prudent and feasible to disaggregate departmental expenditure statistics by gender.

The Department is committed to creating a patient-centred health service that extends choice and is responsive to all patients and users, in particular ensuring that any gender inequalities in treatment and access are eliminated.

The weighted capitation formula used to determine primary care trusts' (PCTs) target share of available resources is designed to enable them to commission similar levels of health care for populations in similar need. To determine the relevant population for each PCT, factors including gender are considered. In addition, the prescribing and primary medical services components of the formula take into account gender in determining the need for these services.

To support the national health service in taking forward gender equality legislation, the Department published guidance in March 2007—'Creating a Gender Equality Scheme: A practical guide for the NHS'—to ensure that all NHS organisations understand their responsibilities. Similar guidance on transgender issues—'Transgender: A practical guide for the NHS'—is planned for publication in April 2008.

In addition, the Department has commissioned the Men's Health Forum to conduct a review of the different ways women and men access health services. This review will provide evidence to help determine key gender health priorities for the Department and the NHS. The Department is also in the process of appointing a 'gender champion' to promote gender equality in the NHS.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196750]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 'Civil Service Code', the 'Civil Service Management Code' and 'Propriety Guidance on Government Communications' all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these publications are in the Library and are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197063]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the numbers of departmental staff attending the courses enquired about in 2007-08 and the costs incurred.

Course title	*Number of departmental staff attending*	*Cost (£)*
Influencing with Integrity	0	0.00
Emotional Intelligence	0	0.00
Counselling Skills for the Workplace	0	0.00
Managing your Confidence	2	2,298.00
Balancing Work/Life Realities	1	1,080.00
Working Assertively	5	3,630.00

A total of eight courses were attended by department staff at a cost of £7,008.00.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195871]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is committed to achieving the carbon reduction targets for the Government estate, published in June 2006. We encourage all our staff to use video conferencing where possible, to avoid the need for official travel. We have steadily increased our use of video conferencing, from a total of 6,679 conferences in 2004, to 10,526 in 2007, a 57 per cent. increase. We anticipate that usage in 2008 will be around 11,500, and we have plans to install a further 10 video conferencing suites in the coming months, to meet demand.

We have estimated that approximately 776 tonnes of CO_2 will be saved in 2008 as a result of holding video conferences instead of requiring staff to travel to meetings.

Across the departmental estate, there are currently 36 video conference units. In May 2008, a further 11 units will be deployed in London and there are plans to increase the number in Leeds to accommodate the rise in London estate numbers.

We have made significant use of video conferencing for over 10 years and we continually review the number of systems and bandwidth needed, to meet both business requirements and the sustainable development agenda.

Dieticians: Prescriptions

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department's non-medical prescribing board last considered a business case for dieticians to become supplementary or independent prescribers. [199309]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's Non-Medical Prescribing Programme Board has not received a business case for dieticians to become supplementary prescribers or independent prescribers.

Drugs: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much a general practice is paid per patient per year for the management of a patient who is stable on warfarin; and how much is payable under the tariff to an NHS trust for the same service. [198507]

Mr. Bradshaw: Specific services provided in general practice for patients on Warfarin, are commissioned locally. Payments are agreed locally between the primary care trust and the practice.

There is no specific inpatient, or out-patient tariff relating to the management of a patient who is stable on Warfarin.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were transferred from secondary to primary care for their management on warfarin in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what evaluation has taken place of the implications of this for patients. [198508]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. It is for local NHS providers to decide how to deliver services to patients.

Eyesight: Testing

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on notifying pensioners of their entitlement to an NHS sight test; and if he will make a statement. [199499]

Ann Keen: The Department has held no recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on notifying pensioners of their entitlement to national health service funded sight tests.

Family Practioner Services: Westminster Primary Care Trust

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which GP practices are funded by Westminster primary care trust; and what the location of each is. [196364]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The information requested about general practitioners (GP) practices funded by Westminster primary care trust (PCT) is not held centrally.

However, information about GP practices located in the Westminster PCT area is available on the Department's National Health Service Choices website, and is provided as follows:

List of GP practices located in the Westminster PCT area

Name of doctor/GP practice	*Address*
Ahmed (N)	Dart Street, W10 4LD
Atkinson (FG)	22 Woods Mews, W1K 7DS
Bayswater Medical Centre	46 Craven Road, W2 3QA
Belgrave Medical Centre	13 Pimlico Road, SW1W 8NA
Cavendish Health Centre	53 New Cavendish Street, WIG 9TQ
Covent Garden Medical Centre	47 Shorts Gardens, WC2H 9AA
Crawford Street Surgery	95-97 Crawford Street, W1H 2HJ
Crompton Medical Centre	1 Crompton Street, W2 1ND
Dr. Hege Mostad	141-143 Lupus Street, SW1V 3HQ
Drs Silva and Vranakis	7 Golbourne Road, W10 5PN
Fitzrovia Medical Centre	31 Fitzroy Square, WIT 6EU
Garfield and Sarnicki	321 Shirland Road, W9 3JJ
Great Chapel Street Medical Centre	13 Great Chapel Street, W1F 8FL
Harrow Road Health Centre	209 Harrow Road, W2 5EH
Health Centre	574 Harrow Road, W10 4NJ
Imperial College Health Centre	40 Princess Gardens, SW7 1LY
Kings College Health Centre	3rd Floor Macadam Building, Surrey Street, WC2R 2LS
Lai Chung Fong (P)	Dart Street, W10 4LD
Lancaster Gate Medical Centre	20-21 Leinster Terrace, W2 3ET
Lisson Grove Health Centre	Gateforth Street, NW8 8EG
Little Venice Medical Centre	2 Crompton Street, W2 1ND
Maida Vale Medical Centre	40 Biddulph Mansions, Elgin Avenue, W9 1HT
Marylebone Health Centre	17 Marylebone, NW1 5LT
Milne House Medical Centre	1 Norfolk Square, W21 RU
Murphy	30 Soho Square, W1D 3QS
Nagarajan (RK)	Dart Street London, W10 4LD
North West London Medical Centre	56 Maida Vale, W9 1PP
Paddington Green Health Centre	4 Princess Louise Close, W2 1LQ
Randolph Surgery	235a Elgin Avenue, W9 1NH
Soho Square General Practice	First Floor, 1 Frith Street, W1D 3HZ
South Westminster Centre	St. Georges House, 82 Vincent Square, SW1P 2PF
St. John's Wood Medical Practice	Brampton House, St. John's and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, 60 Grove End Road, NWS 9NH
The Belgravia Surgery	24-26 Ecclestone Street, SW1W 9PY
The Connaught Square Practice	41 Connaught Square, W2 2HL
The Doctor Hickey Surgery	Cardinal Hume Centre (Homeless Patients Only) 3 Arneway Street, SW1P 2BG
The Elgin Clinic	1 Woodchester Square, W2 5SW
The Garway Clinic	2 Garway Road, W2 4NH
The Lanark Medical Centre	165 Lanark Road, W9 1NZ
The Marven Medical Practice	46-50 Lupus Street, SW1V 3EB
The Mayfair Medical Centre	3-5 Weighhouse Street, W1K 5LS
The New Elgin Practice	44 Chippenham Road, W9 2AF
The Newton Medical Centre	Bayswater Centre 14-18 Newton Road, W2 5LT
The Surgery	131 Harley Street, WIG 6BB
The Wellington Health Centre	16 Wellington Road, NW8 9SP
The Westbourne Green Surgery	Health At The Stowe, 260 Harrow Road, W2 5ES
Third Floor Medical Centre	165 Lanark Road, W9 1NZ
Victoria Medical Centre	29 Upper Tachbrook Street, SW1V 1SN
West Two Health	33-35 Praed Street, W2 1NR
Westminster Health Centre	15 Denbigh Street, SW1V 2HF
Woodfield Road Surgery	The Medical Centre 7e, Woodfield Road, W9 3XZ
Zeider	3-5 Weighhouse Street, W1K 5LS

Source:
www.nhs.uk/Pages/homepage.aspx

Fractures: Databases

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the national hip fracture database is to be implemented by all health trusts. [198338]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National Hip Fracture Database was established in 2007 by the British Geriatric Society and the British Orthopaedic Association. It is a matter for individual national health service trusts to decide whether they wish to be registered on the database.

Health Services: Complaints

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1072-3W, on health services: complaints, if he will break down the number of complaints by category in each year. [188359]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand that the Healthcare Commission uses over 100 categories to classify complaints. Information on the broad categories of issues raised in complaints upheld by the Commission is set out in the following table. As many of the complaints referred to the Commission raise more than one issue, the total number of issues is greater than the number of complaints upheld.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total number of complaints upheld	11	395	1,462	2,734
Issues raised in upheld complaints				
Access to services	4	104	230	792
Complaints handling	6	115	333	1,580
Compliance with core standards	1	66	164	175
Patient experience (including hygiene)	9	372	1,053	1,668
Safety/effectiveness of care and essence of care	4	381	1,351	3,918
Other	2	139	582	414

Number of upheld complaints raising issue by year closed

Health Services: Males

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Health Protection Agency plans to monitor progress against the Health Protection Agency's Men too... strategy. [197824]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department monitors delivery of the objectives of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) through a service level agreement with the Health Protection Agency. The NCSP will monitor progress against the 'Men too...' strategy through routine quarterly analysis of disaggregate data, which will be published on the website and in the annual report. Progress on individual elements of the strategy will be monitored by the NCSP programme board.

Health Services: Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to allow the representation of district councils on county and unitary health overview and scrutiny committees. [198585]

Ann Keen: District councils may participate in health scrutiny in a variety of ways. Although district councils do not have the powers to review and scrutinise health services, there are opportunities for them to become involved in joint committees through co-option and to have the functions delegated to them.

Joint committees may be established by two or more local authorities (LAs) including two-tier district councils for both a specific scrutiny review, and for on-going scrutiny planning and review.

County councils may co-opt members of overview and scrutiny committees from district councils to participate as full members of the county overview and scrutiny committee considering health services. Councillors who are members of a district council executive are, by definition, not scrutiny members and therefore cannot be co-opted onto the county council health overview and scrutiny committee, nor can district councillors who are not members of an overview and scrutiny committee. Councillors who fall into these categories and who may have a role to play in a scrutiny process may participate in other ways, for example by providing information to the committee or attending as an expert witness.

A LA may also arrange for its overview and scrutiny functions to be undertaken by a committee from another LA. The regulations enable the delegation of scrutiny functions between LAs including from county council to district council overview and scrutiny committees. When delegation takes place, the full powers of overview and scrutiny of health services are given to the delegated committee but only in relation to the specific delegated function.

Further information and guidance is provided in "Overview and Scrutiny of Health Guidance—July 2003", copies of the guidance are available in the Library.

Health Services: Regulation

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much time members of the new strategic boards proposed for professional healthcare regulatory bodies will be expected to commit each year; and how many times he expects each such board to meet in each year. [196805]

Mr. Bradshaw: The detailed arrangements for the number of times boards will meet and the time commitments of board members is a matter for the individual regulatory bodies. However, the White Paper, "Trust, Assurance, Safety—The Regulation of Healthcare Professionals in the 21st Century" does set out the expectation that councils will be more board-like and strategic. The regulators will want to take this into account when making their decisions and will also want to consider the recommendations in Niall Dickson's report "Enhancing Confidence in Healthcare Professional Regulation" when it is published.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* skills, *(b)* competences and *(c)* experience candidates for (i) professional and (ii) lay membership of the councils of professional healthcare bodies will be required to demonstrate before appointment. [196806]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for discussion between the Appointments Commission and the relevant professional regulatory bodies. However, they will wish to take into account the recommendations in Niall Dickson's report "Enhancing Confidence in Healthcare Professional Regulation", when it is published.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider introducing a requirement for professional applicants to council of professional health regulatory bodies to demonstrate a capacity to express in plain English technical information for use by the public. [196850]

Mr. Bradshaw: The councils of professional health regulatory bodies will of course want to ensure that technical information that is written for public consumption is clear and understandable. However, the approach to achieving this is a matter for the regulators themselves.

Health Services: West Sussex

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 339W, on health services: West Sussex, if he will define his use of the term viable option. [199945]

Dawn Primarolo: As stated in the answer I gave the right hon. Member on 29 January 2008, proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally, working in conjunction with clinicians, patients and other stakeholders.

The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this issue further with either the chief executive of West Sussex primary care trust, or the chief executive of South East Coast strategic health authority.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were in post in each primary care trust in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2007. [199317]

Mr. Bradshaw: Tables showing the number of health visitors in post in each primary care trust in England in 2001, 2005 and 2007 have been placed in the Library.

Healthcare Commission: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median and *(c)* range of time taken was by the Healthcare Commission to categorise complaints in each year from August 2004; and how many (i) categorised and (ii) un-categorised complaints are outstanding. [200134]

Mr. Bradshaw: I understand from the Healthcare Commission that the information is not available in the form requested and that categorisation of complaints can happen at a variety of stages during the review process. The Commission records information on the average length of time taken to carry out and complete independent reviews and on the age profile of cases.

In April 2007, the average time to complete an independent review was 5.7 months and there were 3,060 open cases. Of those cases 429 were over 12 months old, 927 were between six and 12 months old. At the end of 2007-08, the average time to complete an independent review was 2.8 months and there were 1,474 open cases. Of those cases 13 were over 12 months old; fewer than 160 were between six and 12 months old.

HIV Infection

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new HIV/AIDS cases there were in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* age group. [198721]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

HIV Infection: Medical Treatments

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on anti-retroviral therapy in each of the last five years, broken down by trust. [197855]

Dawn Primarolo: These data are not held centrally.

Hospitals: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions illegal drugs were seized in hospitals in 2007. [197414]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects and publishes statistics on drug seizures by the police and HM Revenue and Customs in England and Wales, but they do not identify drug seizures in hospitals. The Home Office's most recent publication was "Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales 2005", published in October 2007 and available at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1707.pdf

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths there were in *(a)* Great Western Hospital, Swindon, *(b)* Royal United Hospital, Bath and *(c)* Chippenham Community Hospital wholly or partly attributed to (i) clostridium difficile, (ii) MRSA and (iii) other hospital acquired infections in each of the last five years. [199433]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were in *(a)* Great Western Hospital, Swindon, *(b)* Royal United Hospital, Bath and *(c)* Chippenham Community Hospital wholly or partly attributed to (i) clostridium difficile and (ii) MRSA or other hospital acquired infections in each of the last five years. (199433)

Special analyses of deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* and MRSA in England and Wales are undertaken annually by ONS. The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. Information on the numbers of deaths between 2001 and 2006 involving *Clostridium difficile* and MRSA were published in *Health Statistics Quarterly* in February 2008.[1,2] This publication is available in the House of Commons Library.

ONS has not yet released any figures on deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* or MRSA for individual hospitals. The possibility of producing figures for hospitals in the future is currently being investigated.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2008) Report: deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 1999-2006. *Health Statistics Quarterly* 37, 52-56.

[2] Office for National Statistics (2008) Report; Deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 1993-2006. *Health Statistics Quarterly* 37,57-62

Hospitals: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the most recent re-configuration of hospital services in East Lancashire has cost. [198584]

Ann Keen: Proposals for changes to services are a matter for the national health service locally. The information requested is not held centrally.

Huntingtons Chorea

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people diagnosed with Huntington's disease in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency; [195552]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [195553]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no estimate of the number of people living with Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases. However, figures quoted in the National Service Framework for Long-term Conditions estimated that 120,000 people in the United Kingdom live with Parkinson's disease, and 6,000 to 10,000 with Huntington's disease.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on the ability of users of Part IX catheters, appliances and related services to self-care under the proposed changes to the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [199070]

(2) if he will ensure that the forthcoming consultation document on Part IX of the Drug Tariff will be constructed in a user-friendly format. [199072]

Dawn Primarolo: The review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—in primary care aims to maintain and, where appropriate, improve patient care.

A further consultation is due to be published in May 2008, together with an impact assessment and equality impact assessment.

It is intended that the May consultation should be constructed in a user-friendly format.

Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with pharmaceutical companies on the continuity of product supply in the event of an influenza pandemic in the last 12 months; what the content of those discussions was; and if he will make a statement. [199090]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, on 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1350, outlining the measures to prepare the country for the event of an influenza pandemic including publication of Pandemic flu: A national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic and supporting guidance. A major work programme is underway in the Department to develop preparedness including our plans to increase the stockpiles of antivirals and to build a stockpile of antibiotics. We also launched a consultation on possible changes to legislation to maintain access to medicines during a pandemic. The response to the consultation will be published shortly.

In developing our plans we have engaged with the pharmaceutical industry including representatives from the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries, the British Generic Manufacturers Association and the British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers who sit on our external reference group for pandemic influenza pharmacy and prescribing.

We have also canvassed the pharmaceutical industry via their associations on companies' own preparedness plans to maintain supply in the event of a pandemic.

We have also undertaken a simulation exercise on the potential impact of a pandemic on the medicines and healthcare products supply chain. Representatives from these groups, along with pharmacy service providers and healthcare professionals took part in the exercise.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which groups are to be offered pandemic influenza vaccination in the event of an influenza pandemic, in order of priority; and if he will make a statement; [199091]

(2) pursuant to his statement of 22 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1351, on pandemic influenza, what proportion of the additional £10 million funding allocated this year to assist the national health service in developing its pandemic influenza contingency plans has been spent; for what purposes this funding was intended; and if he will make a statement; [199243]

(3) what progress has been made in procuring a stockpile of *(a)* additional anti-virals, *(b)* antibiotics, *(c)* disposal respirators and *(d)* face-masks for use in the event of an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement; [199244]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1078W, on influenza, what appropriate *(a)* counter-measures and *(b)* information he is considering in order to protect staff during an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [199245]

Dawn Primarolo: The business cases for the procurement of the clinical countermeasures, particularly of the likely clinical impact of the products, the relevant market conditions and the economic issues, are currently under discussion within the Department of Health and with HM Treasury.

The oral statement given on 22 November 2007 recognised that we would need to ensure that value for money was balanced with the need to be certain that the United Kingdom is properly prepared.

The current stockpile of H5N1 vaccine has been purchased specifically for the protection of health care workers. Specific information for employees of the health service was issued for consultation in November 2007 and those responses are now being considered with a view to providing final guidance. A range of other pieces of guidance, particularly those relating to infection control procedures are also available on this Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/PandemicFlu/index.htm

In the event of an influenza pandemic, we aim to treat anyone who shows symptoms of the influenza virus irrespective of their profession. If it becomes necessary to prioritise the influenza vaccine, that decision will have to be made in light of the available evidence at the time.

We have provided funds of £10 million to assist the national health service in developing their pandemic flu contingency plans. While we have provided these funds, it is for strategic health authorities to decide how best to allocate this funding to support pandemic planning in the light of local circumstances.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on influenza, with which *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector bodies the Government have met at (i) the Business Forum and (ii) other ad hoc meetings to review the development of plans and disseminate good practice in the last 12 months; if he will provide details of the good practice being disseminated to these bodies; and if he will make a statement. [199238]

Dawn Primarolo: The Business Forum for pandemic influenza was formed by representatives of different business sectors, covering most areas of the Critical National Infrastructure. It has now been superseded by the Business Advisory Group on Civil Protection (BAGCP). This group works to support an open, constructive and representative relationship between Government and business in the area of civil protection as a whole, ensuring that business plays its part in identifying and managing the risk of emergencies, and maintaining world-class capabilities to respond to and recover from a wide range of emergencies. Information on the membership of BAGCP and issues considered can be found at:

www.preparingforemergencies.gov.uk/business/bagcp.shtm

To facilitate sectoral planning central Government Departments have issued best practice pandemic flu guidance and regularly meet with stakeholders to update them on the emerging situation and to provide advice. Sector specific pandemic flu guidance is available from the Cabinet Office UK resilience website at:

www.ukresilience.info/pandemicflu/guidance.aspx

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 593W, on influenza, what progress has been made in testing the public's reactions to many issues in pandemic planning and decision-making; on what issues the reaction of the public is being tested; in what ways the reaction of the public is being tested; and if he will make a statement. [199240]

Dawn Primarolo: A public engagement programme started in January 2008. It was aimed at testing a range of pandemic planning issues and anticipating the public's likely response, as a means of informing communications strategies and the future implementation of the 'National framework for responding to an influenza pandemic'.

A range of scenarios were developed based on the major dimensions of uncertainty and impact relating to a pandemic. The qualitative research consisted of one day workshops in each of the four countries within the United Kingdom. 40 members of the public attended each event, split into groups of mixed age, gender and socio-economic group. In addition, 11 in-depth interviews were undertaken in relation to hard to reach and vulnerable groups.

The detailed research findings are currently being analysed and will be used to inform detailed pandemic planning.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1078W, on influenza, when he expects the audit of NHS preparedness to conclude; whether any findings have resulted from the audit to date; and if he will make a statement. [199246]

Dawn Primarolo: We expect the self-assessment audit to be concluded by June 2008. The responses to the audit are currently being reviewed.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department to Karian and Box since 1997. [199645]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not awarded any contracts to Karian and Box.

Lloyds Pharmacy: Finance

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to Lloyds Pharmacy in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each such payment was. [199687]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's financial records only go back to April 2001 and they show that no payments have been made to Lloyds Pharmacy for the period April 2001 to March 2008.

Meat Hygiene Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely impact of recent changes in the Meat Hygiene Service, with particular reference to the number of abattoirs. [198717]

Dawn Primarolo: Following a detailed review of the delivery of official controls in approved meat plants, including slaughterhouses, the Food Standards Agency Board decided last July that continuance of the level of subsidy paid to industry into the future was unsustainable, and the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) should seek to recover an increasing proportion of those costs through industry charges. At the same time, the MHS would be expected to become a more efficient organisation that will carry out its role at less cost.

Through a programme of transformation, the cost base of the MHS is being reduced from £91.3 million in 2006-07 to £75 million in 2011-12 in real terms in order to reduce the burden on industry as charge rates to businesses are increased. A new approach to charging is being developed with key stakeholders, including industry, and is taking into consideration that small and geographically isolated abattoirs may need some continuing support. Proposals for the new charging system will be subject to full public consultation, which will include a regulatory impact assessment.

Meat: Labelling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to amend guidance on country of origin meat labelling. [198718]

Dawn Primarolo: Beef, veal and poultry meat (imported from outside the European Commission) must provide mandatory origin labelling. The Food Standards Agency has issued best practice guidance on the general provision of origin information that also covers other meats. This guidance is currently under revision, however, no changes are envisaged for the labelling of meat.

Medical Equipment: Public Participation

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received on the pilots of the community equipment retail model; what plans his Department has to extend the pilots; and if he will make a statement. [198726]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The transforming community equipment programme is currently preparing an evaluation report on the shadow running exercise for the community equipment retail model. It is expected that the evaluation report will be provided to Ministers in late spring.

One of the outputs from testing and validating an operational model through shadow running has been the creation of comprehensive implementation tools and materials. These are currently being tested by the latest sites participating in shadow running.

Currently there is no plan to extend shadow running. It will be a local decision whether the retail model is implemented.

NHS

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many locations the NHS has offices outside the United Kingdom. [198212]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS European office in Brussels is the only office located outside of the United Kingdom.

NHS Direct

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that NHS Direct remains a nurse-led organisation. [197381]

Mr. Bradshaw: Nurses carry out an important role in NHS Direct in assessing patients needs and, where appropriate, advising on self-care. Trained health advisors also have a role to play carrying out an initial assessment of patients' needs and referring callers to nurse colleagues, other health services or giving out health information. It is important that NHS Direct has the right skill-mix to deal with a variety of health calls and so nurses will continue to be a crucial part of the organisation.

NHS: Belgium

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff are employed in NHS offices in Brussels. [198211]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently four staff employed in the NHS European office in Brussels and one staff member based in London.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* functions and *(b)* objectives are of the NHS office in Brussels; and if he will make a statement. [198213]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS European office is part of the NHS confederation, more information about its functions and objectives can be found at the NHS European office's website at:

www.nhsconfed.org/euunit/Index.cfm

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there are per head of the population in each English county. [198449]

Ann Keen: The numbers of national health service dentists per 100,000 of the population are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report. Information is available by primary care trust and by strategic health authority, but is not available at county level, and is as at 30 June 2006, 30 September 2006, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007.

This report, published by the Information Centre for health and social care on 23 August 2007, is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

NHS: Drugs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-24W, on the NHS: drugs, what proportion of the profit margin achieved by pharmacy contractors was attributable to the reimbursement of category M medicines expenditure in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [199819]

Dawn Primarolo: According to the October 2005 and February 2006 invoice surveys, 94 per cent. of the total profit in 2005-06 came from drugs in Category M. Based on the April, July, October 2006 and January 2007 invoice surveys, this proportion is 89 per cent. These percentages use those sampled drugs actually in Category M in each month, which vary slightly between surveys.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated value is of HC2 and HC3 certificates issued between 2000-01 and 2006-07 to *(a)* students and *(b)* people aged under 25 years; [197375]

(2) how many people who applied for health cost exemptions with an HC1 form who received neither an HC2 or HC3 certificate between 2000-01 and 2006-07 were *(a)* students and *(b)* people aged under 25 years. [197376]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available about the value of National Health Service Low Income Scheme certificates HC2 and HC3. It is not possible to collect data about how an individual uses their certificate.

Information is not available about the number of students or people aged less than 25 who make an HC1 claim and did not receive a certificate HC2 or HC3.

People who apply on an HC1 may not receive either a HC2 or HC3 for three main reasons. They may fail to respond to requests for further information to enable an accurate assessment to proceed, they might have capital over the maximum limit or they may already be exempt on other grounds, for example, because they are in receipt of income support.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total annual administrative cost was of *(a)* the NHS Low Income Scheme, *(b)* processing HC1 forms and *(c)* issuing HC2 or HC3 certificates in the latest period for which figures are available; [197377]

(2) what the average administrative cost was of *(a)* processing an HC1 form and *(b)* issuing an HC2 or HC3 certificate in the latest period for which figures are available. [197378]

Dawn Primarolo: The Prescription Pricing Division of the National Health Service Business Service Authority has advised us that the overall cost of the administration of the NHS low income scheme for England, Scotland and Wales was £3.6 million for 2006-07. In that period, the average administrative cost, from receipt of an HC1 form, through to the issuing of an HC2 or HC3 certificate was £7.65. This also included the cost of issuing HC4 letters for those claimants not entitled to help with their health costs because their capital is in excess of the upper limit and LIS08 letters to claimants already entitled to full help with health costs, for example, because they receive income support. It is not possible to break this figure down further.

NHS: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration has been given to the application for long-term funding made by developing patient partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [177047]

Ann Keen: The Department has supported Developing Patient Partnerships (DPP) through two Section 64 specific grants since April 2003. The latest grant covering 2006-08 was conditional on the basis that DPP worked towards self-sufficiency from April 2008 by increasing their subscriber base.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS programme budgeting and marginal analysis data will be made publicly available. [197965]

Mr. Bradshaw: Programme budgeting expenditure data for the financial years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are publicly available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Financeandplanning/Programmebudgeting/DH_075743.

The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement has recently funded research into the practicalities of undertaking marginal analysis at three national health service sites. This work will inform how both the NHS Institute and the Department advises NHS organisations in their use of Programme Budgeting. The results of this work are currently being written up, with publication in a peer-reviewed journal planned for summer 2008.

To comply with the National Statistics Code of Practice and the Protocol on Data Access and Confidentiality, the Programme Budgeting Atlas, which is hosted by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development is not publicly available. Some of the statistics contained within the atlases are based on very small numbers of events and may, therefore, have the potential to identify individuals.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local service provider deployments *(a)* of acute departmental systems, (i) in emergency care (ii) in mental health and (iii) in primary care, *(b)* of picture archiving and communications systems and *(c)* of map of medicine and portals have been made, broken down by (A) local service provider, (B) trust, (C) hospital and (D) practice. [195829]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is provided in the following table. No information is held about 'portals'.

Deployment of departmental systems

Local service provider	*Care setting*	*Number of departmental systems*
BT	Acute Trust	63
	Ambulance Trust	1
	General practitioner (GP)	1,702
	Mental Health Trust	10
	Primary Care Trust (PCT)	63
BT total		1,839
CSC Alliance	Acute Trust	87
	Ambulance Trust	5
	GP	1,135
	Mental Health Trust	14
	PCT	129
CSC Alliance total		1,370
Fujitsu	Acute Trust	50
	Ambulance Trust	3
	Mental Health Trust	7
	PCT	40
Fujitsu total		100
Grand total		3,309

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated for NHS IT projects since 2005; and how much he expects to allocate in each year until 2010. [200106]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 123-24W.

National health service organisations have always been responsible for paying for and maintaining their existing information systems, and funding for this is built into general allocations. Information technology expenditure reported by the NHS in the 2005-06 financial year amounted to £1.329 billion, and in 2006-07 to £1.381 billion.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* linkages and *(b)* cross checks are planned between data records on individuals in (i) NHS IT systems and (ii) other Government IT systems. [200107]

Mr. Bradshaw: In accordance with the national health service care record guarantee and legal obligations of confidentiality, links will be made only with the consent of patients, or where there is a statutory obligation. A recent example of the latter is the Children Act 2004 which provides for the mandatory disclosure of some NHS patient information to the Department of Children, Schools and Family's ContactPoint system.

The strategy that underpins the national programme for information technology also envisaged that there would be appropriate integration of care records with social care where necessary for the care of patients. Until now, this has concentrated on close working to achieve a single assessment process between the NHS and social care with cross checks to agree the accuracy. Future linkages will be subject to feasibility work and agreements.

Other linkages exist for the purposes of care with the Ministry of Defence for the treatment of armed forces personnel and with the Ministry of Justice for the provision of health care for prisoners. In both cases, there are no plans to link NHS patient records, or perform cross-checks, with records in other Government information technology systems for non-care purposes.

NHS: Internet

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the making of contributions to Wikipedia pages related to the NHS by *(a)* administrative, *(b)* medical, *(c)* nursing and *(d)* other NHS staff; what guidance he has issued to health authorities and trusts on the allocation of resources to this work; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse in each of the last three years of time spent by NHS staff in contributing to Wikipedia online pages; and if he will make a statement. [195554]

Mr. Bradshaw: The only policies covering the creation or editing of information in the public domain applicable to departmental or national health service staff relate to acceptable use of resources and the code of conduct for staff. These policies apply to all grades, roles and professions and there has been no specific guidance issued relating to Wikipedia.

Organisations within the NHS operate their own local information technology systems but connect to the world wide web in the main via the centrally managed N3 communications network. The internal IP address is changed on the route out. This means that external web sites and the Wikipedia site would see one of a range of centralised gateway addresses rather than a specific individual internal personal computer IP address. Wikipedia has adopted the policy since August 2007 that no contribution is accepted from a source that cannot be attributed to an individual.

The reporting tool within Wikipedia shows only one document that has been edited using an IP address originating from the N3 network in the reporting period available. The cost to the public purse based on this information cannot be accurately quantified but is estimated to be less than £100.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any private finance initiative schemes in the NHS have been included in portfolios held in off-shore tax havens. [199516]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on where project companies delivering services to national health service trusts under private finance initiative contracts are registered for tax purposes is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Private Sector

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the comparative cost of outsourced *(a)* diagnostics and *(b)* operations in comparison to undertaking such procedures in-house in NHS trusts in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [198110]

Mr. Bradshaw: No estimate is available of the comparative cost of outsourced diagnostics and operations, and those undertaken in national health service trusts in 2006-07.

However, the 2006-07 "NHS reference costs" schedules, published in February 2008, contain information on the average cost of services delivered by NHS hospitals. The reference cost schedules also contain data relating to the average price to NHS organisations of a range of commissioned or contracted-out procedures undertaken by non-NHS providers. This information is available in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_082571

Obesity

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population of *(a)* England and (b) Sunderland that is clinically obese. [198488]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested.

Information on the proportion of adults aged over 16 years in England that are obese, broken down by Government Office Region and strategic health authority is collected in the Health Survey for England.

This information can be found in Health Survey for England 2006: Volume 1 'Cardiovascular disease and risk factors in adults' Tables 5.2 and 5.3 on pages 98 and 99 which was published on 31January 2008. This publication is available in the Library.

Estimated prevalence of obesity among adults aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals for Sunderland local authority are presented in Table one. These estimates are taken from Model-Based Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours, and are for combined years 2003-05. The proportion of people who are obese in Sunderland was found to be statistically significantly higher than the national estimate.

Model-Based estimates of obesity prevalence, Sunderland local authority 2003-05

	Percentages
Estimated prevalence of obesity	26.9
95 per cent. lower confidence interval	24.4
95 per cent. upper confidence interval	29.7

Note:
The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2003-05 (with associated confidence intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.
Source: Model-Based Estimates of Healthy Lifestyles Behaviours, 2003-05. Neighbourhood Statistics, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Obesity: Children

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children classified as obese in each of the last five years, broken down by age cohort. [198216]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the prevalence of obesity among children aged two to 10, 11 to 15 and two to 15, for the last five years up to 2006 can be found in the "Health Survey for England (HSE) 2006 latest trends", published 31 January 2008. The HSE publication is available in the Library.

Obesity: Standards

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1055W, on obesity, what baseline figure has been set for his Department's public service agreement target to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people. [198362]

Dawn Primarolo: As part of the public service agreement (PSA) for child health and well-being, the Government aim to reduce the rate of increase in obesity in children under 11-years-old over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. Health Survey for England data from 1995 to 2006 have been used to calculate a linear trend for obesity in children under 11. This linear trend suggests that childhood obesity is growing at 0.5 per cent. points per year and this growth rate has been used to forecast a baseline trajectory over the period, with child obesity increasing from 16.1 per cent. in 2006 (latest year of actual data) to 18.7 per cent. in 2011. Under the PSA the Government aim to reduce the rate of growth against this baseline trajectory.

Osteopathy

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Government has made of the merits of osteopathy in treating long-term musculoskeletal conditions; and if he will make a statement. [199823]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment of the merits of using osteopathy to treat long-term musculoskeletal conditions.

Patient Outcome and Death, Trauma: "Who Cares?"

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in response to the second report of the National Confidential Inquiry into Patient Outcome and Death: "Trauma, Who Cares?"; and if he will make a statement. [197853]

Ann Keen: In the NHS Next Stage Review, clinicians in nine strategic health authorities are discussing the best models of care, including acute care, which should lead to improved trauma services.

Patients

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition he uses of exceptional in relation to patients who are thereby given health treatments. [186956]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State does not define what constitutes exceptional in relation to the funding of treatment. If a primary care trust (PCT) has a general policy of not funding a particular treatment, it is for the PCT to determine whether there are exceptional circumstances that justify treatment in any individual case. What constitutes 'exceptional circumstances' depends on the treatment in question and is to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Pharmacology: Clinical Trials

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require pharmaceutical companies to disclose the evidence from all their clinical trials. [198666]

Dawn Primarolo: The conduct of clinical trials in the European Union (EU) is governed by EU law, implemented in the United Kingdom by means of regulations. These represent a comprehensive framework for the conduct of clinical trials, including requirements on reporting. However, following an investigation by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency into allegations that GlaxoSmithKline withheld relevant information gathered in clinical trials on the use of Seroxat in children and adolescents, some weaknesses in the law as it stood at the time of the alleged offences were identified. The Government have made a commitment to clarify and strengthen both EU and UK law in this area. We will seek to strengthen EU legislation on the obligations on pharmaceutical companies to report any information impacting on the risk and benefits of licensed medicines, including the results of clinical trials. In the meantime we will clarify the current law as it applies in the UK. Consultation on changes to UK law will take place in the summer.

Pharmacy: Payments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total reduction was in fees payable to pharmacies by primary care trusts as a result of the reduction in practice payment fees in the period from October 2007 to January 2008. [198791]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are only available for the three months October to December 2007. In this period, the reduction in total practice payment fees was £20 million.

Prescriptions: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of *(a)* dispensing and *(b)* non-dispensing GPs were using the Electronic Prescriptions Service system in each month since its inception; and how many and what proportion of prescriptions were issued in each month since the inception of the Electronic Prescriptions Service by (i) dispensing and (ii) non-dispensing general practitioners. [195346]

Mr. Bradshaw: The month-by-month split between dispensing and non-dispensing general practitioners (GPs) using the electronic prescription service (EPS) is not recorded. At present, it is not possible to differentiate between individual dispensing, and non-dispensing practice generated electronic prescription messages, and individual dispensing and non-dispensing GP prescribing behaviours.

The following table provides the combined total number of electronic prescriptions generated at both dispensing and non-dispensing doctor practices.

	Total number of EPS prescription messages generated by GPs	*Total number of EPS dispense notification messages sent by pharmacy*
2005		
February	607	158
March	3,442	1,110
April	2,887	1,284
May	3,576	1,624
June	3,394	700
July	6,135	1,176
August	6,432	1,118
September	14,400	1,504
October	46,039	1,485
November	69,823	1,844
December	68,365	2,451
2006		
January	87,074	1,594
February	153,771	809
March	260,898	3,476
April	262,952	2,458
May	439,427	2,227
June	662,362	7,594
July	816,584	4,248
August	1,083,300	7,793
September	1,362,209	8,955
October	1,361,877	17,110
November	1,539,616	22,396
December	1,607,737	23,308
2007		
January	1,988,882	31,708
February	2,223,368	44,690
March	2,617,552	59,528
April	2,493,531	51,913
May	3,351,179	89,128
June	3,575,681	126,382
July	4,454,930	158,129
August	4,982,637	191,288
September	4,935,859	226,683
October	6,291,931	273,948
November	5,855,981	276,397
December	5,573,366	255,016
2008		
January	6,897,355	370,909
February	6,623,597	428,500
1 March to 17 March	4,890,086	243,144
Total	75,003,880	2,951,526

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* doctors in other settings are (i) able to issue and (ii) regularly issuing electronic prescriptions. [195849]

Mr. Bradshaw: 6,676 (79 per cent.) of general practitioner practices have had the software upgrades needed to operate the electronic prescription service (EPS), of which 5,433 (64.1 per cent.) have been confirmed by primary care trusts as able to issue electronic prescriptions. Currently, over 1.5 million electronic prescription messages are issued each week. The number of individual general practitioners and doctors in other settings that are able to and regularly use the EPS is not captured nationally.

Royal Lancaster Infirmary

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many official complaints about treatment in *(a)* the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and *(b)* Westmorland General Hospital were received in each of the last five years. [194715]

Ann Keen: Written complaints about hospital and community services within Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust where treatment is recorded as the complaint is as follows:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
All aspects of clinical treatment	172	198	201
Consent to treatment	Nil	2	Nil

Notes:
1. Morecambe Bay NHS Trust contains Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Westmorland General Hospital, Furness General Hospital and Queen Victoria Hospital.
2. Data as at 1 April to 31 March.

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care.

Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1086W, on Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza, (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agendas for the (i) induction meeting on 4 March 2008 and (ii) meeting on 4 April 2008 and *(b)* the minutes of the induction meeting of 4 March 2008; and if he will make a statement; [R] [199241]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of the Scientific Advisory Sub-group on Modelling's minutes of its meetings of *(a)* 15 January 2007, *(b)* 29 March 2007, *(c)* 6 June 2007 and *(d)* 19 October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [R] [199242]

Dawn Primarolo: The Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza was reviewed in 2007 and has been replaced by the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Committee (SPI). The induction meeting on 4 March 2008 for SPI was informal to provide members with background information related to the pandemic influenza preparedness programme. No notes of the meeting were taken.

The agenda for the SPI induction, and its first meeting on 4 March 2008, have been placed in the Library. The agreed minutes of the SPI meeting will also be placed in the Library once they are available.

As a working group, the scientific sub-group on modelling does not take minutes as such, but instead updates their modelling summary based on the discussions held within the group and the conclusions reached. The latest available summary has been placed in the Library.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* 40 to 49, *(b)* 50 to 59, *(c)* 60 to 69, *(d)* 70 to 79 and *(e)* 80 years and above, were diagnosed with a sexually transmitted infection in each of the last five years, broken down by disease. [199985]

Dawn Primarolo: Data by age group are only collected for selected sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in certain age range formats which are 35 to 44, 45 to 64 and over 65. The number of STIs diagnosed in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics, within these age ranges broken down by infection from 2002 to 2006, the latest year for which figures are available, are shown in the following table.

Sexually transmitted infection	*Age group*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Uncomplicated chlamydial infection	35 to 44	5,559	5,828	5,962	6,170	6,501
	45 to 64	1,276	1,359	1,592	1,782	1,933
	over 65	59	80	72	65	81
Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	35 to 44	3,506	3,441	3,049	2,745	2,597
	45 to 64	1,145	1,182	1,108	1,005	1,102
	over 65	53	52	62	42	59
Anogenital herpes simplex—first attack	35 to 44	2,937	2,917	2,838	2,742	3,071
	45 to 64	1,379	1,294	1,363	1,412	1,563
	over 65	75	69	86	84	83
Anogenital warts—first attack	35 to 44	7,219	7,331	7,649	7,409	7,667
	45 to 64	2,800	3,037	3,155	3,220	3,425

Sexually transmitted infection	*Age group*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	over 65	185	191	214	190	217
Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	35 to 44	393	493	709	806	868
	45 to 64	172	237	335	443	411
	over 65	12	14	17	21	37

Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. Individual patients may have more than one diagnosis in a year.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
4. Data are not yet available for 2007.
5. Aggregated data are collected in a predefined format and age group can only be presented in the above categories.
6. Data by age group are only collected for selected STIs (uncomplicated chlamydial infection, uncomplicated gonorrhoea, anogenital herpes simplex—first attack, anogenital warts—first attack and primary and secondary infectious syphilis).

Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Children

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to reduce the number of children with sexually transmitted diseases. [199440]

Dawn Primarolo: Improving young people's sexual health is a priority for the Government and is being tackled in a number of ways. These include national media campaigns highlighting the benefits of delaying first sex and highlighting the risks of sexually transmitted infections and promoting condom use for those that are sexually active. We have also introduced a national target to offer access to genito-urinary medicine clinics within 48 hours and rolled out the National Chlamydia Screening Programme. These measures will reduce the risk of undiagnosed infection being transmitted to others.

Smoking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of banning the display of cigarettes in shops on smoking levels among *(a)* adults and *(b)* children. [198276]

Dawn Primarolo: In the "Cancer Reform Strategy" published in December 2007, the Department has undertaken to consult on the next steps in tobacco control later this year. We will consider evidence on the issue during the consultation. However, a preliminary assessment of the published evidence from jurisdictions including Canada, Australia and New Zealand suggests that in-store advertising of tobacco, including point-of-sale displays, has an impact on children and young people's attitudes to smoking.

Social Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what additional money allocated to social care from the NHS budget in Budget 2008 will be spent on in each year, broken down by budget; [198187]

(2) how much of the *(a)* £166 million in 2008-09, *(b)* £236 million in 2009-10 and *(c)* £230 million in 2010-11 to be transferred from the NHS England's resource DEL to the Department of Health's resource DEL is as a result of the transfer of functions from the NHS to social care; and how much has been transferred from the NHS to other Government departments in each year. [198189]

Mr. Bradshaw: £30 million (4 per cent.) only of the reported £692 million does not relate to transfer of functions from the national health service to social care. The £30 million that is not a transfer to social care comprises:

£20 million for a Ministry of Justice Transfer into NHS funds for Healthcare Escorts and Bed Watches that was assumed in NHS Baseline but not yet actioned on HM Treasury Database.

£10 million of small machinery of government type changes the largest being a £3.85 million transfer to cover Spanish pensions liabilities.

The following table gives an explanation of the transfers from NHS England's Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) to Personal Social Services (PSS) and other Government Departments.

Explanation of reported changes to NHS DEL position

		£ million	
	2009-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total Difference in reported NHS DEL positions	166	236	230
Of which:			
PSS pressures funded from NHS:			
Social Care Reform including prevention	65	165	158
Total	65	165	158
PSS pressures funded by transfer of NHS Function			
Area based grant: Local Involvement Networks (LINks)	27	27	27
Central support for grants LINks	1	1	1
Area based grant: Learning Disability Development Fund	43	43	43
Total	71	71	71
Others			
Technical Timing Issue (transfer into Department for Health DEL not yet actioned)	20	0	0
Other Government Department transfers	10	0	1
Total	30	0	1

Streptococcus: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1328W, on Streptococcus screening, when he expects to receive a response from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [199381]

Dawn Primarolo: NICE has not been asked to appraise the enriched culture method (ECM) test for Group B Streptococcus (GBS). NICE is currently revising the approach it takes in considering proposals for appraisals of diagnostics, including the proposal to appraise the ECM test for GBS. NICE's future approach for considering proposals for appraisals of diagnostics is expected to be considered by NICE's Board and the Department this year. NICE will consider the suitability of the proposed appraisal of the ECM test for GBS for referral to its work programme following the agreement of a new approach.

Surgery: Private Sector

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures have been carried out in non-NHS hospitals per annum at a cost to the public purse since 2000; and of these, how many resulted in episodes of *(a)* MRSA, *(b)* *Clostridium difficile* and *(c)* norovirus. [198622]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Finance, Performance and Operations (FPO) Directorate collects data on the independent sector (IS) programme and the IS extended choice network (IS ECN). We are unable to comment on other non-NHS hospitals.

Since the first IS treatment centres opened in 2003 a total of 250,345 elective procedures have been carried out through Wave 1 and Phase 2. In addition to this, 8,086 elective procedures have been carried out in the IS ECN programme to date, which started in January 2007.

For Wave 1, the FPO does not collect infection data through key performance indicators (KPIs).

Since August 2007 methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) rates for Phase 2 have been collected through three KPIs for MRSA (within 48 hours), MRSA (after 48 hours) and MRSA (repeat cultures). From August 2007 to February 2008 a rate of 0 per cent. for all MRSA KPIs is recorded.

Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dudley, North of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1435W, on translation services, how much was spent on translation services into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages in 2005 and 2006. [197546]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to provide the breakdown of expenditure requested as we do not keep specific records of translation costs by language. Total expenditure on translation services was:

2005: £154,720; and

2006: £180,319

This covered the translation of publications relative to England and Wales plus translations of correspondence in languages other than English.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2530W, on translation services, how much was spent on translation services into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages in 2007. [197547]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to provide the breakdown of expenditure requested as we do not keep specific records of translation costs by language. Total expenditure by the Department for the 2007 was £141,352.

This covered the translation of publications relative to England and Wales plus translations of correspondence in languages other than English.

Trauma

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice he issued to trusts on the provision of appropriately trained doctors to treat cases of severe trauma at the scene of the incident. [199337]

Mr. Bradshaw: The appropriate response to cases of severe trauma is a matter for the national health service to manage locally.

As part of the NHS Next Stage Review, however, clinicians in nine strategic health authorities are discussing the best models of care, including acute care, which should lead to improved trauma services.

The NHS Emergency Planning Guidance 2005 describes the arrangements for the organisation of immediate medical care at the scene of a major incident.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of pre-hospital care in trauma patients, with particular reference to airway management. [199406]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department expects the local national health service to have robust arrangements in place for managing the appropriate response to cases of severe trauma.

Ambulance staff are trained to provide airway care and are expected to act in line with specific clinical guidelines on airway care, as set out in the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee's clinical practice guidelines; which are available at:

www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/med/research/hsri/emergencycare/jrcalc_2006/guidelines/trauma_emergencies_in_adults_overview_2006.pdf

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 21 April 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Annuities

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will increase the age at which people are required to buy annuities from their pension funds; and if he will make a statement. [196726]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 27 March 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Government have no current plans to increase the age limit for compulsory annuitisation.

The Government set out their approach to annuities in their December 2006 publication: "The Annuities Market".

The age of earliest possible annuitisation will rise from 50 to 55 in 2010, in line with Government policy to encourage greater participation in the labour market by older workers. The latest available evidence suggests that the upper age limit (age 75) is not currently a significant constraint on retirement planning as only one in 20 people annuitise between ages 70 and 74. The limit therefore reflects current retirement patterns.

Evidence suggests that age 75 strikes a balance between flexibility in securing an income and ensuring that tax incentives are used for their intended purpose of providing a pension income.

The latest evidence from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) also shows that increasingly during an individual's early 70s—and certainly by around 75—the rates of return required from alternative assets become unrealistically high for any individual in retirement to justify further delaying annuitisation.

Carter & Carter Group

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on the persons undertaking training provided by Carter and Carter Group plc of the entry into administration of that company. [197240]

Mr. Timms: Carter and Carter continued to deliver all contracted services for my Department during its period in administration. The responsibility for these has now been transferred to the new owner, Newcastle College. There has been no impact on any services delivered for my Department by Carter and Carter from this change of ownership.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision he has made to ensure the continuous provision of places on employment training programmes following the entry into administration of Carter and Carter Group plc. [197263]

Mr. Timms: The administrator has sold most of the Carter and Carter group to Newcastle College, including the part of the group that delivers the contracts with my Department. Services have been provided as normal since entry into administration.

Child Support Agency

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a quarterly return showing the *(a)* average length of time taken to clear old scheme Child Support Agency cases and *(b)* the average age of uncleared cases under the old scheme. [184849]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 April 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make a quarterly return showing the (a) average length of time taken to clear old scheme Child Support Agency cases and (b) the average age of uncleared cases under the old scheme. [184849]

The Agency begins to process new applications as soon as they are received and continues until they have been cleared. Any old scheme applications that have not been recorded on our computer question systems as cleared have been regarded as outstanding in the answer to this question. The Agency has significantly reduced the number of old scheme cases recorded as uncleared from 66,900 in March 2006 to 30,200 in December 2007. This is a 55 per cent decrease since the introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan.

Additional information on uncleared old scheme cases can be found in table 2.1 of the December 2007 CSA Quarterly summary of statistics (QSS), available in the House of Commons Library on online at; http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

Old scheme cases shown as uncleared are by definition a number of years old, and will include a significant number of cases which are suspended as the non-resident par4ent remains untraced, or cases which have been maintained clerically or have in fact been closed but remain stuck on the computer system and therefore recorded as outstaying. The average length of time taken to clear old scheme cases and the average age of uncleared old scheme cases therefore increasingly becomes less meaningful.

As we move towards the launch of the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission the measures needed to improve transparency across the whole range of information available on child support will need to be carefully considered.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Debts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Child Support Agency's total gross debt outstanding was for the year April 2006 to March 2007; how much of this debt was accrued under the *(a)* old and *(b)* new system; and if he will make a statement. [193938]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 April 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Child Support Agency's total gross debt outstanding was for the year April 2006 to March 2007; how much of this debt was accrued under the (a) old and (b) new system; and if he will make a statement. [193938]

In answering this question, we have understood the old and new systems to refer to the old and new child support schemes and not the old and new child support computer systems. We are unable to classify the debt accrued in the year to March 2007 as you have requested and have therefore classified the total debt outstanding as at March 2007 in the attached table.

This debt has accrued over the 14 years of the Agency's operation and represents money owed by non-resident parents who have failed to meet their financial responsibilities towards their children.

The Agency's efforts are currently aimed at slowing the rate of growth and we have significantly slowed the rate at which debt accrues from around £20 million a month in 2005/2006 to around £16 million a month in 2006/2007. In total the Agency has collected over £181m in maintenance arrears since April 2006 and continues to make good progress towards meeting the Operational Improvement Plan commitment of collecting an additional £200m in arrears by March 2009 in addition to the £80m it was collecting each year at the inception of the plan.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Breakdown of debt: March 2007

Outstanding gross debt	*Total (£ billion)*
Accrued under old scheme assessment[1]	3.3
Accrued under new scheme assessment[2]	0.3
Unknown[3]	0.1
Total gross debt	3.7

[1] Includes debt accrued on cases assessed under old scheme assessment rules which are maintained on either the old and current computer systems (CSCS and CS2).
[2] Includes debt accrued on cases assessed under the new scheme only and assessed on the new computer system (CS2).
[3] Cases currently maintained on the current computer system (CS2) but where it is not possible to identify under which assessment scheme the debt accrued.

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the staffing costs of *(a)* the Child Support Agency in each year until it is wound up and *(b)* the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each of the first five years of operation. [193719]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2803W.

Information on staffing costs for the current financial year will be published in the Agency's 2007-08 Annual Report and Accounts.

All people who carry out functions of the Child Support Agency in Great Britain will move to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, at the same time as the functions are transferred.

Future staffing levels and costs will be for the Commission to decide.

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of child support cases had maintenance outstanding for periods of *(a)* zero to six weeks, *(b)* six to 12 weeks, *(c)* 12 weeks to six months, *(d)* six to nine months, *(d)* nine to 12 months and *(e)* over 12 months in each of the last 10 years; and how many and what proportion of these received payments from the Child Support Agency outside normal maintenance payments, broken down by type of payment; [185119]

(2) how much was paid by the Child Support Agency to families outside maintenance payments in each of the last 10 years, broken down by type of payment. [185125]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 April 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of child support cases had maintenance outstanding for periods of *(a)* zero to six weeks *(b)* six to 12 weeks *(c)* 12 weeks to six months *(d)* six to nine months *(d)* nine to 12 months and *(e)* over 12 months in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of these received payments from the Child Support Agency outside normal maintenance payments broken down by type of payment [185119]; and

You also asked how much was paid by the Child Support Agency to families outside maintenance payments in each of the last 10 years broken down by type of payment [185125].

In order to answer this question we have interpreted the proportion of cases with maintenance outstanding as the proportion of current cases with debt.

Information on the proportion of cases categorised by the age of the outstanding debt and held on the current computer system (CS2) is provided in the attached Table 1. This analysis can not be carried out on the information we hold on cases prior to February 2007, therefore the analysis is based on the latest information available at December 2007. It is also not possible to perform this analysis for cases maintained on the old computer system (CSCS). As at December 2007, 48 per cent of current cases on the CSCS system have debt outstanding.

The Child Support Agency operates a discretionary, non-statutory scheme providing financial redress for maladministration. Payments may be made to redress any financial losses incurred and can include consolatory payments made by way of an apology for delay, inconvenience, worry and distress caused.

It is not possible to include the information we hold on these payments in the analysis of the outstanding debt set out in Table 1. Therefore such information as is available on these payments has been provided separately in the attached Table 2.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Proportion of current cases with debt on CS2 by age of oldest debt, December 2007

Age of debt	*Proportion (percentage) of cases on CS2 with debt*
0 to 3 months	8
3 to 6 months	5
6 to 9 months	6
9 to 12 months	5
Over 12 months	45
Unknown	4

Notes:
1. Includes debt on cases maintained on CS2 only.
2. Only debt accrued while the case has been maintained on CS2 can be aged. Unknown age band includes cases where debt has migrated from the CSCS computer system.
3. Percentages rounded to nearest whole per cent.
4. The specific weekly age bands requested are not available. Monthly time bands available in the existing management information are instead provided.

Table 2: Number and value of payments made by Child Support Agency for financial loss, compensation for delay and consolatory payments

	Actual financial loss		*Compensation delay*		*Consolatory*	
	Number of payments authorised	*Total value of payments (£ million)*	*Number of payments authorised*	*Total value of payments (£ million)*	*Number of payments authorised*	*Total value of payments (£ million)*
1998-99	4,300	3.3	1,100	0.3	4,200	0.6
1999-2000	3,700	1.8	700	0.3	4,500	0.5
2000-01	5,200	1.9	800	0.2	6,600	0.7
2001-02	6,300	1.6	900	0.2	8,300	0.7
2002-03	5,900	1.3	700	0.2	8,400	0.7
2003-04	4,900	1.4	800	0.1	5,600	0.4
2004-05	7,100	2.4	1,700	0.1	9,000	0.6
2005-06	5,900	3.1	2,100	0.2	9,200	0.6
2006-07	4,700	2.5	1,900	0.4	9,200	0.7

Notes:
1. Figures relate to payments made. It is not possible to identify how many of the payments authorised are for families. Some payments may be for non-resident parents.
2. Number of authorised payments rounded to nearest £100,000 Value of payments rounded to nearest £100,000.
3. Figures to 2005-06 show payments awarded in each year for Actual Financial Loss, Compensation for Delay and Consolatory Payments. These will include timing differences when reconciling to the Annual Report & Accounts. Figures for 2006/7 are actual payments and are aligned with the Annual Report.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what number and proportion of cases with arrears outstanding the Child Support Agency is taking enforcement action, broken down by type of action being taken. [185121]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 April 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in what number and proportion of cases with arrears outstanding the Child Support Agency is taking enforcement action broken down by type of action being taken. [185121]

The data required to answer this question comes from several different information flows. Our information systems do not allow us to compare the number of cases with arrears outstanding to the number of individual enforcement actions taken. The Agency routinely reports on the number of enforcement actions instigated in Table 21 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics. This is available online at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp or in the House of Commons Library.

In the year to October 2007, the Agency undertook 102,120 new legal and administrative enforcement actions. These covered a range of processes including distress actions, county court judgement orders, 3rd party debt orders, charging orders, suspended committal sentences, committal sentences, requests for new deduction from earnings orders and deductions from earnings requests, suspended driving licence disqualifications and driving licence disqualifications. As the Agency records the numbers of enforcement actions rather than the number of cases, different types of enforcement action may relate to the same case.

In addition it should be noted that Table 9 of the Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics shows that a total of 169,700 deductions from earnings orders or requests were in place in October 2007. This figure will include all new deduction from earnings orders or requests noted in Table 21 and above.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parents with care *(a)* on and *(b)* not on income support and income based jobseeker's allowance were entitled to maintenance via the Child Support Agency in each quarter since 1997, broken down by region. [194668]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 April 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the chief executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many parents with care *(a)* on and *(b)* not on income support and income based jobseeker's allowance were entitled to maintenance via the Child Support Agency in each quarter since 1997, broken down by region.

The information requested is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Cases with a Positive Maintenance Liability broken down by Benefit Status and Region of the Parent with Care

	North East		North West		Yorkshire/Humberside	
	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)	*Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)*	*Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)*	*Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)*	*Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)*	*Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)*
February 1997	11,200	13,100	26,700	30,500	18,200	19,800
May 1997	10,900	14,100	26,100	31,400	17,700	21,400
August 1997	11,000	15,000	26,600	33,500	17,500	22,400
November 1997	10,900	16,300	26,000	36,600	16,800	24,500
February 1998	11,200	16,800	27,100	39,400	16,900	26,100
May 1998	11,700	17,900	27,700	42,800	17,100	27,400
August 1998	11,500	20,100	27,600	44,500	17,200	29,800
November 1998	11,900	20,600	26,400	45,100	17,300	31,700
February 1999	12,800	21,100	27,300	46,600	18,000	33,700
May 1999	13,100	22,500	28,000	48,900	18,500	35,500
August 1999	13,500	23,200	27,900	50,500	19,300	36,300
November 1999	14,500	24,300	27,800	52,600	18,900	37,600
February 2000	14,400	25,100	27,400	54,400	18,600	38,400
May 2000	14,500	25,500	27,300	55,400	18,100	39,300
August 2000	14,500	25,600	26,500	54,200	17,800	39,900
November 2000	14,400	25,900	25,600	54,800	17,200	39,900
February 2001	14,300	26,700	25,300	54,100	17,200	39,900
May 2001	14,000	27,400	23,600	53,800	16,500	40,600
August 2001	13,800	27,000	23,800	53,900	16,600	41,200
November 2001	13,600	28,200	22,800	54,200	16,000	42,500
February 2002	12,900	28,100	23,000	54,600	15,400	43,200
May 2002	12,400	27,800	23,300	55,000	15,300	43,500
August 2002	12,100	27,900	23,400	54,000	14,900	43,000
November 2002	11,500	28,500	22,900	56,300	14,200	44,000
February 2003	10,300	25,200	21,500	51,400	12,500	38,600
May 2003	10,100	24,300	21,300	50,000	12,500	38,200
August 2003	10,000	23,800	20,800	49,400	12,200	38,000
November 2003	9,800	23,100	20,900	50,600	11,700	38,600
February 2004	10,200	23,400	22,200	50,900	12,100	39,000
May 2004	10,300	24,200	23,000	52,400	12,700	39,700
August 2004	10,800	25,000	24,100	54,600	13,700	40,600
November 2004	11,600	27,000	25,800	58,500	15,400	43,400
February 2005	12,000	27,300	26,700	60,300	15,800	44,300
May 2005	12,300	27,500	28,000	61,900	16,900	45,200
August 2005	12,800	27,700	29,000	62,300	17,500	46,300
November 2005	13,200	28,400	29,700	63,300	18,500	47,200
February 2006	13,900	28,700	31,200	64,100	19,800	47,500
May 2006	14,700	29,000	32,700	64,400	20,500	48,500
August 2006	15,100	29,300	34,300	65,200	21,600	49,000
November 2006	15,600	29,900	35,000	66,800	21,800	48,000
February 2007	16,500	29,500	35,800	65,300	22,800	48,500
May 2007	17,100	30,600	37,100	68,000	24,300	50,200

	North East		North West		Yorkshire/Humberside	
	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)	*Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)*	*Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)*	*Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)*	*Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)*	*Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)*
February 1997	12,400	14,400	19,700	20,000	16,100	17,100
May 1997	12,200	15,400	19,000	21,700	15,400	19,100
August 1997	12,300	16,300	19,000	23,100	15,400	20,600
November 1997	12,100	18,500	18,100	25,500	15,300	22,400
February 1998	12,200	19,700	18,500	26,900	15,700	23,800
May 1998	11,900	20,900	18,100	29,300	15,700	25,500
August 1998	12,300	22,600	18,600	30,200	16,200	26,900
November 1998	12,500	24,000	18,200	32,000	16,500	28,600

	North East		North West		Yorkshire/Humberside	
	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (1B)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA 1B)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (1B)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA 1B)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (1B)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA 1B)
February 1999	13,200	25,300	17,900	33,800	16,500	30,000
May 1999	13,400	26,700	18,500	34,900	16,700	31,600
August 1999	13,600	27,300	19,100	36,000	17,200	32,000
November 1999	12,900	28,500	18,500	37,200	16,600	33,600
February 2000	12,400	29,800	18,300	38,200	16,100	34,600
May 2000	12,200	30,200	18,300	38,600	16,200	35,400
August 2000	12,400	30,600	18,500	38,500	16,400	35,700
November 2000	11,700	30,800	17,600	37,900	15,800	35,900
February 2001	11,700	31,100	17,500	37,000	15,900	35,600
May 2001	11,400	31,200	16,300	36,700	15,400	36,200
August 2001	11,200	31,500	15,900	36,900	15,000	36,900
November 2001	11,100	32,000	14,900	37,300	14,300	38,200
February 2002	10,600	32,700	15,000	37,800	14,000	38,300
May 2002	10,500	33,100	14,800	38,300	13,800	38,800
August 2002	9,900	32,800	14,800	37,800	13,300	38,000
November 2002	9,200	33,800	14,000	38,200	12,900	38,900
February 2003	8,400	28,900	13,200	34,300	12,100	33,400
May 2003	8,000	28,600	12,700	33,100	11,500	32,900
August 2003	8,200	28,300	12,000	32,900	11,000	33,300
November 2003	8,300	28,400	12,600	33,500	10,600	33,800
February 2004	8,400	29,100	13,600	33,900	10,700	33,300
May 2004	8,600	29,900	14,200	35,200	11,200	34,000
August 2004	9,300	30,900	15,000	36,300	12,000	35,300
November 2004	10,600	32,700	15,900	39,300	12,800	37,400
February 2005	10,800	33,700	16,300	40,400	13,300	38,100
May 2005	11,400	34,700	16,700	41,100	14,000	38,700
August 2005	12,000	35,100	17,400	41,900	14,800	39,700
November 2005	12,500	36,100	18,600	43,300	15,500	40,600
February 2006	13,000	37,000	20,400	44,200	16,500	41,400
May 2006	14,000	38,100	22,500	45,100	17,300	42,300
August 2006	14,800	39,000	23,800	45,600	18,000	43,400
November 2006	15,100	37,700	24,500	46,900	18,400	43,200
February 2007	15,700	38,100	25,000	46,800	18,700	42,400
May 2007	16,700	39,700	26,100	48,500	19,500	44,000

	London		South East		South West	
	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (1B)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA 1B)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (1B)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA 1B)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (1B)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA 1B)
February 1997	19,200	13,400	23,000	28,100	15,400	21,000
May 1997	18,800	14,200	22,400	30,800	15,700	22,300
August 1997	18,900	14,700	22,900	32,700	16,000	24,900
November 1997	18,400	16,700	23,100	35,300	15,700	26,800
February 1998	18,700	17,900	22,700	37,800	15,700	27,400
May 1998	18,800	18,500	22,700	39,400	15,900	29,100
August 1998	19,000	19,200	23,200	40,800	16,200	30,000
November 1998	19,300	20,200	22,900	43,300	16,600	30,600
February 1999	20,200	21,200	23,600	43,400	17,300	30,300
May 1999	20,400	21,900	23,800	45,500	17,500	32,000
August 1999	21,000	22,500	24,800	46,300	17,400	33,200
November 1999	21,500	23,300	25,200	48,300	17,100	35,000
February 2000	21,300	24,400	24,900	49,500	17,400	36,300
May 2000	21,000	25,600	24,500	51,300	17,400	37,600
August 2000	21,500	25,800	24,200	51,800	17,400	38,000
November 2000	20,400	25,900	22,900	50,900	16,300	36,300
February 2001	19,900	24,700	22,300	50,600	15,500	36,400
May 2001	19,400	25,000	21,500	51,000	14,600	36,400
August 2001	19,200	25,300	21,300	51,300	14,500	36,500
November 2001	18,100	26,700	21,100	53,200	14,500	37,500
February 2002	18,100	27,100	21,900	53,400	15,000	37,700
May 2002	18,000	27,600	22,100	54,400	15,300	38,400
August 2002	18,000	26,900	22,200	54,400	15,300	37,800
November 2002	18,200	26,900	21,400	55,200	14,500	37,800

	London		South East		South West	
	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA (IB)
February 2003	17,700	24,200	20,000	49,600	13,700	34,500
May 2003	17,400	24,200	19,200	49,100	13,000	34,800
August 2003	17,100	24,400	19,200	48,900	13,000	35,500
November 2003	17,300	25,100	19,300	50,100	13,000	36,600
February 2004	17,800	25,900	20,200	50,700	13,800	37,300
May 2004	18,700	26,400	21,900	52,200	14,300	38,600
August 2004	20,000	27,300	21,600	53,700	14,700	40,300
November 2004	21,500	28,900	23,000	57,400	16,100	42,800
February 2005	21,500	29,400	23,300	58,300	16,400	44,100
May 2005	22,300	30,200	24,700	59,500	17,000	45,300
August 2005	24,000	31,100	26,000	60,600	18,000	46,300
November 2005	25,700	32,200	26,800	62,300	18,200	47,300
February 2006	27,400	32,800	27,900	63,700	18,600	48,200
May 2006	29,100	33,400	28,800	65,200	19,000	48,900
August 2006	30,600	34,200	29,500	66,100	19,500	49,600
November 2006	31,300	34,700	29,500	67,700	19,900	50,200
February 2007	31,100	32,600	29,600	65,300	20,300	48,800
May 2007	32,700	33,700	30,500	67,400	20,800	50,300

	Wales		Scotland		Unknown/Abroad/N. Ireland	
	Parent with Care on IS/MSA (IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA (IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA (IB)
February 1997	12,200	12,700	16,300	18,600	0	0
May 1997	11,900	13,500	15,700	19,100	0	0
August 1997	12,200	14,400	15,700	20,600	0	0
November 1997	12,200	16,100	15,500	22,500	0	100
February 1998	12,500	17,600	15,600	23,400	0	100
May 1998	12,600	19,100	16,000	25,400	0	100
August 1998	13,200	19,900	17,000	26,300	0	100
November 1998	12,700	19,600	17,000	27,500	0	100
February 1999	13,900	20,500	17,700	29,800	0	100
May 1999	14,200	21,300	19,300	31,500	0	200
August 1999	14,800	21,900	20,400	32,500	0	300
November 1999	14,700	23,000	20,200	34,700	0	300
February 2000	14,300	23,800	20,100	36,500	0	300
May 2000	13,900	24,800	19,600	37,900	0	300
August 2000	13,600	23,700	19,800	38,500	0	300
November 2000	13,300	23,800	19,100	39,400	0	300
February 2001	13,200	23,900	19,300	39,300	0	300
May 2001	12,600	23,700	18,900	40,100	0	300
August 2001	12,400	24,200	19,000	40,300	0	300
November 2001	11,900	24,600	18,300	42,100	0	300
February 2002	12,000	24,200	17,500	42,100	0	200
May 2002	12,500	24,300	16,900	41,500	0	200
August 2002	12,700	24,400	17,500	40,500	0	200
November 2002	12,500	25,200	16,600	42,300	0	300
February 2003	11,100	23,600	15,200	37,400	0	300
May 2003	10,900	23,600	14,900	36,700	2,800	4,400
August 2003	10,500	23,100	14,800	36,000	8,300	9,900
November 2003	10,700	23,400	14,400	34,800	13,700	14,700
February 2004	11,000	23,800	15,100	35,300	15,300	15,800
May 2004	11,600	24,500	15,200	35,900	13,900	15,000
August 2004	12,100	25,100	16,400	37,000	9,600	11,300
November 2004	12,800	27,100	17,800	39,600	400	1,200
February 2005	13,400	27,600	18,300	40,600	300	1,200
May 2005	13,700	28,000	18,700	41,100	300	1,200
August 2005	14,400	28,200	19,400	41,800	300	1,300
November 2005	14,900	28,300	20,100	43,100	300	1,400
February 2006	15,500	28,400	21,400	43,700	300	1,400
May 2006	15,700	28,800	22,700	43,900	300	1,500
August 2006	16,200	28,900	23,600	43,900	300	1,500
November 2006	16,400	29,600	23,600	45,200	300	1,600

	Wales		Scotland		Unknown/Abroad/N Ireland	
	Parent with Care on IS/MSA/(IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA/(IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)	Parent with Care on IS/JSA/(IB)	Parent with Care not on IS/JSA IB)
February 2007	16,800	28,900	24,000	44,500	360	1,600
May 2007	17,000	30,100	24,800	46,000	400	1,700

Notes:
1. Volumes are at a case level. Parents with care involved in more than one case will be included multiple times.
2. Includes all cases with a positive maintenance liability.
3. On benefit defined as cases where parent with care is in receipt of income support or income based jobseeker's allowance or if the partner of the parent with care is in receipt of either of these benefits.
4. Unknown, Northern Ireland and Abroad category includes cases where the postcode of the parent with care is not recorded on management information. A large increase in 'unknown' region cases occurred from March 2003 onwards with the introduction of the new CS2 computer system. A data cleanse operation took place towards the end of 2004 to solve this problem.
5. Figures rounded to nearest 100.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons children seeking asylum are not included in the Government's target to eradicate child poverty in the UK by 2020. [197412]

Mr. Timms: The target to eradicate child poverty does not exclude children of asylum seekers. Children of asylum seekers are already included in the child poverty statistics and therefore in the target unless they live in households that have been resident in the UK for less than six months or live in communal addresses such as hostels, hotels and boarding houses.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196940]

Mrs. McGuire: No central records are held on when wine has been served at events held by DWP and these could only be obtained at disproportional cost.

In accordance with Government policy the Department is committed to fair trade and ethical supply routes. Where practicable, the Department aims to purchase sustainable produce for sale on departmental premises and for receptions and meetings wherever these meet our business requirements and give at least as good value for money. The Department is working with its facilities management contractor who provide where premises allow, in house catering services, on the feasibility of introducing a target to increase the supply of Fair Trade goods.

Departmental Data Protection

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1349W, on departmental data protection, in what circumstances transfers of data take place under statutory gateways; which information transfers fall *(a)* within and *(b)* outside the statutory gateway; and if he will place in the Library copies of the memorandums of understanding, partnership agreements and codes of practice which set out the relationship between it and HM Revenue and Customs. [173277]

Mr. Timms: Transfers of personal data in bulk between the Department for Work and Pensions and other departments or organisations takes place only under and in compliance with the relevant statutory gateways, for example those contained in sections 121E to 123 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992.

In addition the Department on occasions discloses personal data on a case-by-case basis relying on common law powers, for example to the police for the prevention and detection of crime.

All bulk transfers and individual disclosures of personal data are made in accordance with the Data Protection Act and within the terms of the Department's formal registration under the Act.

The following copies of agreements between the Department and HM Revenue and Customs have been placed in the Library:

1. Working Level Agreement between the relevant Government Departments involved in the administration and distribution of Healthy Start vouchers to eligible recipients in the United Kingdom.

2. Service Level Agreement for the Job Outcome Targets (JOT) project.

3. Partnership Agreement for the referral and investigation of suspected benefit and tax credit fraud cases.

Departmental Leaflets

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of each public information leaflet issued by his Department. [195768]

Mrs. McGuire: We are arranging for copies of the current versions of all the Department's public information leaflets to be placed in the Library.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on, *(a)* pensions-related, *(b)* retirement benefit and *(c)* other benefit-related leaflets in each of the last 10 years. [195771]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions began a complete review of all its public facing leaflets during 2006. This initiative has reduced the number of leaflets published by the Department from 178 in June 2006 to just 66 today.

The Department also procured, from July 2007, a single supplier for its print and associated services which, amongst other things, will enable us to capture the costs of producing material for the public in the future.

The review of all the Department's leaflets, coupled with the change of supplier means that identifying and obtaining the costs of all the material published prior to July 2007 could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198286]

Mr. Timms: S43 of the Welfare Reform Act 2007 not yet in force, will make it an offence for a local authority employee to make an unauthorised disclosure of benefit information obtained under S42 of the same Act.

No other new offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions since July 2007.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessors since May 1997. [198318]

Mr. Timms: No offences have been repealed/abolished by primary legislation sponsored by the DWP since May 1997.

Departmental Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people each of his Department's executive agencies employed in each of the last five years. [198352]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of staff employed by the Department for Work and Pensions' Executive agencies as at the end of March each year is set out in the following table.

Headcount

March each year	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Pensions Service*	*Agency Disability and Carers*	*Child Support*	*The Rent Service*
2003	86,720	19,463	8,005	12,616	—
2004	87,773	21,111	7,977	12,292	—
2005	81,353	17,589	7,273	10,994	742
2006	79,366	15,109	7,158	12,411	696
2007	75,906	13,888	6,731	12,614	662

Note:
The Rent Service joined DWP in 2004-05.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* Ministers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in the last 12 months. [193540]

Mrs. McGuire: During 2007-08, the Department employed an average of 116,000 staff. The total cost of their overnight accommodation when on official business was as follows for the 12 months from March 2007 to February 2008.

	£
Great Britain	11,286,364
Northern Ireland	61,001
Republic of Ireland	503
Other Countries	73,067

Information on overnight accommodation in Great Britain is not recorded separately for Ministers or special advisers and is included in the aforementioned table. This does not include accommodation costs for overseas visits by Ministers and special advisers, as this information is invoiced and paid for separately and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196752]

Mrs. McGuire: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198933]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP, in common with other Government Departments, records sickness absences against a list of standard definitions. Stress related absences are recorded under the single category of "depression, anxiety and other mental health issues".

The following table shows the number of working days lost due to depression, anxiety and other mental health issues in each month since April 2007, as recorded on the Department's personnel computer system.

Information prior to April 2007 is held on a number of old systems. The cost of extracting this information, in the format requested, from these systems, for the period prior to April 2007, would be disproportionate.

The Department is committed to reducing sickness absences caused by depression, anxiety and other mental health issues. Our approach is to support employees, for example by providing access to professional stress counselling, and to use qualified occupational health advice to help them return to work when they do take sickness absence.

	Working days lost (FTE)	Total working days available (FTE)	Working days lost as percentage of total working days available
February 2008	16,824	1,949,176	0.86
January 2008	18,201	2,043,942	0.89
December 2007	16,565	1,684,523	0.98
November 2007	21,698	2,063,980	1.05
October 2007	22,618	2,160,959	1.05
September 2007	19,281	1,892,521	1.02
August 2007	22,341	2,089,811	1.07
July 2007	21,976	2,096,551	1.05
June 2007	20,539	2,010,288	1.02
May 2007	22,492	1,932,301	1.16
April 2007	21,237	1,751,189	1.21

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198958]

Mrs. McGuire: The average number of working days lost due to sick leave by DWP staff in each of the last five years, as published in the annual Cabinet Office report is set out in the following table.

	Number
2006-07	11.1
2005	10.1
2004	9.6
2003	11.6
2002	10.8

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198975]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available or held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197072]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table gives a break down of the number of people in The Department for Work and Pensions (and its agencies), who have attended the events specified during the past 12 months 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008.

	Number	£
Working Assertively	5	3,630
Balancing Work/Life Realities	Nil	—
Managing your Confidence	2	2,298
Counselling Skills for the Workplace	Nil	—
Influencing with Integrity	10	7,260
Emotional Intelligence	1	1,495

Source:
National School of Government

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department and its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies on translation services from English into *(a)* Welsh and *(b)* other languages in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08. [197607]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* I have provided the availability and the range of options for translation services in DWP and the following table shows spend for the areas where details are available.

Please note, for the earlier years (2003-04, 2004-05) spend data are not fully available so I have provided all the relevant information available.

DWP provides a wide range of translation services including the translation of leaflets into a range of ethnic languages and all publications for DWP's customers must be available in Welsh. DWP also translates individual and ad hoc items such as letters and guidance for forms including back translating of all claim forms.

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]
Translating English to Welsh	24,973	30,885	20,766	50,759	31,535
Translating English to other languages	n/a	n/a	120,720	170,055	9,163

[1] Recorded to date

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194972]

Mrs. McGuire: From January 2003 to date, excluding a large block of cases challenging the Department's then dress code which were brought in 2003, the Department has been the respondent in 56 cases alleging race discrimination, 79 cases alleging sex discrimination and seven cases alleging discrimination relating to sexual orientation.

31 of these cases were settled; 14 of which related to sex discrimination, 13 related to race discrimination and four related to discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation.

The available statistics do not show at which point in a case the settlement took place.

Employment: Disabled People

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent disability employment advisers were in post in England in each of the last five years. [196981]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 21 April 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many full-time equivalent Disability Employment Advisers were in post in England in each of the last five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are currently 500.81 full time equivalent Disability Employment Advisers in Jobcentre Plus of which 415.05 are in England. During 2005 and 2006 there was an average of 570 full time equivalent Disability Employment Advisers in Jobcentre Plus. We are not able to identify how many of these were based in England.

We are unable to provide numbers of Disability Employment Advisers in England for the years 2000 - 2004.

I hope this information is helpful.

Employment: Females

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to meet the Lisbon Treaty strategy objective of increasing female employment; and if he will make a statement. [190890]

Mr. Plaskitt: The UK has already exceeded the Lisbon target for getting the female employment rate above 60 per cent. by 2010. The female working age employment rate is 70.2 per cent., up from 67.3 per cent. in February-April 1997.

We do not have a further target specifically for the female employment rate but there is a target to raise the employment rate overall. Clearly our efforts to achieve that should help raise employment across the board and some of our initiatives, for example on lone parents, while increasing employment among both men and women, are likely to have a particular impact on the female employment rate.

Employment: Tribunals

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment tribunals with *(a)* three members, *(b)* two members and *(c)* one member adjudicating sat in each of the last five years. [184574]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The precise information on the number of panel members is not held centrally. To gather the required information would require the development of a new report, to do so would be of disproportionate cost.

However, hearings are normally conducted by panels comprising three members—one is a member of the judiciary and the other two are lay members. Available data of the number of session days for panel members are shown in the following table.

Year (April to March)	*Total session days for the judiciary*	*Total session days for lay members*
2004-05	29,300	
2005-06	29,800	
2006-07	29,800	
2007-08[1]	25,900	34,100

[1] April 2007 to January 2008.

To obtain figures for lay members not centrally held until 2007 would be at a disproportionate cost.

Figures for the number of days of single judge hearings have been collected since February 2007. The latest available figure is 8,100 sit alone days compared with 25,900 session days for the period April 2007 to March 2008 (or 31 per cent. of the total).

Government Offices for the Regions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of his Department's programme budgets were administered by the Government Offices for the Regions in each of the last five years. [195173]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 18 March 2008]:* Government offices have directly administered the European Social Fund programmes on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions for each of the last five years.

Housing Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average housing benefit payment was in each year since 1990. [196685]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Average weekly amount of housing benefit in Great Britain from 1990 to 2007

	£
1990	21.30
1991	25.40
1992	30.00
1993	33.70
1994	36.60
1995	39.60

Average weekly amount of housing benefit in Great Britain from 1990 to 2007

	£
1996	41.60
1997	42.40
1998	43.60
1999	44.90
2000	46.80
2001	49.00
2002	52.40
2003	58.40
2004	57.30
2005	61.10
2006	64.60
2007	68.20

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. For this request the amounts have been rounded to the nearest 10 pence.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit excludes any extended payment cases.
5. Figures taken from May each year up to 1996 and February each year from 1997.
6. Figures are in nominal terms.

Sources:
Social Security Statistics Publication May 1990 to May 1996; and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in February 1997 to February 2007.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* working age adults were in receipt of incapacity benefit and *(b)* households in each Metropolitan council area were workless in the most recent period for which figures are available. [181649]

Mrs. McGuire: At May 2007 7.2 per cent. of working age adults were claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance.

Information about working age workless households is in the following table:

Working age workless households[1], April to June 2007, not seasonally adjusted)

	Proportion (percentage) by Metropolitan council area
GB	16.1
Barnsley	25.0
Birmingham	21.4
Bolton	18.0
Bradford	17.7
Bury	14.4
Calderdale	19.2
Coventry	16.0
Doncaster	21.3
Dudley	18.5
Gateshead	19.9
Kirklees	17.3
Knowsley	27.0
Leeds	17.3
Liverpool	25.2
Manchester	24.7
Newcastle Upon Tyne	20.9
North Tyneside	19.2
Oldham	25.1
Rochdale	26.0
Rotherham	19.6
Salford	23.7
Sandwell	22.9
Sefton	22.0
Sheffield	18.6
Solihull	14.0
South Tyneside	23.3
St. Helens	26.5
Stockport	14.4
Sunderland	23.5
Tameside	17.2
Trafford	7.4
Wakefield	15.6
Walsall	18.4
Wigan	22.8
Wirral	18.3
Wolverhampton	26.7

[1] A workless household is a household with at least one person of working age (men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59), and in which no one aged 16 or over is in employment.

Notes:
1. Base for percentages excludes households with unknown economic activity status.
2. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin or uncertainty. *Source:* Labour Force Survey.

Income Support: Mortgages

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of claim for income support mortgage interest was (i) inside and (ii) outside London in each year since 1995. [196681]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available in the format requested. Information is not available prior to 1997. The available information is in the following table.

Claimants of income support mortgage interest by duration of claim in Great Britain (GB) and the London Government office region as at May each year

	All GB	*Rest of GB*	*London*
1997			
All	302,500	261,000	41,500
Up to 3 months	7,500	6,800	700
3 months up to 6 months	12,900	11,300	1,500
6 months up to 1 year	24,400	21,200	3,100
1 year and up to 2 years	43,800	38,100	5,700
2 years and up to 5 years	105,700	90,300	15,500
5 years and over	108,200	93,300	15,000
1998			
All	282,700	243,600	38,600
Up to 3 months	6,400	5,700	600
3 months up to 6 months	12,100	10,500	1,500
6 months up to 1 year	25,500	22,400	3,100
1 year and up to 2 years	36,800	32,100	4,700
2 years and up to 5 years	87,800	75,200	12,600
5 years and over	113,600	97,600	16,000
1999			
All	264,500	228,800	35,800
Up to 3 months	6,400	5,800	600
3 months up to 6 months	10,700	9,600	1,100

Claimants of income support mortgage interest by duration of claim in Great Britain (GB) and the London Government office region as at May each year

	All GB	Rest of GB	London
6 months up to 1 year	22,000	19,600	2,500
1 year and up to 2 years	36,600	31,800	4,900
2 years and up to 5 years	75,400	64,800	10,600
5 years and over	113,400	97,200	16,200
2000			
All	249,800	216,300	33,500
Up to 3 months	6,200	5,600	600
3 months up to 6 months	8,900	7,900	1,000
6 months up to 1 year	18,600	16,400	2,200
1 year and up to 2 years	34,500	30,300	4,200
2 years and up to 5 years	68,500	59,300	9,200
5 years and over	113,200	96,800	16,400
2001			
All	241,700	210,200	31,500
Up to 3 months	5,700	5,100	600
3 months up to 6 months	9,300	8,500	800
6 months up to 1 year	21,700	19,700	2,000
1 year and up to 2 years	31,100	27,300	3,800
2 years and up to 5 years	65,000	56,600	8,500
5 years and over	108,900	93,100	15,800
2002			
All	227,500	198,300	29,200
Up to 3 months	4,000	3,700	400
3 months up to 6 months	6,900	6,400	500
6 months up to 1 year	15,200	13,800	1,400
1 year and up to 2 years	34,000	30,500	3,500
2 years and up to 5 years	62,400	54,200	8,200
5 years and over	104,900	89,700	15,200
2003			
All	216,200	188,500	27,700
Up to 3 months	2,900	2,600	200
3 months up to 6 months	6,800	6,000	700
6 months up to 1 year	14,700	13,200	1,500
1 year and up to 2 years	26,500	23,600	2,800
2 years and up to 5 years	62,200	54,500	7,700
5 years and over	103,200	88,500	14,700
2004			
All	112,900	98,400	14,500
Up to 3 months	1,600	1,500	200
3 months up to 6 months	3,000	2,700	300
6 months up to 1 year	7,100	6,400	800
1 year and up to 2 years	15,700	13,900	1,800
2 years and up to 5 years	33,700	29,600	4,200
5 years and over	51,700	44,300	7,400
2005			
All	104,400	91,800	12,700
Up to 3 months	1,400	1,400	100
3 months up to 6 months	2,900	2,700	200
6 months up to 1 year	7,000	6,300	700
1 year and up to 2 years	13,500	11,900	1,600
2 years and up to 5 years	30,600	27,100	3,500
5 years and over	49,000	42,400	6,600
2006			
All	96,800	85,000	11,900
Up to 3 months	1,000	1,000	100
3 months up to 6 months	2,600	2,300	300
6 months up to 1 year	6,800	6,100	700
1 year and up to 2 years	13,100	11,400	1,700
2 years and up to 5 years	26,400	23,300	3,100
5 years and over	46,900	40,900	6,000
2007			
All	91,100	79,600	11,400
Up to 3 months	900	900	100
3 months up to 6 months	2,600	2,300	200
6 months up to 1 year	5,900	5,200	700
1 year and up to 2 years	12,300	10,700	1,500
2 years and up to 5 years	24,900	21,700	3,200
5 years and over	44,500	38,800	5,700

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures have been taken from 5 per cent. samples and uprated in line with 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
3. Figures are based on 5 per cent. samples and are therefore subject to sampling variation.
4. Figures are affected by the introduction of tax credits in April 2003 and claimants aged 60 or over who transferred to pension credit in October 2003.
5. Jobseeker's allowance was introduced in October 1996 and replaced unemployment benefit (UB) and income support (IS) as the benefit for unemployed people seeking work. Therefore a consistent IS time series is shown from May 1997.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. samples

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what rate of interest is used to calculate income support mortgage interest payments; and how this rate is determined. [196682]

Mr. Plaskitt: The standard rate of interest used to calculate support for mortgage interest payments in income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and state pension credit is currently 6.83 per cent. which is determined by adding 1.58 per cent. to the current Bank of England base rate of 5.25 per cent.

From December 2004, the standard rate has been calculated using the Bank of England Base Rate plus an additional 1.58 per cent. Using the Bank of England base rate provides a more representative rate than the previous method, which was based upon an average of building society interest rates. The 1.58 per cent. was added to ensure that no-one lost out when the method of calculation changed.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of paying income support mortgage interest was in each year since 1995. [196683]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of increasing the upper limit of capital supported by income support mortgage interest to *(a)* £110,000, *(b)* £120,000, *(c)* £130,000, *(d)* £140,000, *(e)* £150,000, *(f)* £160,000, *(g)* £170,000, *(h)* £180,000, *(i)* £190,000, *(j)* £200,000, *(k)* £210,000, *(l)* £220,000, *(m)* £230,000, *(n)* £240,000 and *(o)* £250,000. [196684]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices are accessible by appointment only. [195776]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 21 April 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many Jobcentre Plus offices are accessible by appointment only. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All our Jobcentres are accessible to our customers without an appointment.

To avoid sometimes unnecessary waiting, appointments are booked for customers who have an inquiry or wish to see an Adviser. In many instances however, an Adviser or other member of staff will be free to see a customer immediately.

Customers are able to use our Jobpoints or public phones without an appointment.

Jobcentre Plus: Security Guards

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Jobcentre Plus offices employ security staff to guard the doors of the offices; and what guidance is offered to Jobcentre Plus offices regarding the employment of security staff. [195770]

Mr. Timms: Land Securities Trillium (LST) provides security personnel to Jobcentre Plus offices as part of their responsibilities under the terms of the Department's PRIME PFI contract.

Security personnel (Security Guards and Customer Care Officers (CCO)) are employed at 688 Jobcentre Plus offices. The security service requirement is detailed in the PRIME contract, and the role and job description of the CCOs has been agreed with Jobcentre Plus and is available to staff at each Jobcentre Plus office.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephones

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many customer access telephones are available in Jobcentre Plus offices in the UK; and how many offices do not have this facility; [195774]

(2) how many calls were made using customer access telephones in Jobcentre Plus offices in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [195775]

Mr. Timms: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 21 April 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many customer access phones are available in Jobcentre Plus offices in the UK and how many offices do not have this facility; and how many calls were made using customer access phones in Jobcentre Plus offices in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We have 3,841 customer access 'warm phones' available in Jobcentre Plus. All Jobcentres have this warm phone facility.

Information on the number of calls made from warm phones is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed jobseeker's allowance for more than 24 months in the last *(a)* 36 months, *(b)* 48 months and *(c)* 60 months. [174900]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available except at disproportionate cost.

90 per cent. of jobseeker's allowance claimants return to work within 12 months. However, 37,375 jobseeker's allowance claimants in Great Britain had a claim of two years or more duration as at November 2007.

Notes:

1. Figure is rounded to the nearest 5.
2. Figure is based on computer held cases only.

Source:

NOMIS.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Banks

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many cases jobseeker's allowance payments to single adults of £59.15 per week are being paid directly to banks to cover the bank charges of the individuals concerned; and if he will make a statement. [196235]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department does not hold the information requested. December 2007 figures show that 177 per cent. of Jobseeker's allowance payments

are paid direct into a bank or building society. Once a benefit payment is credited into an account it merges with the existing account balance, whether this is overdrawn or in credit.

[1] This figure shows the total number of customers who receive a payment through the Jobseeker's Allowance payment scheme.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department to Karian and Box since 1997. [199641]

Mrs. McGuire: Current DWP records extend back to the 2003-04 financial year.

Having checked the records available, there is no evidence of any payments made to a supplier named Karian and Box or possible variations to that name.

Information is not available for the period prior to 2003 and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Lone Parents

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 84WS on lone parents, if he will place in the Library a copy of the early advice from the Social Security Advisory Committee. [200152]

Mr. Timms: The early advice from the Social Security Advisory Committee referred to in the written statement of 3 April 2008 was given verbally on 5 March in the course of one of the Committee's regular business meetings. The minutes of that meeting will be placed in the Library when they have been cleared by the Committee and will be published on the Social Security Advisory Committee website.

Nanotechnology: Safety

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment has been made of the safety of nano-enabled products by UK regulatory bodies. [197396]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's aim is for the UK to derive maximum benefit from nanotechnologies and their products in a way that safeguards health, safety and the environment and addresses the aspirations and concerns of the public. The statement by the UK Government about nanotechnologies, announced in the written ministerial statement of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 86-87W, explains what the Government are doing to deliver these objectives.

New Deal Schemes: Contracts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS, on the flexible new deal, (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the advertisements for organisations interested in bidding for phase one contracts; [197108]

(2) at what point final payment will be made to providers of phase one contracts; and what the payment process will be; [197109]

(3) whether the fees paid to providers will vary according to the type and length of activity. [197239]

Mr. Timms: The commercial strategy for the flexible new deal reflects the principles set out in the Department for Work and Pensions Commissioning Strategy published in February 2008. We will be seeking bids which reflect proposals for both five and seven year contracts and will decide which of these terms to offer following the tender evaluation process, which will assess the option that provides the best overall value.

The funding model has a number of elements. Fifty per cent. of the contract price will be attributable to the achievement of intermediate employment outcomes and thirty per cent. to sustained employment outcomes of twenty-six weeks. Both of these will be paid on a unit price basis. There will also be a service fee, which will equate to twenty per cent. of the overall contract price, which will be paid in monthly instalments.

Copies of the original advertisements for organisations interested in bidding for Phase One contracts have been placed in the Library.

A written statement was laid before Parliament on 1 April. This announced that there are now to be two Wales-only flexible new deal contract areas: North Wales, Mid Wales and South East Wales; and South West Wales and South Wales Valleys.

Copies of the replacement advertisements, following this announcement, for organisations interested in bidding for Phase One contracts have also been placed in the Library.

Pension Service

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what pension forecast service the Pension Service offers; and if he will make a statement. [197897]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pension Service provides:

Individual Pension Forecasts (IPF)

These "on request" forecasts provide estimates of an individual's state pension entitlement.

Real Time Pension Forecasts (RTPF)

This is a web-based "on-request" forecasting service.

Combined Pension Forecasts (CPF)

CPF contain an estimate of state pension entitlement alongside information provided about occupational or personal pension schemes. These forecasts are available where an employer or pension provider agrees to provide them.

Due to a need to update IT systems to reflect state pension rule changes contained within the Pension Act 2007, The Pension Service is temporarily unable to provide pension forecasts to people who reach state pension age after 5 April 2010. However, they are providing personalised information to this group, including details on the number of qualifying years people have, to help with considerations such as the payment of voluntary national insurance contributions, and how the changes to the state pension rules may affect their

state pension position. These services help people to continue to plan for their retirement.

The CPF service is also temporarily suspended.

The Pension Service anticipate that the web-based service will be available to all customers from the end of June 2008 and the rest of the forecasting services will be available in autumn 2008.

Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of women in receipt of basic state pension whose husbands are in receipt of basic state pension and who are receiving an amount of basic state pension at a rate of less than 60 per cent. of the amount that their husband is receiving. [197386]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

Pensions: Widowed People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that the Pension Service advises all those pensioners who are newly widowed of the range of entitlement to which they may be eligible. [197759]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 31 March 2008]:* When the Department is notified that a pensioner is bereaved a review of their state pension is completed automatically. The highest rate of state pension benefit is calculated and paid dependant upon the individual or deceased spouse's contribution record. All bereavement benefits are also considered at that time. The Department will check whether pension credit is in payment, and if it is not, the customer is invited to make an application. Customers are also invited to claim housing benefit and council tax benefit at the same time as applying for pension credit.

Post Office Card Account

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many outlets are specified in the tendering documents for use by customers of the replacement Post Office Card account; what criteria have been specified for the distribution of these outlets; and if he will make a statement. [194186]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 19 March 2008]:* The notice that appeared in the Official Journal of the European Union for the replacement to the Post Office card account specified that customer access to cash is requested at ATMs and personal teller outlets located throughout the UK. The contractors are asked to detail their intended number and the location of outlets, but the size of the network is expected to be in the region of 10,000 outlets.

Press Offices

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies was in each year from 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189650]

Mrs. McGuire: Our costs are not readily available in the format requested, and obtaining these could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189651]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment and the Employment Service. All media inquiries relating to the Department including its agencies are dealt with through the national and regional press office.

	National press officers	*Regional press officers*	*Non-departmental public bodies*
2001-02	21	0	10
2002-03	13	16	11
2003-04	20	20	10
2004-05	19	23	10
2005-06	23	22	12
2006-07	19	[1]25	16

[1] Two part-time in a job share role

PROGRESS Programme

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding has been made available by the PROGRESS programme for UK projects. [188361]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information, which has been provided this week by the European Commission, is in the following table:

Description of call	*Activity*	*Contractor*	*Amount of contract (£)*
Employment	Broader social/societal costs and benefits of flexicurity	Mr. A. Fuller Alphametrics (UK) Ltd. Heath House, Princes Mews, Royston SG8 9RT—Hertfordshire	59,403
Employment	Small-scale studies/research in support of EMCO thematic discussions and support bilateral cooperation activities in the area of employment and social affairs (US, Japan, China, India, ASEM, Latin America, etc.) Various topics of common interest to MS and topics for future joint bilateral	Mr. S. Gibbons Ergon Associates Ltd. 24 Greville Street, London, EC1N 8SS	181,031

Description of call	*Activity*	*Contractor*	*Amount of contract (£)*
Employment	Feasibility study on mobility. To improve data on cross border commuting short term international assignments; return after geographical mobility (new project)	Ms K. Hughes University of Warwick Kirby Corner Road, University House Coventry, CV4 8UW	130,601
Employment	European Employment Observatory	Mr. N. Bozeat GHK Consulting (UK) (Renewal) 526 Fulham Road, London, SW6 5NR	987,386
Local employment development		Mrs. P. Hearn, Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service, 48 High Street, Hemel Hempstead HP13AF	134,292.36
Projects contributing to Social Inclusion	Studies and analysis of Private Health Insurance	London School of Economics, Houghton street, Aldwych, London WC2A 2AE	198,820
Support to EU social network		John Halloran Victoria House, 125 Queens Road—Brighton, BN13WB	594,869
Trans national mutual learning on Social Inclusion and Social Protection		University of Dundee Dundee DD1 4HN (UK)	522,369.27
		Greater London Enterprise New City Court London SE1 9RS	575,591.42
		Oxfam Oxfam House, John Smith Drive Oxford OX4 2JY	622,267.25
Working conditions	Good Practice Guide for Directive 2006/25/EC. To facilitate the understanding of the provisions of the "optical radiation" directive	HPA—UK Chilton, Didcot, OX11 ORQ Oxfordshire	189,865
Working Conditions	Revision European Works Council	EPEC—526 Fulham Road London SW6 5NR	199,715
Restructuring. Well-being at work and financial participation		Mrs. Janet Asherson Confederation of British Industry 103 New Oxford St London WC1A 1DU	218,379.05
Non-Discrimination	Study on the situation of Women with disabilities in Europe in the light of the UN convention on the rights of PWD	ECOTEC Research and Consulting Priestley House, 12-26 Albert Street Birmingham, B4 7UD	325,000
Non-Discrimination	Mid term Evaluation of the European disability programme	Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services 17 Coombe Road, Otford TN14 7RJ Kent	196,200
National Awareness Raising in the field of anti-discrimination		Mrs. Moira Dustin Equality and Diversity Forum 207-221 Pentonville Road London N1 9UZ	142,131.95
		Mrs. Ali Harris Citizens Advice Myddelton House, London N1 9LZ	257,097.33
Gender Equality	Exchange of good practices	Focus Consultancy Ltd. Elmsgate House Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge BA14 6HP Wiltshire	249,990
Gender Equality	Study on directive 86/613, on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women engaged in an activity in a self employed capacity and assisting spouses	European Policy Evaluation Consortium EEIG 526 Fulham Road UK London SW6 5NR (UK)	262,745

Remploy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which factories have closed under the Remploy modernisation programme. [198243]

Mrs. McGuire: The following factories have closed under the Remploy modernisation programme.

Aintree
Barnsley
Birkenhead CCU
Bradford
Brixton
Brynamman
Chandlers Ford (Southampton)
Halifax
Hartlepool

Hillington
Hull
Jarrow
Leatherhead
Lydney
Mansfield
Medway
Newcastle Under Lyme
Pinxton
Redruth
Southampton
Southend
St. Helens
Stockport
Stockton
Treforest
Woolwich
Wisbech
York
Ystradgynlais.

Wisbech wasn't on the original list for closure. However, it closed as a result of all employees applying for voluntary redundancy as part of the modernisation programme.

Social Security Benefits

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to reflect recent changes in the cost of essential goods and services in benefit entitlement. [197969]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Chancellor announced in his Budget 2008 speech that for winter 2008-09 an additional payment will be made alongside the winter fuel payment. Households with someone aged 60 to 79 will receive an additional £50 and households with someone aged 80 or over will receive an additional £100.

The levels of benefits are increased once a year, in April. The increases are calculated, for most contributory and non-contributory benefits, using the increase in the retail prices index for the 12 months ending in the preceding September. This ensures that benefits keep their real value in broad terms.

Income-related benefits (jobseeker's allowance, housing benefit, council tax benefit and income support) are usually increased in line with September's 12-month rate for the Rossi index. The Rossi index is the retail prices index excluding rent, mortgage interest payments, council tax and depreciation costs. This index is used because help for housing costs is given to people getting income related benefits either as additional amounts in those benefits or in council tax benefit and housing benefit. Consequently any increases in council tax would usually be met by council tax benefit.

The standard minimum guarantee in pension credit has been increased by 4.2 per cent. in line with the Budget 2007 announcement, more than keeping pace with earnings and prices.

The inflation figures are based on a year-on-year comparison of prices. Therefore any recent fluctuations in inflation will be taken into account in the benefit increases that will take effect from April 2009.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 83-84WS, on disability benefits (European Court of Justice), on what date and at what time the information was posted on *(a)* his Departmental website and *(b)* direct.gov website. [200153]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows:

(a) The DWP website published a news item, aimed at disability advisers, on its Disability and Carers subsite (www.dwp.gov.uk/dcs) on 3 April at 1.10 pm. This item linked to the information on the Direct.gov website which is aimed at the general public.

(b) The article was published live on the Direct.gov site on 3 April at 10.00 am.

Social Security Benefits: Lost Property

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many birth certificates his Department received for proof of identity for benefit claimants, including winter fuel payment claimants, in each of the last five years; and how many were subsequently reported *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* by the claimant as lost or stolen. [198997]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) in how many cases overpayments of benefit have been reclaimed following the death of a claimant where such repayments were not mandatory under social security legislation in each of the last five years, broken down by benefit type; [197871]

(2) in how many cases his Department has not pursued requests for repayment for overpayments following the death of a claimant in circumstances where the repayment was challenged by family members and where the repayment was not mandatory under social security legislation in each of the last five years; [197875]

(3) in how many cases where his Department requested repayments of overpayments following the death of a claimant, and where such repayments were not mandatory under social security legislation, such requests were not challenged by family members in each of the last five years; [197886]

(4) what the value was of repayments of overpayments requested by his Department following the death of a claimant, in circumstances where such repayments were not mandatory under social security legislation and where the family members of the deceased claimants challenged the requests and did not subsequently make the repayments; [197888]

(5) what the value was of repayments of overpayments of benefits following the death of a claimant, where such repayments were not mandatory under social security legislation in each of the last five years, broken down by benefit type. [197899]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 31 March 2008]*: Unfortunately, through no fault of any individual, overpayments of benefit can arise following the death of a benefit recipient. Such overpayments normally arise as a result of the Department being notified of the death too late to stop an automated payment being made into the deceased's account.

We are doing all we can to improve the current process. We are in the process of preparing to receive electronic notifications of death from the Office of National Statistics on a daily basis. This will assist in enabling a prompt cessation of payments following death and reduce the number of these overpayments occurring.

The Department has a duty to seek recovery of all overpaid funds where it is reasonable and cost effective to do so. However, we seek to do this as sensitively as possible, taking account of the fact that this will be a stressful time, particularly if the person contacted is a close friend or family member. Overpayments are written off if the deceased has no estate or there are insufficient funds in the estate.

The following table details how many of these overpayments have been recovered, and their value. We have only been collecting this information since 2005.

The other information requested is not available.

DPAD recoveries on debt manager, OpRec and ORCS—value of recoveries

£

	2005-06[1]	2006-07	2007-08[2]	Total
Attendance Allowance	2,978,730	4,707,183	7,267,515	14,953,428
Carers Allowances	13,468	3,828	19,898	37,194
Constant Attendance Allowance	0	153	1,344	1,497
Disability Living Allowance - Care / Mob	1,734,359	1,557,216	2,254,046	5,545,621
Incapacity Benefits	122,389	302,169	431,798	856,357
Income Support	49,887	47,923	87,662	185,471
Invalid Care Allowances	84,926.36	609	0	85,536
Industrial Injuries Benefits	129,433	83,822	24,761	238,016
Industrial Death Benefits	52,661	28,033	35,107	115,800
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	819	148,451	312,632	461,903
Invalidity Benefit	6,357	1,626	3,675	11,658
Jobseeker's Allowance	406	235	146	787
Mobility Allowance	5,269	2,447	506	8,222
Pension Credit	1,519,458	3,677,487	4,555,584	9,752,530
Retirement/State Pensions	13,793,186	27,372,631	30,201,062	71,366,878
Severe Disablement Allowance	19,419	36,254	46,959	102,632
Widows Benefits Widows Pension	11,467.42	12,020	8,020	31,507
Widows Pension	0	3,671	11,122	14,793
Other	7,089	17,647	49,474	74,211
Total	20,529,323	38,003,406	45,311,310	103,844,039

[1] Data for 2005-06 are for the period June 2005 to March 2006 only.
[2] Date for 2007-08 are up to 29 March 2008.

DPAD recoveries on debt manager, OpRec and ORCS—volumes of router accounts by benefit

£

	2005-06[1]	2006-07	2007-08[2]	Total
Attendance Allowance	30,665	47,757	75,676	154,098
Carers Allowances	252	39	212	503
Constant Attendance Allowance	0	2	19	21
Disability Living Allowances	13,015	10,987	16,232	40,234
Incapacity Benefits	975	2,226	3,145	6,346
Income Support	337	289	523	1,149
Invalid Care Allowance	3,123	5	0	3,128
Industrial Injuries Benefits	1,180	670	121	1,971
Industrial Death Benefits	372	194	279	845
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits	6	1,388	2,818	4,212
Invalidity Benefit	51	21	29	101
Jobseeker's Allowance	4	3	2	9
Mobility Allowances	176	49	36	261
Pension Credit	16,884	40,799	54,292	111,975
Retirement/State Pensions	81,948	164,060	180,956	426,964
Severe Disablement Allowance	124	300	395	819
Widows Benefits	57	47	27	131
Widows Pension	0	23	53	76
Other	109	562	2,794	3,465
Total	149,278	269,421	337,609	756,308

[1] Data for 2005-06 are for the period June 2005 to March 2006 only.
[2] Date for 2007-08 are up to 29 March 2008.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of calls made to *(a)* the Pension Service, *(b)* the Disability and Carers Service, *(c)* the Benefit Enquiry Line and *(d)* the Child Support Agency was in each year for which records are held. [197780]

Mrs. McGuire: The information available is provided in the following tables. All figures are in minutes/seconds unless otherwise stated.

Child Support Agency[1]

Month	Average speed to answer	Average length of call
April 2005	01:24	03:08
May 2005	01:05	03:03
June 2005	01:00	03:04
July 2005	00:54	03:04
August 2005	01:10	03:09
September 2005	01:20	03:10
October 2005	01:10	03:23
November 2005	00:52	03:17
December 2005	00:34	03:10
January 2006	00:46	03:14
February 2006	00:54	03:17
March 2006	00:39	03:09
April 2006	00:25	03:30
May 2006	00:26	03:25
June 2006	00:21	03:35
July 2006	00:25	03:38
August 2006	00:27	03:39
September 2006	00:45	03:42
October 2006	00:38	03:40
November 2006	00:18	03:41
December 2006	00:18	03:26
January 2007	00:23	03:28
February 2007	00:15	03:41
March 2007	00:20	03:19
April 2007	00:20	03:22
May 2007	00:19	03:19
June 2007	00:23	03:22
July 2007	00:24	03:24
August 2007	00:20	03:26
September 2007	00:18	03:22
October 2007	00:18	03:27
November 2007	00:19	03:33
December 2007	00:19	03:24
January 2008	00:19	03:27
February 2008	00:19	03:32
March 2008	00:19	03:21

[1]There are no comprehensive data prior to April 202005. Information is the total of CSCS and CS2 calls.

The Pension Service

Month	Average speed to answer	Average length of call
October 2006	00:14	06:02
November 2006	00:16	05:56
December 2006	00:19	06:11
January 2007	00:24	06:16
February 2007	00:35	06:12
March 2007	00:38	06:11
April 2007	00:43	05:53
May 2007	00:45	06:07
June 2007	01:14	06:26
July 2007	01:14	06:50
August 2007	01:05	06:51
September 2007	00:49	06:56
October 2007	00:33	06:34
November 2007	00:30	06:46
December 2007	00:20	06:35
January 2008	00:40	06:51
February 2008	00:39	06:39

The Pension Service

Month	Average speed to answer	Average length of call
August 2007	01:05	06:51
September 2007	00:49	06:56
October 2007	00:33	06:34
November 2007	00:30	06:46
December 2007	00:20	06:35
January 2008	00:40	06:51
February 2008	00:39	06:39

Benefit Enquiry Line[1]

Month	Average speed to answer	Average length of call
April 2000	—	03:21
May 2000	—	03:17
June 2000	—	03:09
July 2000	—	03:06
August 2000	—	03:02
September 2000	—	02:56
October 2000	—	02:44
November 2000	—	03:00
December 2000	—	02:42
January 2001	—	02:53
February 2001	—	02:50
March 2001	—	02:50
April 2001	—	02:45
May 2001	—	02:46
June 2001	—	02:45
July 2001	—	02:46
August 2001	—	02:52
September 2001	—	02:48
October 2001	—	02:46
November 2001	—	02:40
December 2001	—	02:40
January 2002	—	02:38
February 2002	—	02:50
March 2002	—	02:59
April 2002	—	02:53
May 2002	—	02:50
June 2002	—	02:57
July 2002	—	03:00
August 2002	—	02:56
September 2002	—	02:57
October 2002	—	02:57
November 2002	—	03:05
December 2002	—	02:45
January 2003	—	02:52
February 2003	—	02:55
March 2003	—	02:42
April 2003	—	02:35
May 2003	—	02:43
June 2003	—	02:42
July 2003	—	02:42
August 2003	—	02:42
September 2003	—	02:42
October 2003	—	02:50
November 2003	—	02:54
December 2003	—	02:51
January 2004	—	02:58
February 2004	—	02:50
March 2004	—	02:48
April 2004	02:02	02:48
May 2004	01:39	02:44
June 2004	01:34	02:39
July 2004	02:50	02:47
August 2004	01:40	02:44

Benefit Enquiry Line[1]

Month	Average speed to answer	Average length of call
September 2004	00:59	02:44
October 2004	01:24	02:49
November 2004	01:54	02:52
December 2004	01:15	02:46
January 2005	02:00	02:53
February 2005	02:22	02:52
March 2005	02:37	02:54
April 2005	02:09	02:31
May 2005	02:38	02:34
June 2005	02:51	03:01
July 2005	02:47	03:01
August 2005	02:12	03:01
September 2005	03:00	02:52
October 2005	03:10	02:58
November 2005	01:26	02:48
December 2005	01:22	02:44
January 2006	01:39	02:53
February 2006	01:21	02:52
March 2006	01:18	02:54
April 2006	01:46	02:31
May 2006	00:46	02:34
June 2006	00:16	03:01
July 2006	00:21	03:01
August 2006	00:31	03:01
September 2006	00:31	02:52
October 2006	00:29	02:58
November 2006	00:14	02:48
December 2006	00:14	02:44
January 2007	00:43	02:50
February 2007	00:42	02:51
March 2007	00:35	02:49
April 2007	00:47	02:50
May 2007	00:44	02:49
June 2007	00:35	02:48
July 2007	00:43	02:50
August 2007	00:52	02:54
September 2007	00:44	02:53
October 2007	00:37	02:53
November 2007	00:31	02:52
December 2007	00:36	02:43
January 2008	00:46	02:52
February 2008	01:08	02:54
March 2008	01:04	02:49

[1]Average call duration data not available prior 2000. Average speed to answer data not available prior April 2004

DLA/AA Helpline[1]

Month	Average speed to answer	Average length of call
April 2000	—	02:59
May 2000	—	03:00
June 2000	—	03:01
July 2000	—	03:03
August 2000	—	03:05
September 2000	—	02:58
October 2000	—	03:00
November 2000	—	03:00
December 2000	—	02:58
January 2001	—	02:58
February 2001	—	02:55
March 2001	—	02:54
April 2001	—	02:52
May 2001	—	02:51
June 2001	—	02:49
July 2001	—	02:50

DLA/AA Helpline[1]

Month	Average speed to answer	Average length of call
August 2001	—	02:52
September 2001	—	02:50
October 2001	—	02:54
November 2001	—	02:56
December 2001	—	02:54
January 2002	—	02:57
February 2002	—	02:58
March 2002	—	02:54
April 2002	—	02:55
May 2002	—	02:55
June 2002	—	02:57
July 2002	—	03:00
August 2002	—	03:01
September 2002	—	03:02
October 2002	—	03:03
November 2002	—	03:03
December 2002	—	02:56
January 2003	—	02:51
February 2003	—	03:40
March 2003	—	03:70
April 2003	—	03:01
May 2003	—	02:58
June 2003	—	02:52
July 2003	—	02:57
August 2003	—	03:06
September 2003	—	02:55
October 2003	—	03:00
November 2003	—	03:04
December 2003	—	02:52
January 2004	—	02:53
February 2004	—	02:51
March 2004	—	02:40
April 2004	—	02:42
May 2004	—	02:49
June 2004	—	02:42
July 2004	—	02:52
August 2004	—	02:54
September 2004	—	02:47
October 2004	—	02:45
November 2004	—	02:44
December 2004	—	02:49
January 2005	—	02:51
February 2005	—	02:58
March 2005	—	02:58
April 2005	00:43	02:45
May 2005	00:51	02:45
June 2005	00:34	02:48
July 2005	00:31	02:51
August 2005	01:27	02:49
September 2005	01:22	02:54
October 2005	01:29	02:58
November 2005	01:41	03:00
December 2005	01:53	02:54
January 2006	01:26	02:49
February 2006	01:55	02:54
March 2006	02:39	02:57
April 2006	01:53	03:00
May 2006	01:26	02:54
June 2006	01:31	02:54
July 2006	01:30	02:55
August 2006	01:29	02:55
September 2006	01:23	02:57
October 2006	01:13	02:57
November 2006	01:07	02:57

DLA/AA Helpline[1]

Month	*Average speed to answer*	*Average length of call*
December 2006	01:11	02:54
January 2007	01:19	02:43
February 2007	01:12	02:57
March 2007	01:10	02:48
April 2007	01:23	02:54
May 2007	01:20	02:55
June 2007	01:20	02:54
July 2007	01:27	02:56
August 2007	01:34	02:57
September 2007	01:34	02:55
October 2007	01:18	02:55
November 2007	01:25	02:52
December 2007	01:11	02:49
January 2008	01:35	02:52
February 2008	01:36	03:48
March 2008	01:35	03:06

[1]Average call duration data not available prior 2000. Average speed to answer data not available prior April 2005.

State Retirement Pensions

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an estimate of the percentage increase in the basic state pension which could be paid in each year between 2009-10 and 2012-13 were tax revenue to be increased by the amount needed to enable the annual surplus in the National Insurance Fund to be used for such a purpose. [196767]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: When national insurance contributions are made, a proportion of them go directly to help fund the NHS, while the rest are paid into the national insurance fund (NIF). The fund pays out contributory benefits to which people who have paid sufficient contributions are entitled, such as the basic state pension, incapacity benefit and contribution-based jobseeker's allowance.

National insurance contributions and associated social security benefits operate within the Government's fiscal rules designed to ensure sound public finances and when there is a surplus, it is invested in public services. Any surplus of contributions over social security benefits in any one year (the NIF surplus) is not therefore an extra resource available to spend.

As the Government Actuary's latest report on the draft Social Security Benefits up-rating and Contributions re-rating Orders (CM7312) notes, the excess of income overpayments each year is the difference between two large numbers and so quite small percentage changes in either of them results in a large percentage change in the surplus income. This, in turn, could have a significant effect on the fund balances.

However, if the equivalent of the national insurance fund's annual excess of receipts overpayments projected by the Acting Government Actuary for the years 2009-10 to 2012-13 were paid in its entirety to recipients of basic state pension, this would lead to an estimated percentage increase in the basic state pension of around 24 per cent. in 2009-10 and around 6 per cent. in the years 2010-11 to 2012-13. Any increase in basic state pension expenditure has a cumulative impact on Government spending going forward.

The equivalent of the excess of receipts overpayments would need to be raised through tax increases to maintain the Government's fiscal strategy. The Government are committed to long-term sustainable state pension provision and views short-term spending of the NIF surplus as unaffordable going forward. The Government have guaranteed the basic state pension will increase each year in line with prices or 2.5 per cent., whichever is higher, and subject to affordability and the fiscal position, to increase the basic state pension in line with earnings in 2012, but by the end of the next Parliament at the latest.

Tax Allowances: Carers

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of increasing the second adult rebate for carers to the level of the single person's discount on council tax; and what assessment he has made of the merits of such an increase. [196189]

Mr. Timms: There is no second adult rebate specifically for carers. Certain carers are disregarded for council tax purposes, as long as the person they are caring for meets the qualifying conditions. The purpose of the disregard is to ensure that a person who would otherwise be entitled to a single person discount does not lose it because they require a carer to live with them.

Unemployment

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 66-7W, on unemployment, what the evidential basis was for the Secretary of State's Answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 5, on child poverty, that the UK had been lagging below the average in Europe regarding the proportion of children living in workless households but was now above the average; and if he will make a statement. [185261]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 7 February 2008]:* The evidential basis for the Secretary of State's answer of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 5, about the UK's relative improvement on child poverty compared to other European countries was the European Community Household Panel Survey (for 1997 data) and the EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions (for 2005 data).

In 1997, the UK had the highest child poverty rate in Europe. The UK's child poverty rate was 27 per cent. in 1997, compared to an EU average (EU-15) of 19 per cent. The 2005 data show that child poverty was 22 per cent. in the UK, approaching the EU average (EU-25) of 19 per cent. Due to the change in data sources data from 1997 and 2005 are not directly comparable.

This is different from the data on children in workless households which are produced from the EU Labour Force Survey.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199597]

Mrs. McGuire: Current DWP records extend back to the 2003-04 financial year.

The annual spend with Zurich Financial Services from 2003-04 is as follows:

	£
2003-04	999.86
2004-05	1,233.46
2005-06	2,423.00
2006-07	0.00
2007-08	0.00

Unfortunately, the DWP accounting system in operation at the time did not record the specific reason for individual payments but classified them into broad accountancy groupings. For this reason and the time elapsed since the last of the payments were made, it is not possible to say what the purpose of each payment was.

Information is not available for the period prior to 2003 and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Bail: Housing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1060W, on bail: housing, what local schemes are being considered under the Bail Accommodation Support Scheme; what the *(a)* area, *(b)* number of dwellings being considered and *(c)* the nature of the dwellings' current use is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [199919]

Mr. Hanson: A list of the locations where properties have either been obtained or are being sought by ClearSprings for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service was published on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1655-58W. We are continually assessing the need and ClearSprings will consider a number of properties in each location. They are required to consult the local authority, the police and probation on the suitability of properties. The properties used are normal residential dwellings and remain so while occupied by those benefiting from the service.

Burglary: Prosecutions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of recorded burglaries resulted in a *(a)* prosecution and *(b)* conviction in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [198192]

Mr. Straw: Information on number of offences of burglary recorded by the police is provided in table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Offences of total burglary recorded by the police, 1997 to 2006-07

	Number of offences
1997	1,015,075
1997-98	988,432
1998-99	953,184
1999-2000	906,468
2000-01	836,027
2001-02[1]	878,509
2002-03	890,099
2003-04	820,013
2004-05	680,358
2005-06	645,068
2006-07	622,044

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Source:
Home Office recorded crime statistics.

Table 2 shows the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty at all courts for burglary for the years 1997 to 2006.

Table 2: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for burglary, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
1997	49,530	31,703
1998	48,114	30,769
1999	46,141	29,261
2000	42,406	26,222
2001	41,593	24,802
2002	43,648	26,691
2003	41,281	25,726
2004	35,372	24,252
2005	31,805	22,951
2006	30,637	22,955

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sources:
Court Proceedings Database.
Office for Criminal Justice Reform.
Ministry of Justice.

Recorded crime and court proceedings statistics are from two different databases and recorded in quite different ways. Recorded crime data are provided on a financial year basis and count offences whereas court proceedings data are on a calendar year basis and count offenders. Therefore, these two separate data-sets are not directly comparable.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Convictions: Pupils

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children under 16 years of age received *(a)* a criminal conviction and *(b)* a criminal conviction for an offence committed on school property in each year since 1997. [198661]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants aged 10 to 15 who received a conviction for all offences in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006 are in the following table.

The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

My Department holds information on defendants proceeded against and found guilty of criminal offences in England and Wales. These data include information on the age and sex of the defendants, the court where proceedings took place as well as the outcome for specific offences including sentencing information. The court proceedings database does not hold information on the individual circumstances of offences beyond that described in the statute for which prosecutions are brought. For example the Ministry of Justice cannot separately identify offences committed on school property from offences committed elsewhere.

Number of defendants aged 10 to 15 found guilty for all offences, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1, 2]

	Found guilty
1997	24,748
1998	28,266
1999	31,428
2000	33,010
2001	34,808
2002	34,123
2003	33,484
2004	35,656
2005	37,121
2006	37,300

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Coroners

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when a revised version of the Charter for the Bereaved will be issued; and if he will ensure that charities representing those bereaved as a result of sudden medical deaths are consulted before the revision takes place. [198664]

Bridget Prentice: I will be issuing the draft Charter for Bereaved People for further consultation in the early summer. The draft charter was published alongside the draft Coroners Bill in June 2006. Like the Bill, the charter has been subject to extensive consultation and has been revised in response to helpful and constructive feedback from stakeholders, including charities representing the bereaved as a result of sudden medical deaths. These charities will also be invited to comment on the revised draft.

Coroners Bill (Draft)

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reason for the time taken to introduce the Coroners Bill to Parliament is; and if he will make a statement. [198665]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are committed to reforming the coroner service for England and Wales, and to making non-legislative improvements ahead of a Coroners Bill. There was no space for the Coroners Bill in this Session's busy legislative programme but the firm intention remains to introduce a Bill as soon as time allows. Measures to be introduced ahead of legislation include strengthening Rule 43 of the Coroners Rules 1984 to help coroners to prevent future deaths, revising the Charter for the Bereaved for a reformed service, and working with the Press Complaints Commission to establish whether their code of practice for editors could be refined, in respect of the reporting of inquests, for the benefit of bereaved families.

Coroners: Children

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that coroners and local safeguarding children boards work together effectively to investigate child deaths. [198663]

Bridget Prentice: Arrangements are already being made to introduce a new Coroners Rule to ensure that coroners and Local Safeguarding Children Boards have the correct framework to work together effectively with their respective statutory responsibilities to investigate child deaths.

Coroners: Mesothelioma

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the procedures used in coroners' inquests following a death from mesothelioma in the last 12 months [198687]

Bridget Prentice: In February 2007, my Department received the report of the British Lung Foundation on its research in to the investigation of mesothelioma deaths. My officials have met with representatives of the British Lung Foundation to discuss their report, and facilitated meetings between the Foundation and the Coroners Society. Following these meetings, best practice guidance for coroners and clinicians on how deaths from mesothelioma should be dealt with has been published on the Coroners Society website. The needs of the bereaved are integral to our proposals in regard to longer term reform of the coroners' service. The appointment of a chief coroner and the introduction of national standards of service, which will be enabled by the Coroners Bill, will also address concerns about inconsistencies of practice between coroner areas. We will bring forward legislation as soon

as parliamentary time allows, and continue to consult with the British Lung Foundation about those parts of the Bill which effect the investigation of mesothelioma deaths. In February 2008, I attended a parliamentary reception hosted by the British Lung Foundation and I was happy to give a commitment to work with them as the Government develops its policy further in these areas.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 555W, on crime: victims, what terms of employment or appointment were specified for the post of commissioner for victims and witnesses in the recruitment exercise. [199263]

Maria Eagle: The recruitment exercise carried out in 2006 for the post of Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses suggested a salary in the region of £120,000 depending on the knowledge, experience and skills of the successful candidate.

The Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 required that the period of appointment must not exceed five years.

The recruitment exercise was carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice For Public Appointments.

Data Protection

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2844W, on data protection, for what reasons *(a)* there was no Government response to the Council of Science and Technology's 2005 report on data security and *(b)* none of the recommendations have been implemented. [198090]

Mr. Wills: The Council of Science and Technology's 2005 (CST) report was one of a number of pieces of work being produced within and independent of Government in the last five years which influenced thinking on how to tackle the challenges of making better use of information whilst safeguarding personal data and helped inform the Information Sharing Vision Statement in September 2006. It was because of the useful work that Dr Mark Walport did with the CST that the PM asked him to undertake a comprehensive review with the Information Commissioner of the use and sharing of personal information in the public and private sectors.

The Government will take a considered view on what measures are necessary to strengthen the protection of personal information in the light of conclusions and recommendations of this review and the review by the Cabinet Secretary.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which of his Department's initiatives and those of its predecessors have been advertised to the public in each of the last 10 years; and what the cost of each such campaign was. [192233]

Maria Eagle: Since its creation on 9 May 2007, my Department, the Ministry of Justice and its agencies have advertised the following:

	Radio (£)	Press/poster (£)
Her Majesty's Courts Service		
Camberwell Green Magistrates Court Payback Scheme	—	2,100
HM Prison Service		
National Prison Officer Recruitment	151,000	888,600
National Probation Service		
Recruitment of Trainee Probation Officers	—	14,506

The predecessor Department to the Ministry of Justice (the Department for Constitutional Affairs—DCA) was created on 12 June 2003. It conducted the following advertising campaigns aimed at the public, and the following table sets out the costs of these campaigns.

Department for Constitutional Affairs

	Radio (£)	Press/poster (£)
2006-07		
Operation Payback (fine enforcement) (Phase 4)	—	21,000
2005-06		
Operation Payback (Phase 3)	94,000	158,000
Postal voting	—	188,000
Magistrates recruitment	107,000	522,000
18-24 voter registration	62,000	
2004-05		
Operation Payback (Phase 2)	95,000	164,000
Magistrates recruitment	—	124,000
2003-04		
Operation Payback (Phase 1)	79,000	133,000
Magistrates recruitment	—	431,000

Spending on advertising campaigns by the DCA's predecessor, the Lord Chancellor's Department, was as follows:

	£
2000-01	
Launch of the Community Legal Service and increasing awareness of family mediation	1,646,000
1999-2000	
Raising awareness of lost land certificates	14,000
Publicising court closures	19,000
1998-99	
Magistrates recruitment	427,000

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197165]

Mr. Straw: My predecessor, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, spoke at the Queen Elizabeth Centre, London on 12 September 2005 to the Commonwealth Law Conference and on 10 March 2006 to the ESRC Devolution and Constitutional Change Conference. Lord Falconer also spoke at the Business Design, Islington, London on 10 January 2007 to the Public Guardianship Office staff conference.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196744]

Maria Eagle: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by his Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195889]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice's Sustainable Development action plan which was published on the 14 March 2008 requires the Department to produce a high level transport plan setting out measures that will enable the Department to reduce the impact of business travel on the environment. The increased use of video-conferencing equipment will be an integral part of the plan.

A copy of the action plan is available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/sustainable-development.pdf

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* name and *(b)* capacity is of each unit at HM Young Offender Institution Feltham; who the residential manager is of each; and if he will make a statement. [192684]

Maria Eagle: The information is set out in the following table. The numbers relate to operational capacity. It is not Prison Service policy to name individual members of staff.

Unit Name	*OpCap*
Albatross	16
Bittern	30
Curlew	30
Dunlin	30
Eagle	30
Falcon	30
Grebe	30
Heron	30
Jay	30
Kingfisher	54
Mallard	56
Nightingale	56
Osprey	56
Partridge	56
Quail	56
Raven	56
Swallow	56
Teal	44
Wren	16

There is also Lapwing Unit which has 38 beds, which is currently commissioned as a 20 bed mental health inpatients unit, and is not on the establishment's certified normal accommodation.

Fixed Penalties: Young People

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many police forces have issued fixed penalty notices for disorder to persons under the age of 16 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. [199731]

Mr. Hanson: Seven police forces in six areas have issued penalty notices for disorder to under 16s during the pilots.

Forced Marriage

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of reported victims of forced marriage were aged *(a)* below 18, *(b)* 18 to 24 and *(c)* over 24 years in the latest period for which figures are available. [198005]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

In 2007, the forced marriage unit dealt with 168 overseas assistance cases. Of these cases, where age is known, 37 per cent. involved victims under 18, 49 per cent. involved victims aged 18 to 24 and 14 per cent. involved victims over 24.

Homicide: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of murder under *(a)* the Murder (Abolition of Death

Penalty) Act 1965 and *(b)* Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 received the mandatory sentence established by the Act under which they were convicted in each of the last seven years, broken down by age group; and what the average sentence of those convicted of murder under either Act was in each of the last seven years. [197746]

Mr. Hanson: The Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act 1965 provides that the only mandatory sentence for a person convicted of murder is imprisonment for life. The number of such sentences by age group is given in the following table.

The average sentence in terms of time served upon completion of the minimum tariff as established by the court at the time of sentencing is decided by a parole board in each case. We do not collect data on the minimum tariff but Table 10.5 in the Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin, 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2006' shows the number of first releases from prison on life licence for mandatory lifers and average time served. Between 2000 and 2006 the mean time served has been between 13 and 15 years.

	Age band	*Total sentenced*
2000	10 to 17	20
	18 to 20	22
	21 and over	219
2001	10 to 17	27
	18 to 20	26
	21 and over	232
2002	10 to 17	20
	18 to 20	23
	21 and over	281
2003	10 to 17	9
	18 to 20	35
	21 and over	233
2004	10 to 17	13
	18 to 20	42
	21 and over	306
2005	10 to 17	19
	18 to 20	40
	21 and over	329
2006	10 to 17	19
	18 to 20	40
	21 and over	313

Information Commissioner: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of employer contributions is to the pension scheme of which employees at the Office of the Information Commissioner are members. [198610]

Mr. Wills: The average accruing superannuation liability charges (ASLCs), which is the pension contribution payable by the Office of the Information Commissioner as an employer, is currently 19.4 per cent. of pensionable pay for the year commencing 1 April 2008. The principal civil service pension scheme (PCSPS) actuary has conducted a full valuation of the scheme liabilities as at 31 March 2007 and, as a result, this contribution will reduce to 18.9 per cent. for the year commencing 1 April 2009.

Internet: Data Protection

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment has been made of the adequacy of safeguards for internet users who have their online activities monitored by internet service providers; [194856]

(2) what consideration he has given to introducing legislation that would require an opt-in for internet users before internet service providers are allowed to collect information about which websites an individual visits. [194857]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Office of the Information Commissioner made a statement on 3 March 2008 that it was in discussion with one company about the nature of its service and the way it uses information about ISP customers. My Department will consider the continued relevance of the current safeguards and legislation in the light of the outcome of those discussions.

Life Imprisonment: Prisoners' Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 485W, on life imprisonment: prisoners' release, how many prisoners sentenced to life since 1997 have been subsequently released from custody. [199672]

Maria Eagle: To provide the information requested would still require manual checking of individual records which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost. Data migration for the Department's new database is currently under way and will be subject to data quality assurance. Once the information that the hon. Member has requested is available, I will write to him.

Magistrates

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates have experience of *(a)* skilled, *(b)* semi-skilled and *(c)* unskilled manual work. [197324]

Mr. Straw: Occupations of magistrates are recorded in the categories listed in the following table. The table shows how many magistrates are recorded in each category as of March 2008. This information is recorded on appointment, it therefore does not necessarily show their current occupation.

Category	Number of magistrates	Percentage
Self-employed	1,196	4
Not in Paid Employment	2,250	8
Retired	528	2
Manager or Senior Official	5,499	19
Skilled Trades Occupation	726	2
Personal Service Occupation	406	2
Sales or Customer Service Occupation	488	2
Process Plant or Machine Operative	219	1
Never been in paid Employment	51	0
Administrative or Secretarial Occupation	5,181	17
Elementary Occupation	206	1
Professional Occupation	9,880	33
Associate Professional or Technical Occupation	2,786	9
Total	29,416	100

Offensive Weapons: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of people convicted of possession of a knife in a public place under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 received the maximum sentence of four years in prison established by the Act in each month since its inception, broken down by age group; and what the average sentence was of those convicted of possession of a knife in a public place under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 in each month since it came into force. [197742]

Mr. Straw: The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 came into effect in February 2007 and doubled the maximum sentence for people convicted of possession of a knife in a public place from two to four years.

Annual statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Police Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many police cells in England and Wales assigned to Operation Safeguard were being paid for by his Department but not used in each of the last 52 weeks for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was in each of those weeks. [180634]

Mr. Straw: Police cells are made available through Operation Safeguard under an agreement between ACPO and the National Offender Management Service.

The following table shows the number of places available under Safeguard and the numbers not used from the week ending 1 April 2007 to the week ending 23 March 2008. The average number of places available and not used are also shown.

Police forces invoice for the total number of cells made available and the Ministry of Justice does not separate costs relating to used and unused cells.

Police cells were used to hold prisoners regularly from 1982 until 1993 and from 1994 to 1995, and use peaked when more than 1,000 prisoners a night were being regularly held in police cells in 1988 and in 1990-92 (based on end of month data).

			Average number of places	
Week ending Sunday	Total number of places available	Total number of places not used	Available per night[1]	Not used per night[1]
1 April 2007	2,289	249	327	36
8 April 2007	2,510	1,554	359	222
15 April 2007	2,629	1,933	376	276
22 April 2007	2,605	1,841	372	263
29 April 2007	2,509	1,208	358	173
6 May 2007	2,624	792	375	113
13 May 2007	2,609	817	373	117
20 May 2007	2,640	370	377	53
27 May 2007	2,631	266	376	38
3 June 2007	2,594	318	371	45
10 June 2007	2,571	91	367	13
17 June 2007	2,835	212	405	30
24 June 2007	2,649	515	378	74
1 July 2007	2,578	1,177	368	168
8 July 2007	2,583	2,569	369	367
15 July 2007	2,583	2,583	369	369
22 July 2007	2,583	2,583	369	369
29 July 2007	1,783	1,266	255	181
5 August 2007	1,768	892	253	127
12 August 2007	1,880	338	269	48
19 August 2007	1,905	1,242	272	177
26 August 2007	1,841	944	263	135
2 September 2007	1,989	589	284	84
9 September 2007	2,173	655	310	94
16 September 2007	2,214	413	316	59
23 September 2007	2,345	465	335	66

Week ending Sunday	Total number of places available	Total number of places not used	Average number of places: Available per night[1]	Average number of places: Not used per night[1]
30 September 2007	2,421	217	346	31
7 October 2007	2,487	616	355	88
14 October 2007	2,581	431	369	62
21 October 2007	2,587	163	370	23
28 October 2007	2,585	523	369	75
4 November 2007	2,579	283	368	40
11 November 2007	2,668	581	381	83
18 November 2007	2,609	611	373	87
25 November 2007	2,692	1,159	385	166
2 December 2007	2,711	1,556	387	222
9 December 2007	2,636	1,701	377	243
16 December 2007	2,542	1,951	363	279
23 December 2007	2,464	2,366	352	338
30 December 2007	1,400	1,400	200	200
6 January 2008	1,937	1,937	277	277
13 January 2008	1,685	1,685	241	241
20 January 2008	1,147	942	164	135
27 January 2008	1,117	437	160	62
3 February 2008	1,106	0	158	0
10 February 2008	1,951	0	279	0
17 February 2008	2,368	227	338	32
24 February 2008	2,313	270	330	39
2 March 2008	2,220	548	317	78
9 March 2008	2,180	1,723	311	246
16 March 2008	2,228	1,954	318	279
23 March 2008	2,167	1,822	310	260

[1] Based on number of nights that Safeguard was available in each week rounded to the nearest whole number.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions prisoners have been housed at police stations in each of the last six months; and at what additional cost. [189748]

Mr. Straw: The following figures give the number of occasions on which prisoners were held in police cells under Operation Safeguard in England and Wales in each of the last six months and the average number of prisoners per night. One occasion is defined as one prisoner night spent in a police cell.

Month	Number of occasions	Average number in Safeguard per night[1]
October 2007	9,565	309
November 2007	7,693	256
December 2007	1,960	63
January 2008	1,766	57
February 2008	9,720	335
March 2008	2,004	65

[1] Based on number of nights that Safeguard was available in each month

Police forces invoice NOMS in arrears and it is not possible to attach a specific cost to each of these figures. However, the current estimated average cost of a Safeguard place is about £385 per night.

In addition there were some 144 ad-hoc lockouts in the last six months. This is an emergency measure to hold prisoners overnight. It is used, for example, when the designated prison's reception will be closed before their arrival time, usually due to the distance of the journey or time of departure from court. Ad-hoc lockouts cost an average £120 per night.

Police cells have been used to hold prisoners before. They were used to hold prisoners regularly from 1982 until 1993, and from 1994-95. They were also used from July to November 2002. Their use peaked in 1988, and peaked again in 1990-92, when more than 1,000 prisoners a night were being regularly held in police cells.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per night was for holding people in custody in *(a)* police cells and *(b)* prisons in Essex in the latest period for which figures are available. [190702]

Mr. Straw: Police forces invoice in arrears for Operation Safeguard and it is often difficult deriving an accurate average for a particular force. In the case of Essex, however, invoices and data for Safeguard use between 16 October 2006 and 30 September 2007 allow us to calculate an average cost of £349 for holding a prisoner in a police cell overnight during that period.

This compares with a currently estimated average for 2007-08 across England and Wales of about £385 per night.

The most recent figures for prisons are for 2006-07. In the two Essex establishments the average cost was £80 at Chelmsford and £136 at Bullwood Hall.

Police Custody: Young People

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles were held overnight in custody in police cells in Essex in each of the last three years. [190701]

Mr. Straw: Since October 2006 the Government have used police cells in significant numbers to help manage pressure in the prison population. The Government's policy however is that juveniles should only be held overnight in police cells in the most exceptional circumstances. It should not happen routinely. Our records indicate that since October 2006 two juveniles have been held overnight in police cells in Essex. Data prior to this cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Prisoners

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders who received indeterminate public protection sentences are being held in *(a)* Category C and *(b)* Category D prisons. [199281]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of February 2008 there were *(a)* 480 prisoners serving indeterminate public protection sentences in all Category C prison establishments in England and Wales and *(b)* 50 in all Category D prison establishments in England and Wales.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and are rounded to the nearest 10.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the impact of licence recalls on the prison population. [199282]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of February 2008 there were 5,509 recalled prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

Recalls include all those recalled from licence and other early release schemes.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will introduce an additional system of reward and penalty for prisoners who have been returned to prison as a result of a licence recall. [199283]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to introduce an additional system of reward and penalty for prisoners returned to prison as a result of a licence recall. On entering custody all prisoners are placed on the standard level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme and the appropriateness of the level is reviewed after one month.

Prisoners: Disabled

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that prisons comply with their responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. [199675]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice has just published its Disability Equality Scheme which covers all prisons. It sets out the approach that the Ministry of Justice will take to fulfil its statutory obligations to deliver equality of opportunity to disabled staff, offenders and other persons who come into contact with the Ministry of Justice.

The National Offender Management Service will in April issue a revised prison service order and standard, to expand on and update existing instructions. These explain the duties and responsibilities prisons have for prisoners with disabilities. It sets out those actions which must be undertaken by prison staff to ensure that the duties under the Disability Discrimination Act are met.

Prisoners: Females

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place for the rehabilitation of female youth offenders, with particular reference to programmes involving the construction industry. [199891]

Mr. Hanson: All young women aged under 18 in custody receive a minimum of 22 hours of learning and skills provision, which must contain one third core education (English, Maths etc), one third vocational education, and one third for other education such as physical education and citizenship. In addition, depending on the young woman's individual needs, she may be required to attend offending behaviour programmes or receive specialist substance misuse services.

Although I am not aware of a specific construction programme for young female offenders, the Government have been engaging employers as part of the reducing re-offending Corporate Alliance. The aim of this alliance is to work in partnership with employers to improve the skills and employment outcomes for offenders. To date, we have over [illegible] employers signed up, some of whom are from the construction industry.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of female offenders *(a)* were given custodial sentences in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* have been given these sentences in 2008 to date; and if he will make a statement. [199905]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn. Statistics for 2008 will be published next year.

Number of women sentenced[1] and given immediate custody, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

		Female offenders
1997	Total sentenced	216,986
	Immediate custody	5,506
	Percentage of total	2.5
1998	Total sentenced	235,494
	Immediate custody	6,567
	Percentage of total	2.8

Number of women sentenced[1] and given immediate custody, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

		Female offenders
1999	Total sentenced	220,007
	Immediate custody	7,504
	Percentage of total	3.4
2000	Total sentenced	256,090
	Immediate custody	7,900
	Percentage of total	3.1
2001	Total sentenced	237,497
	Immediate custody	8,061
	Percentage of total	3.4
2002	Total sentenced	258,595
	Immediate custody	8,831
	Percentage of total	3.4
2003	Total sentenced	260,617
	Immediate custody	8,810
	Percentage of total	3.4
2004	Total sentenced	279,485
	Immediate custody	8,754
	Percentage of total	3.1
2005	Total sentenced	282,614
	Immediate custody	8,281
	Percentage of total	2.9
2006	Total sentenced	277,712
	Immediate custody	7,844
	Percentage of total	2.8

[1] Principal offence basis.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will provide a breakdown of the number and proportion of women given custodial sentences by the length of sentence in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2008 to date; and if he will make a statement. [199909]

Mr. Hanson: The available information is contained in the following table.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn. Statistics for 2008 will be published next year.

Number of women sentenced[1] to immediate custody and percentage of total, all ages, all courts, England and Wales 2002-06

Number of persons

	2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*	
Length of sentence	*Number given custody*	*% of total*	*Number given custody*	*% of total*	*Number given custody*	*% of total*	*Number given custody*	*% of total*	*Number given custody*	*% of total*
Up to and including 3 months	4,428	50.1	4,418	50.1	4,299	49.1	3,916	47.3	3,670	46.8
Over 3 months and up to and including 6 months	1,860	21.1	1,902	21.6	1,910	21.8	1,882	22.7	1,756	22.4
Over 6 months and up to and including 12 months	411	4.7	379	4.3	442	5.0	469	5.7	500	6.4
12 months	358	4.1	362	4.1	364	4.2	414	5.0	398	5.1

Number of women sentenced[1] to immediate custody and percentage of total, all ages, all courts, England and Wales 2002-06

Number of persons

Length of sentence	*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*	
	Number given custody	*% of total*	*Number given custody*	*% of total*	*Number given custody*	*% of total*	*Number given custody*	*% of total*	*Number given custody*	*% of total*
Over 12 months and up to and including 18 months	429	4.9	433	4.9	378	4.3	430	5.2	419	5.3
Over 18 months and up and including 3 years	757	8.6	727	8.3	743	8.5	630	7.6	644	8.2
Over 3 years and less than 4 years	157	1.8	115	1.3	158	1.8	99	1.2	81	1.0
Four years	107	1.2	126	1.4	110	1.3	88	1.1	81	1.0
Over 4 years and up to and including 5 years	104	1.2	113	1.3	138	1.6	122	1.5	69	0.9
Over 5 years and up to and including 10 years	169	1.9	183	2.1	167	1.9	166	2.0	146	1.9
Over 10 years and less than life	29	[2]—	25	[2]—	21	[2]—	15	[2]—	18	[2]—
Life	19	[2]—	24	[2]—	22	[2]—	31	[2]—	16	[2]—
Total	8,831	100	8,810	100	8,754	100	8,281	100	7,844	100

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Indicates a percentage total of less than 1 per cent.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Prisoners: Police Custody

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners have been held in police cells *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police force area since the start of 2008; and if he will make a statement; [193017]

(2) how many times police cells have been used to house prisoners overnight under Operation Safeguard in 2008 to date, broken down by police force; and if he will make a statement. [200117]

Mr. Straw: This year, up until the night of 27/28 March, prisoners have been held in police cells under Operation Safeguard on 12,122 occasions, which equates to an average of 139 prisoners per night. An occasion is one prisoner night. The following table breaks this down by police force areas.

Police area	*Occasions*	*Average number in Safeguard per night[1]*
Avon and Somerset	35	0.4
Bedfordshire	82	0.9
Cambridgeshire	269	3.1
Cheshire	1,073	12.3
Cleveland	0	0.0
Cumbria	89	1.0
Derbyshire	189	2.2
Devon and Cornwall	416	4.8
Dorset	74	0.9
Durham	270	3.1
Dyfed Powys	0	0.0
Essex	414	4.8
Gloucestershire	1	0.0
GMP	611	7.0
Gwent	0	0.0
Hampshire	331	3.8
Hertfordshire	316	3.6
Humberside	30	0.3
Kent	835	9.6
Lancashire	174	2.0
Leicestershire	452	5.2
Lincolnshire	2	0.0
Merseyside	41	0.5
MET	2,593	29.8
Norfolk	12	0.1

Police area	Occasions	Average number in Safeguard per night[1]
North Wales	371	4.3
North Yorkshire	20	0.2
Northamptonshire	43	0.5
Northumbria	0	0.0
Nottinghamshire	34	0.4
South Wales	425	4.9
South Yorkshire	179	2.1
Staffordshire	58	0.7
Suffolk	253	2.9
Surrey	9	0.1
Sussex	83	1.0
TVP	530	6.1
Warwickshire	474	5.4
West Mercia	0	0.0
West Midlands	628	7.2
West Yorkshire	700	8.0
Wiltshire	6	0.1

[1] Based on number of nights in 2008 that Safeguard was available to 27/28 March

Police cells were used to hold prisoners regularly from 1982 until 1993 and from 1994 to 1995, and use peaked when more than 1,000 prisoners a night were being regularly held in police cells in 1988 and in 1990-92 (based on end of month data).

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to introduce dedicated funding for alcohol misuse treatment services in all prisons. [199689]

Mr. Hanson: A range of interventions to support those with an alcohol problem are already in place as follows:

clinical services (alcohol detoxification and health care support), available in all local and remand prisons, as well as some young offender institutions;

Alcoholics Anonymous run groups in 67 per cent. of prisons;

where alcohol is part of poly-drug misuse, (counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare (CARAT) services) are available in all prisons with the exception of Blantyre House prison;

for those prisoners benefiting from the roll-out of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS), a 90 minute alcohol awareness session has been developed;

a 12-Step programme is being piloted at Bullingdon prison; and

the Young Persons Substance Misuse Service for 16 to 18-year-olds provides support for those with both alcohol and drug problems in 18 prisons.

There are no current plans to introduce dedicated funding for alcohol misuse treatment services in prisons.

Prisoners: Training

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* initial contract value and *(b)* outturn in each year since establishment was of each contracted-out secure training centre. [199710]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is commercially sensitive and may not be disclosed.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost was of each *(a)* place and *(b)* offender in each contracted-out secure training centre in each year since establishment. [199711]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board has been responsible for overseeing the contracts for the four secure training centres (STC) since 1 April 2000. Data are available from that date. The pricing mechanism is not based on the cost-per-young-person, but on cost-per-available-place. Detailed cost information is commercially sensitive, but the average annual cost of a secure training centre place, excluding VAT, is set out in the following table:

Financial year	Average cost per place at a secure training centre (£)
2000-01	132,000
2001-02	134,000
2002-03	131,000
2003-04	136,000
2004-05	143,000
2005-06	145,000
2006-07	149,000

Source:
Data provided by the Youth Justice Board from financial systems.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what liquidated damage clauses there are in each contract of each contracted-out secure training centre (STC); how many times those clauses were used in respect of each STC in each year since establishment; and how much was paid by each centre in each year. [199712]

Mr. Hanson: There are liquidated damages clauses in each secure training centre contract. Hassockfield, Rainsbrook and Oakhill secure training centres all made liquidated damages payments in their first year of operation. Payments are set out in the following table:

Establishment	Year of opening	Liquidated damages payments (£)
Hassockfield	1999	35,759.20
Medway	1998	0.00
Oakhill	2004	311,797.20
Rainsbrook	1999	155,152.20

Source:
Data provided by the Youth Justice Board.

Prisons: Cells

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners held in a cell designed for two cellmates shared their cell with two others in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement; [199886]

(2) how many prisoners held in a cell designed for one inmate shared their cell with one other in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [199887]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is in the process of collating a complete set of figures for 2007-08 at present. The following tables show the average number of prisoners reported as being doubled in cells certified to hold one person and trebled in cells certified to hold two persons, for 2006-07 and 2007-08 to the end of February. Data for 2007-08 remain provisional.

Financial year	Number of prisoners trebling up in cells designed for two
2006-07	1,090
2007-08 (April-February)	1,129

Financial year	Number of prisoners doubling up in cells designed for one
2006-07	18,588
2007-08 (April-February)	19,231

Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 562W, on sentencing, (1) what the figures in the table represented as a percentage of the total number of people convicted of a third class A drug trafficking offence in each year since 2000; and what the average sentence was of all those convicted of such an offence in each of those years; [199529]

(2) what the figures in the table represented as a percentage of the total number of people convicted of a third domestic burglary offence in each year since 2000; and what the average sentence was of all those convicted of such an offence in each of those years. [199530]

Mr. Hanson: I am unable to answer the questions, because the Courts Proceedings Database does not include criminal histories.

The Courts Proceedings Database does not allow us to identify all those offenders who have committed their third class A drug trafficking offence or third domestic burglary. We can identify those who were given the minimum only through a specific disposal code. To identify all these individuals would require us to extract data from the Police National Computer (PNC). This would take time and we think would not be reliable for drug trafficking as our extract of PNC records police prosecutions only. In addition, the results from the two separate administrative systems may not be directly comparable due to differences in recording practice.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of *(a)* males and *(b)* females given prison sentences in each of the last 10 years were aged (i) below 16, (ii) 16 to 18, (iii) 19 to 21, (iv) 22 to 25, (v) 26 to 30, (vi) 31 to 40, (vii) 41 to 50 and (viii) 51 years or over; and if he will make a statement. [200114]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following tables. The data are broken down into the age groups of juveniles (10-17), young adults (18-20) and adults (21+).

For persons aged 21 and over this includes all adult persons where the age has not been reported to the Ministry of Justice.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Number of persons sentenced[1] and given immediate custody by age and sex, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons and percentages

	1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
Age group	Immediate custody	Percentage of total[2]	Immediate custody	Percentage of total[2]	Immediate custody	Percentage of total[2]	Immediate custody	Percentage of total[2]	Immediate custody	Percentage of total[2]
Male										
10 to 17	6,775	7.7	6,881	7.3	7,244	7.4	6,968	7.1	7,147	7.3
18 to 20	15,143	17.1	16,152	17.2	17,048	17.4	17,324	17.6	16,882	17.2
21 +	66,417	75.2	70,966	75.5	73,527	75.2	73,995	75.3	74,183	75.5
Total	88,335	100	93,999	100	97,819	100	98,287	100	98,212	100
Female										
10 to 17	308	5.6	336	5.1	409	5.5	446	5.6	449	5.6
18 to 20	642	11.7	851	13.0	963	12.8	1,117	14.1	1,066	13.2
21 +	4,292	78.0	5,100	77.7	5,767	76.9	5,933	75.1	6,106	75.7
Total	5,506	100	6,567	100	7,504	100	7,900	100	8,061	100

Age group	2002 Immediate custody	2002 Percentage of total[2]	2003 Immediate custody	2003 Percentage of total[2]	2004 Immediate custody	2004 Percentage of total[2]	2005 Immediate custody	2005 Percentage of total[2]	2006 Immediate custody	2006 Percentage of total[2]
Male										
10 to 17	6,886	6.7	5,776	5.8	5,881	6.0	5,512	5.9	5,730	6.5
18 to 20	16,290	15.9	14,465	14.6	13,817	14.2	13,351	14.4	13,046	14.8
21 +	79,600	77.4	78,619	79.5	77,870	79.8	74,092	79.7	69,397	78.7
Total	102,776	100	98,860	100	97,568	100	92,955	100	88,173	100
Female										
10 to 17	530	6.0	424	4.8	444	5.1	503	6.1	453	5.8
18 to 20	1,073	12.2	973	11.0	819	9.4	880	10.6	851	10.8
21 +	6,750	76.4	6,943	78.8	7,093	81.0	6,545	79.0	6,540	83.4
Total	8,831	100	8,810	100	8,754	100	8,281	100	7,844	100

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Percentage of the total number of males and females respectively sentenced for all ages, all courts.[S1,a]

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average age was of *(a)* males and *(b)* females given a custodial sentence in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [200115]

Mr. Hanson: All adult offenders where the age has not been reported to the Ministry of Justice are assumed to be age 25. This will create a bias in the calculation of average age and therefore we do not produce figures on this basis.

Sentencing: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sentences were given to young offenders, broken down by type of offence, in each of the last 10 years. [199329]

Mr. Hanson: The available information is contained in the table.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Number of persons sentenced[1] by type of offence and age group, all courts, England and Wales, 1997-2006

Number of persons

Age group	Offence group	Year 1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
10 to 17[2]	Violence against the person	5,886	5,994	6,905	6,424	6,910	6,870	6,577	6,902	7,444	7,559
	Sexual offences	468	468	488	467	510	557	449	587	556	500
	Burglary	8,624	8,487	7,766	6,849	6,267	6,418	5,752	5,935	6,045	6,169
	Robbery	2,343	2,160	2,039	2,238	2,789	2,804	2,638	2,964	3,089	3,733
	Theft and handling stolen goods	19,573	21,840	22,627	21,006	20,556	18,436	16,540	16,798	17,061	16,351
	Fraud and forgery	806	962	1,078	1,017	1,012	945	810	762	692	601
	Criminal damage	2,255	2,290	2,682	2,576	2,897	2,908	2,946	3,234	3,274	3,678
	Drug offences	1,845	2,748	3,107	3,739	4,342	4,958	5,144	4,479	4,626	4,460
	Other indictable offences	4,131	4,172	4,310	4,388	4,318	4,446	4,272	4,612	4,497	4,134
	Indictable motoring offences	370	427	447	556	668	767	817	738	583	525
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	22,034	25,488	26,982	27,728	28,495	28,354	28,766	32,190	33,513	34,020
	Summary motoring offences	10,760	11,249	12,629	14,492	16,721	17,585	17,841	16,987	14,821	12,076
18 to 20[2]	Violence against the person	5,789	6,385	6,352	6,393	6,336	6,666	6,521	6,748	6,998	7,457
	Sexual offences	246	292	275	251	269	284	273	293	351	360
	Burglary	7,098	6,841	6,511	5,781	4,829	4,639	4,096	3,810	3,636	3,723

Number of persons sentenced[1] by type of offence and age group, all courts, England and Wales, 1997-2006

Number of persons

Age group	Offence group	Year 1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Robbery	1,267	1,303	1,236	1,266	1,440	1,479	1,317	1,459	1,387	1,642
	Theft and handling stolen goods	20,036	21,651	22,856	21,890	20,137	17,938	15,321	13,653	12,516	11,981
	Fraud and forgery	2,158	2,470	2,845	2,601	2,577	2,310	2,117	1,946	1,750	1,427
	Criminal damage	1,798	1,809	1,773	1,702	1,710	1,676	1,737	1,771	1,854	2,079
	Drug offences	6,445	8,110	8,409	8,092	8,217	8,634	8,701	5,680	5,445	5,841
	Other indictable offences	8,256	8,680	8,432	8,187	7,898	8,110	8,148	8,560	8,138	7,903
	Indictable motoring offences	1,281	1,172	1,199	1,172	1,223	1,328	1,380	1,321	1,143	1,035
	Summary offences (excluding motoring)	39,868	44,834	43,472	44,399	44,484	45,910	47,613	47,062	46,217	48,190
	Summary motoring offences	62,217	63,575	62,052	60,376	58,787	60,410	64,843	64,096	56,616	51,056

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] 10 to 17-year-olds are classed as juveniles.
[3] 18 to 20-year-olds are classed as young offenders.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Suicide Prevention Strategy

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will consider whether any revision of legislation is required to assist the work of the Suicide Prevention Strategy for England; and if he will make a statement. [198902]

Maria Eagle: We are considering whether the law in this area could sensibly be strengthened or clarified and will announce our conclusions shortly.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of successful prosecution for online promotion of suicide there have been; and if he will make a statement. [198903]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire (Mr. Gray) on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1521W.

Data collected on prosecutions for assisting or attempting to assist suicide does not differentiate between online and off-line actions but the overall number of prosecutions for these offences is low.

Supervisions Orders: Costs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average cost of a supervision order was in England and Wales in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; [192584]

(2) what the average cost of a supervision order was with *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more conditions in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [192585]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

These data are not collected centrally.

Voting Behaviour

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to *(a)* consider, *(b)* consult on and *(c)* conduct research into compulsory voting; and if he will make a statement. [198983]

Mr. Wills: There are currently no plans to consider compulsory voting. However, we are considering the factors that motivate people to exercise their right to vote and how we can promote the act of voting as a civic duty tied to the rights and responsibilities we all share as citizens. I will be making further announcements on this in due course.

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department collects on the academic achievement of young people in custody; and if he will make a statement. [174266]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Department does not hold central records on the achievements of young people in custody. Under the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS), rolled out across England in August 2006, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) collects data on the academic achievements of young people in Young Offender Institutions. The LSC records literacy, numeracy, ICT and vocational training qualifications separately as well as GCSEs and AS/A level and any personal and social skills qualifications. However, for young people in custody still registered at learning providers in the community,

their achievements will be attributed to the learning provider with which they are registered, rather than the custodial establishment's LSC provider. Therefore the LSC figures do not provide records of 'all' of the academic achievements of 'all' young people in YOIs. The LSC figures also do not include the academic achievements of young people in Secure Children's Homes or Secure Training Centres. However, in the context of the Green Paper a settlement was announced in the Children's Plan. We are examining how the academic projects and attainment of all young people in custody can be collected and monitored.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 22 April 2008

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the 2012 Olympics on public health. [199363]

Tessa Jowell: The 2012 games are our best chance in a generation to encourage people to be more active. We will set out clear targets and initiatives for increasing participation in sport and physical activity in the forthcoming Legacy Action Plan.

Several regional physical activity networks working on behalf of the Department of Health have commissioned a review of the health and physical activity benefits from hosting previous Olympic games and other major sporting events and the potential benefits to the UK from hosting the 2012 games. This work is being carried out by the Centre for Sport, Education and Activity Research at Canterbury Christ Church university. Findings from the research will provide recommendations on how best we can use the 2012 games to inspire, engage and encourage people to lead healthier and more active lifestyles.

WALES

Bus Services: Concessions

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps he is taking to facilitate the cross-border application of concessionary bus passes; and if he will make a statement. [198748]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The implementation of any cross-border concessionary travel arrangements is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities, and the Department for Transport. I have asked officials to keep me informed of developments in this area.

The Concessionary Bus Travel Act (2007) came into force at the start of this month and implements a concessionary scheme in England. The Welsh scheme has been in place since 2002.

A fully reciprocal UK-wide scheme would require secondary legislation to be put in place and at present the focus of the Act is to ensure a successful introduction of the new England-wide concession.

English and Welsh local authorities are currently able to come to individual agreements with bus companies for their residents to use their passes for cross-border travel as they see fit.

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many public consultations were held by his Department in the last three years; and how many respondents took part in the process for each consultation. [198588]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has held two public consultations in the last three years. The first consultation on the "Better Governance of Wales" White Paper received 82 respondents. The other relating to the Government's 2007 Draft Legislative programme (as part of the wider consultation by the Cabinet Office) received 18 respondents.

TRANSPORT

Foreign-registered Lorries

9. **Christopher Fraser:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward a proposal for a scheme under which foreign-registered lorries pay to use the network. [199763]

13. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward a proposal for a scheme under which foreign-registered lorries pay to use the highway network. [199767]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As announced in Budget 2008, the Government will not be progressing a vignette scheme of the type raised by the hon. Gentlemen, at this stage.

However, in the last two years alone, we have more than doubled enforcement targeted on heavy goods vehicles on international journeys, and we have just announced a £24 million package to allow the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) to increase their safety checks by a further 50 per cent. This means 97 more enforcement staff, 24/7 checking at key sites, and new enforcement sites which should lead to a near doubling of prohibitions through 75,000 more checks being carried out.

Rail Services: Chelmsford to Liverpool Street Line

10. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the quality of service on the Chelmsford to Liverpool Street railway line. [199764]

Mr. Tom Harris: Passenger surveys are undertaken by Passenger Focus rather than the Department. The results of the latest National Passenger Survey were published on 24 January 2008. They show an overall satisfaction of 75 per cent. for National Express East Anglia passengers. This compares with a national overall satisfaction of 81 per cent.

Railways: Capacity Enhancement

11. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of the merits of capacity enhancement on the rail network. [199765]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rail passenger numbers continue to grow. The Rail White Paper, which we published in July 2007, described how the Government intend to work with the industry to ensure that the network can cater for that growth. At the heart of our plans is the £10 billion that we have committed to spend on enhancing rail capacity between 2009 and 2014.

Rail Fares: Effects on Carbon Dioxide Emissions

12. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of levels of rail fares on levels of carbon dioxide emissions from transport. [199766]

Mr. Tom Harris: Last autumn we published the discussion document "Towards a Sustainable Transport System". In it we announced our intention to look at the full range of options—including pricing—for putting transport on to a less carbon-intensive path. We expect to publish our analysis by spring next year.

Integrated Transport: Northern England

14. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to improve the integrated transport infrastructure in the North West and other Northern regions. [199768]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Total public sector transport spend across the three northern regions was over £3.5 billion in 2006-07, 66 per cent. higher than in 2001-02.

The total spend in the North West increased by 76 per cent. over the same period. Over the next three years, local authorities across the north are benefiting from £1.35 billion of Local Transport Plan funding.

European Mobility Week

15. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans her Department has to mark European Mobility Week 2008. [199769]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has no plans directly to mark European Mobility Week 2008. We fund the London European Partnership for Transport (LEPT) to represent us on sustainable transport issues in Europe.

Road Congestion: West Yorkshire

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department is taking to reduce road congestion in West Yorkshire. [199770]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2006, the Department for Transport agreed an urban congestion target with the West Yorkshire Transport Authority.

We have also provided West Yorkshire with £210 million of funding to support local transport improvements over the next three years.

Terminal 5

18. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent reports she has received on the operation of Heathrow Terminal 5. [199772]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has been in regular contact with both British Airways (BA) and British Airports Authority (BAA) since T5 opened to monitor the situation and offer assistance and I visited the terminal on its first weekend of operation to see the situation at first hand.

The Secretary of State has made clear that she expects BA and BAA to continue to work together to resolve any remaining problems and also to agree a realistic timetable for the move of BA's long haul operations so that as little disruption as possible is caused to their own passengers and to those from other airlines.

A417

19. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Highways Agency on improvements to the A417 in the Nettleton Bottom and Crickley Hill areas of Gloucestershire; and if she will make a statement. [199773]

Mr. Tom Harris: On 12 March 2008 the Highways Agency informed me of the results of the review into the possibility of a lower cost solution to address the problems between Cowley and Brockworth on the A417 in Gloucestershire.

The hon. Gentleman will also know that this matter was fully debated last night at the A417 Improvement Scheme Adjournment Debate, secured by the hon. Member for Cotswold (Mr. Clifton-Brown).

The HA concluded that the original major scheme 'the brown route' remains the optimal solution.

Aircraft Engine Lubricants: Risks to Passengers and Crew

20. **Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment she has made of potential health risks to airline passengers and crew from vapour emanating from engine lubricants. [199774]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Studies such as the European CabinAir project have shown that normally the levels of chemical and biological contaminants in aircraft are less than in many ground based work environments. The independent Committee on Toxicity completed a substantial review of evidence in September 2007 and concluded that it did not establish (or rule out) a link between cabin air and pilot ill health. The Committee recommended research to sample cabin air during 'fume events', which it estimated occur on 0.05 per cent. of flights overall. Such sampling has not been done before. The Government accepted the recommendation and has begun work to develop the methodology. Details are on the Department for Transport website.

Airport Expansion

21. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the expansion of Heathrow airport and London City airport. [199775]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has received many thousands of responses to the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation which examined a number of Heathrow expansion issues. This closed on 27 February and all the responses are currently being analysed. We expect to take policy decisions later this year.

London City airport has submitted a planning application to Newham council to increase the number of flights from its current level. In view of the Secretary of State's quasi-judicial role in the planning process, it would not be appropriate to comment on the merits or otherwise of this application.

Concessionary Bus Travel: North Yorkshire

22. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on the implementation of the national concessionary bus fare scheme in North Yorkshire. [199776]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Members and local councillors have made representations regarding concessionary travel in North Yorkshire. In addition, the Department received representations from local authorities in Harrogate, Ryedale and York in response to the consultation last autumn on the formula distribution for the special grant for the new England-wide concession, implemented on 1 April.

Left-hand Drive Heavy Goods Vehicles: Safety

23. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government are taking to improve the safety record of left-hand drive heavy goods vehicles. [199777]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are continuing to increase the level of enforcement activity undertaken by the Department's Vehicle and Operator Services Agency targeted against heavy commercial vehicles on international journeys. We have made significant additional funding available to VOSA for this purpose over the last couple of years, and we will be adding a further £24 million over the next three years. This means 97 extra enforcement staff, 24/7 checking at key sites, as well as two additional check sites, all leading to around 75,000 additional checks.

We will also be adding a significant new deterrent against non-compliance with the introduction of 'on-the-spot financial penalties' early next year. This will mean that non-UK-resident offenders will—at last—be facing similar enforcement action to that taken against UK vehicle operators and to that which has been taken by other member states against UK drivers for many years.

Bus Services Operators' Grant

24. **Mr. Truswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to consult interested parties as part of the review of the Bus Services Operators' Grant. [199778]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We published on 13 March a consultation document, "Local Bus Service Support—Options for Reform", on proposed changes to Bus Service Operators Grant to align it more closely with environmental objectives and improve bus services.

We look forward to receiving the views of interested parties; the closing date for responses is 5 June.

Facilities for Cyclists

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to encourage the provision of facilities for cyclists by local authorities and other employers. [199760]

Ruth Kelly: I recently announced record funding of £140 million to Cycling England to support local authorities and others to improve cycling provision.

The Department has also asked local authorities to develop cycling strategies through their local transport plans.

Pricing Mechanisms: Modes of Travel

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her policy is on the use of pricing mechanisms to influence mode of travel. [199771]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government's policy was set out by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in "Towards a Sustainable Transport System".

This will be further developed in the Green and White Papers that will be brought before this house over the next 12 months. This process includes significant consultation with key stakeholders and the representatives of the consumers of transport services.

Cars: Research

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* evaluated research on the most economical average speed for cars. [199422]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has not conducted or evaluated research specifically on this subject. However our programme of vehicle emissions testing to develop 'emissions factors' for the purposes of national emissions inventory modelling does include measuring carbon dioxide emissions (and hence fuel economy) under a range of different types of driving condition. These include testing under relatively constant speed driving conditions from around 58 miles per hour to 70 miles per hour. The results from these tests show carbon dioxide emissions increasing over this speed range. In deriving emissions factors, our contractors also consider the results of similar research conducted elsewhere in the EU.

The Department does not have carbon dioxide emissions data for constant speeds below 58 miles per hour; however emissions would be expected to decrease at lower constant speeds.

The emissions factors characterise emissions against average driving speed. Below 58 miles per hour the characteristics are based on driving patterns featuring accelerations and decelerations rather than constant speed driving.

Railways: Scotland

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on plans for a high-speed rail link between Scotland and England. [199754]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improvements to the West Coast Main Line are already delivering faster journeys between England and Scotland—and completing the West Coast upgrade will lead to further improvements in both capacity and journey times.

But we are also planning for the longer term. That is why we have asked Network Rail to lead work on options for the future, including the possibility of new lines.

Roads

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the primary route network in England was last fully reviewed; when she next intends to review it to reflect the effects of changes in places of economic and social importance on traffic importance; and what criteria are set for the network to ensure that it is appropriate and that its operation is effective. [199461]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Primary Route Network (PRN) is a national network which exists to aid navigation for long-distance traffic. It connects Primary Route Destinations in England and comprises all non-motorway trunk roads and the most important local roads.

A review of the Primary Route Network took place in the mid-1980s. The Regional Offices of the Department for Transport (as it then was) conducted the review in consultation with county highway authorities.

The approval of minor alterations to the PRN is delegated to the Government Offices for the Regions (changes where there are no implications for signage beyond the immediate section of the road which is subject to the change). Where a Government Office wants a major change to the network or change to the primary destinations this must be approved by the Department for Transport centrally. The criteria used to set the network are that the Primary Routes must be the most satisfactory routes for through traffic between places of traffic importance in the opinion of the Secretary of State (although for non-trunk roads this opinion will be formed after consultation with the traffic authority for the road).

We currently have no plans to undertake a fundamental review of the current Primary Route Network but in taking forward our proposals for improving our longer-term strategic transport planning processes, as set out in Towards a Sustainable Transport System, we will of course ensure coherence between the long-term planning for our strategic national transport networks, and the Primary Route Network.

Trains

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 97W, on trains, in what specific ways her Department plans to be involved in the specification process for the intercity express programme train; and what specific advantages she expects this involvement to bring. [199344]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have developed the business case, led engagement with the industry, prepared rolling stock and service specifications, developed tender documents and are leading the procurement process.

This involvement ensures the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) provides best whole-life value for money; optimising across train, maintenance and infrastructure; deals with long-term capacity requirements including best use of existing rolling stock; and secures the all-industry collaboration needed to deliver the right result for passengers.

There is a good business case for the Intercity Express Programme, delivering better value for money and more benefits than would be the case if the Department for Transport left this to the industry alone to pursue.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the likely volume of carbon dioxide emissions from *(a)* road traffic and *(b)* domestic aviation in (i) 2010, (ii) 2015 and (iii) 2025. [192958]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested estimates of carbon dioxide emissions are set out in the following table:

In million tonnes of CO_2

	2010	*2015*	*2025*
Road transport	115.5	117.2	112.3
Domestic aviation	2.6	2.5	3.2

For road traffic, we have applied the forecast percentage change in CO_2 emissions between 2003 and 2010, 2015 and 2025 from the Department's National Transport Model to DEFRA's official CO_2 inventory data for 2003. For domestic aviation we have supplied estimates under central assumptions of demand growth and fuel efficiency.

These forecasts are in the absence of further policy measures and are consistent with what was announced in the Energy White Paper (2007). Further detail of the assumptions and policies underlying the road forecasts is available from:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/economics/ntm/071023_AnnualForecast07.pdf

Further details of the approach used for the aviation forecasts can be found in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 forecasts" published by the DfT in November 2007:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/ukairdemandandco2forecasts/airpassdemandfullreport.pdf

West Coast Railway Line

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will review her policy on the provision of additional carriages for services on the West Coast Main Line. [199890]

Mr. Tom Harris: No. An examination has already been made of the options available to Government to secure additional accommodation on the Pendolino trains. I am satisfied that the proposed way forward, led by the Department, represents best value of money, the fastest way to deliver the required capacity and compliance with relevant legislation.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Carbon Monoxide: Alarms

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Housing Corporation to (i) social landlords and (ii) local authorities on the use of carbon monoxide alarms in (A) residential care, (B) sheltered housing and (C) social housing in the last five years. [198651]

Mr. Iain Wright: There has been no guidance specifically for targeted towards social landlords relating to the use of carbon monoxide alarms. However, in 2006 the Housing Health and Safety Rating System came into force for all housing, including social housing. The guidance associated with this system contains advice on the use of carbon monoxide alarms.

The Housing Corporation regulates by means of the regulatory code which sets out the fundamental obligations on Housing Associations in meeting the Corporation's regulatory requirements. Under the code, housing associations are required to comply with the law, and to ensure that "the homes their residents live in are well maintained and in a lettable condition". The issue of detailed guidance on maintenance or health and safety issues does not form part of the Corporation's duties. The Corporation would however, expect associations to adopt and follow best practice issued by the relevant agencies, e.g. the Health and Safety Executive.

Construction: Crime

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government has taken to reduce illegal construction since 1997. [196523]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 27 March 2008]*: The Government take the issue of illegal construction (i.e. construction undertaken without proper planning permission or building control approval) very seriously and aims to ensure that the building control and planning systems support local authorities in identifying and dealing with illegal construction activities effectively.

The 2006 planning enforcement review confirmed that local planning authorities had sufficient enforcement powers to deal with breaches of planning control.

There are penalties for developers who commence or complete development prior to obtaining planning permission. In practice, anyone who undertakes development without first obtaining the necessary permission puts the investment at considerable risk, especially in the case of a building which may subsequently have to be demolished. Alternatively, they may find themselves subject to a summary penalty on conviction of an enforcement notice or stop notice offence. The maximum penalty in the magistrates court is £20,000 and there is no upper limit on the penalty which the Crown Court may impose on conviction.

Since 2005, local planning authorities can also now serve a temporary stop notice. The temporary stop notice enables the local planning authority to require a breach of planning control to stop immediately for a period of 28 days, during which the local planning authority can decide whether to take further enforcement action. In addition to enforcement notices, stop notices and temporary stop notices, authorities may also apply for a planning injunction in the High Court or county court, to restrain an actual or expected breach of planning control. Once an injunction has been granted, anyone who fails to comply with its terms risks imprisonment.

In the case of building control, local authorities work with builders to identify where the work they are undertaking does not comply with the building regulations and resolve any issues. However, where enforcement action is necessary they have a range of enforcement options available to them such as serving enforcement notices and fines through the courts.

To support local authorities' enforcement efforts, legislation came into force on 6 April which extended the time limit from six months to two years for local authorities to prosecute offenders for breaches relating to energy efficiency requirements. This will be widened to cover all breaches of the building regulations as soon as possible. We are also consulting on extending the time limits in other areas, for instance the issuing of an enforcement notice requiring non-compliant work to be pulled down or rectified.

The current consultation on the Future of Building Control proposes a further range of enforcement mechanisms to prevent illegal work from going ahead such as stop notices and fixed monetary penalties. There are also proposals to help industry forward plan and comply with the building regulations by moving towards a more planned approach to building regulation and to free up more time and resources for local authorities to focus on high-risk building work.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets her Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199052]

Mr. Dhanda: Currently 6.1 per cent. of Communities staff have reported a disability, based on a diversity data completion rate of 74 per cent. In March 2008, we set an aspirational target to increase this figure to 8 per cent. of staff by end March 2009, based on London work force data as published by the London Assembly. However, we have moderated our target to account for a large proportion of our recruitment being cross-civil service rather than external.

On 31 March 2008 we achieved the 10 Point Diversity Plan cross-Government target for disabled staff in the senior civil service (SCS). The target was set by Cabinet Office as 3.2 per cent., which we exceeded with 4.7 per cent. of our SCS reporting a disability, based on a SCS reporting level of 77 per cent.

This result will be reported to Cabinet Office in due course, who are expected to confirm and publish the figures in the coming year. We will also assist in the drafting of a new 10 Point Diversity Plan, which will build on these results and set revised targets for all Government Departments.

Energy: Conservation

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what energy efficiency increases she has required to be achieved by the Bridging Newcastle Gateshead Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder. [196111]

Mr. Iain Wright: Bridging Newcastle Gateshead has not been set any specific energy efficiency targets. However, it will be expected to adhere to implementing energy efficiency standards, environmental sustainability and eco-design in its programme as set out in its business plan for 2008-11. On a wider front, the Government have set out an ambitious timetable with the aim of achieving zero carbon new homes by 2016, including the progressive tightening of building regulations in 2010 and 2013.

Homelessness: Immigration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to assess *(a)* levels of and *(b)* trends in homelessness among immigrants from (i) A8 countries and (ii) non-EU countries. [199851]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is as follows.

Statutory homelessness

Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level. This information includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

(i) A8 nationals

Information about decisions taken under the homelessness legislation for A8 (and more recently A2) headed households is published quarterly, on CLG's Housing Statistics website in "Live Tables".

Table 629 contains data on A8 households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, including the reason for eligibility, from May 2004 onwards:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/1141674

Data for 2007 show that 425 A8-headed households were accepted as being owed the main homelessness duty, comprising 0.7 per cent. of the total acceptances over the same period. The quality of A8 foreign national data submitted is improving, and we are working with local authorities to continue this improvement.

(ii) Non-EU nationals

We are also working with local authorities to obtain better information on numbers of homelessness decisions and acceptances for other, non-EU foreign nationals on the P1E statutory homelessness form. These figures will be published as soon we are satisfied that both the response rate and quality of the data reported is sufficiently robust.

Rough sleeping

Local authorities who conduct rough sleeper counts collect information on any individuals sleeping rough, and these are published annually on our website. These figures include those from EU accession states and other countries, but a breakdown of nationality is not provided.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of Lifetime Homes on the plot size of new homes; and what discussions she has had with *(a)* the house building industry and *(b)* disability organisations on this matter. [200058]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society', published by CLG in February 2008, we stated that we would review the take up of Lifetime Homes Standards in all sectors in 2010 with a view to bringing forward regulation in 2013 if take up has not matched expectations.

While our assessment of the effect of the introduction of Lifetime Homes on the plot size of new homes was informed by findings from 'Designed for Manufacture, Lessons Learned' (English Partnerships, CLG, June 2006) my officials are considering what work needs to be commissioned to further develop the evidence base for the proposed review and this will include additional research into the potential impact of Lifetime Homes Standards on affordability and density.

There has been formal consultation on Lifetime Homes Standards in the Green Paper 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable' (CLG, July 2007), 'The future of the Code for Sustainable Homes—Making a rating mandatory' (CLG, July 2007) and the pre-strategy document for the 'National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society' (CLG, May 2007). The Home Builders Federation Retirement Housing Group, industry representatives, Age Concern and Help the Aged were among a variety of organisations represented on the Housing and Older People Development Group, the expert reference group that advised on the development of the 'National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society' from 2006.

My officials are also continuing to work with key stakeholders, including representatives of the house building industry and disability organisations to explore how best to develop accessible and adaptable housing while ensuring we can meet our housing supply targets.

Housing: Planning

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on *(a)* setting local development frameworks on the use of (i) Green Belt

land, (ii) urban fringes and (iii) intensification of urban areas for residential construction and *(b)* balancing the use of these land categories; and if she will make a statement. [199370]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance to local planning authorities on the process and general content of local development frameworks (LDFs) is set out in Planning Policy Statement 12. Government have also published a number of national planning policy statements (PPSs) and planning policy guidance notes (PPGs) on different matters which should be taken into account by local planning authorities in preparing their LDFs.

PPG2 sets out national policy on green belts. This makes clear that there should be a presumption against inappropriate development in designated green belt land. Such development should not be approved, except in very special circumstances. PPS3 on 'Housing' sets out national planning policies for achieving high quality housing which make the most efficient and effective use of land to meet identified needs for new housing. PPS3 is not prescriptive in terms of directing housing to particular areas but asks local planning authorities to identify, through the preparation of strategic housing land availability assessments, specific, suitable sites in their plans which may include sites within the urban fringes and existing urban areas. A site is suitable if it offers a suitable location for housing development and would contribute to the creation of sustainable, mixed communities.

It is for local planning authorities to assess a site's suitability for housing, taking into account factors such as policy restrictions, such as designations or protected areas; physical problems of restrictions, such as access, infrastructure, and flood risk; potential impacts, including effect upon landscape features and conservation; and the environmental conditions which would be experienced by prospective residents.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of *(a)* off-site and *(b)* on-site her Department uses for the purposes of requiring a set amount of renewable energy to be produced in relation to residential developments. [198881]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not require a set amount of renewable energy to be produced in relation to residential developments.

From 2016, all new homes will have to reach the zero carbon standard which will be set out in building regulations. The current definition of zero carbon homes as set out in the policy statement 'Building a Greener Future' means that over a year, the net carbon emissions from all energy use in the home are zero. The policy statement suggests that the zero carbon standard should be achieved through measures on the site of the dwelling or development, or through a low or zero carbon energy source connected to the development using a private wire. However, this will be the subject of a consultation process in the summer when we will be consulting on how the zero carbon 2016 standard should be achieved with a view to finalising the definition by the end of 2008.

Planning: Tendring

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of total planning applications in Tendring district were for development on garden sites classified as brownfield land in the most recent period for which figures are available. [200213]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally. Communities and Local Government collects quarterly aggregate statistics on development control from all local planning authorities in England. However, we do not collect information on individual planning applications.

Planning: Travelling People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning aid funding has been given to Traveller groups by her Department in each of the last three years. [198870]

Mr. Iain Wright: No funding was provided for this purpose in 2005 or 2006. Communities and Local Government provided £9,011 to Planning Aid in 2007 to enable them to deliver training to Gypsies and Travellers on the planning system.

Property: Database

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 49W, on property: database, what central funding London Connects *(a)* has received and *(b)* is receiving for Valuebill. [194367]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 525W. No further funding will be provided in the next 12 months.

Squatting: Advisory Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department and its agencies have provided funding to organisations which give advice on squatting in the last three years. [198919]

Mr. Iain Wright: This Department does not fund any organisation specifically to provide advice on squatting.

Supporting People Programme: Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of the Supporting People budget was spent on people with a learning disability in each of the last four years. [197422]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority. It is for the authority to decide

which services to fund, informed by the local needs and priorities identified in their five year Supporting People Strategies. The following table sets out the amount spent on Supporting People services for people with a learning disability, as reported to the Department by administering authorities. It will not identify all funding spent on people with a learning disability who access Supporting People services: some may have a different service classification (for example, people with a learning disability may access support from Supporting People services that help them move on from domestic violence or homelessness).

	Spend reported on services for people with a learning disability (£)	Proportion of the total reported spend (%)
2004-05	396,596,732	23.4
2005-06	388,760,777	23.1
2006-07	367,435,288	22.4

Information for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Travelling People: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been given to local authorities on whether Traveller camps which occupy land which they do not own or have permission from the landowner to reside on or which do not have planning permission should *(a)* be charged council tax and *(b)* receive rubbish collection services. [198927]

Mr. Iain Wright: No guidance has been given to local authorities on whether Gypsy and Travellers on unauthorised sites should be charged council tax.

Gypsies and Travellers on authorised sites are required to pay council tax and should receive rubbish collection services.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling: Expenditure

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide a detailed breakdown of his Department's expenditure on fisheries improvements for anglers in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [199272]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency receives fisheries-specific funding from the Government amounting to £9.5 million per annum. The Environment Agency also receives income from the sale of licences from anglers and netsmen amounting to nearly £21.5 million per annum.

This income funds a range of activities and fisheries improvements at regional and national level, which are of benefit to anglers. This includes the monitoring of fish stocks, investigation and remediation of incidents affecting fish such as disease, drought, pollution and floods; provision of advice on the development and improvement of fisheries, as well as the regulation of fishing through a licensing system which helps protect the resource for the future.

The Environment Agency fisheries budget specifically allocates a national improvement and development project budget to fund projects that improve fisheries habitat, facilities and access for anglers. Many of these projects are undertaken in partnership with other organisations, usually leading to relatively highly-geared expenditure by partners on fisheries improvements.

The following table provides overall expenditure on fisheries over the past five years together with the national improvement and development project budget.

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total regional expenditure on fisheries	18.2	19.4	19.5	19.7	20.8
Total national expenditure on fisheries	8.2	8.8	8.9	9.5	10.5
Overall expenditure on fisheries	26.4	28.2	28.4	29.2	31.3
National improvement and development project budget	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.4

The national improvement and development project budget in the overall total is part of the regional expenditure on fisheries.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's expenditure was on angling in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [199274]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the expenditure broken down by each Environment Agency region. The Environment Agency does not break down expenditure by local authority area.

Regional fisheries expenditure

£000

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North East	2,693	2,851	2,737	2,808	2,827
North West	2,813	3,024	3,024	3,057	3,072
Wales	3,296	4,171	4,210	4,246	4,251
Midlands	2,036	2,283	2,445	2,449	2,488
Anglian	1,747	1,816	1,794	1,875	2,029
Thames	1,827	1,832	1,812	1,860	1,903
Southern	1,488	1,589	1,581	1,612	1,623
South West	2,276	2,620	2,659	2,582	2,594
Total	18,176	19,386	19,462	19,689	20,787

The following table shows National Fisheries expenditure. This includes operational activities which have been centralised as part of the Environment Agency's efficiency programme. The Environment Agency's technical team supports the Fisheries Policy and Process team in setting the targets and delivery mechanisms for the regional activities and expenditure. Contributions to Head Office support service costs and IS development and maintenance are also included.

National fisheries expenditure

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total	8,204	8,751	8,858	9,475	10,480

Angling: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide a detailed breakdown of the *(a)* administration and *(b)* enforcement costs of the freshwater angling licensing regime in the last five years; how many staff were involved in each year; what their total salaries were in each year; and if he will make a statement. [199271]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of administering the rod licence system for each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The figures include Environment Agency staff expenditure, the printing of licences and sales transaction costs.

Rod licence administration cost

	Cost (£ million)
2003-04	1.41
2004-05	1.49
2005-06	1.58
2006-07	1.64
2007-08	1.72

There are 280 Environment Agency staff warranted to undertake rod licence enforcement. Rod licence checking only forms a part of the role, so salary costs are worked out according to the proportion of time spent on this activity. While carrying out rod licence checks, these staff also carry out other regulatory activities such as ensuring compliance with fishery byelaws and regulating other licensing systems. Their other warranted activities include auditing and investigating fish introductions to prevent the spread of disease and non native species. The current annual salary cost of enforcing the rod licence is around £1 million. This has not changed significantly during the last five years.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was raised by angling licences in each year since 1997. [199273]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows rod licence income since 1997.

Licence year	Rod licence income (£ million)
1997-1998	13.5
1998-1999	13.0
1999-2000	14.2
2000-01	14.4
2001-02	14.9
2002-03	16.1
2003-04	17.6
2004-05	18.6
2005-06	19.7
2006-07	20.5
2007-08	21.5

Animal Welfare: Dogs

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to *(a)* publish and *(b)* put out to public consultation proposed regulations on greyhound welfare under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. [199168]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* We are considering proposals for the regulation of greyhound racing and there is currently no timetable for a public consultation.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many badgers found dead on roads were tested for tuberculosis in the last 12 months. [198724]

Jonathan Shaw: Badger carcases found dead on roads or motorways are the responsibility of the appropriate local authority or Highways Agency. The carcases are not routinely examined for signs of bovine TB at post mortem.

DEFRA's Road Traffic Accident (RTA) survey of badgers found dead on roads in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire ran from 2002 to 2005. During that time culture results were obtained for 3,238 carcases. Of these, 481 (approximately 15 per cent.) were positive for bovine TB.

An extended post-mortem examination carried out on a sample of 205 badgers culled as part of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial revealed substantially more infected animals; approximately double the rate, compared to standard post-mortem examination. Badgers submitted under the RTA survey underwent standard post-mortem examination. Therefore, these prevalence values are likely to be under-estimates.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of the badger population carrying bovine tuberculosis in England. [198725]

Jonathan Shaw: Not all badger populations in England have been tested for bovine tuberculosis (bTB). However, *Mycobacterium bovis* (M. bovis) was detected in 16.6 per cent. of badger carcases from proactively culled areas of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial, located in West and South West England. The prevalence of infection in initial culls was higher in the inner regions of proactive treatment areas (two kilometres or more inside the boundary) than in the outer areas. This is not surprising as trial areas were centred on areas of high bTB risk.

The results of DEFRA's Road Traffic Accident survey, carried out in seven counties between 2002 and 2005, showed similar levels of prevalence with M. bovis being detected in, on average, 15 per cent. of badger carcases.

An extended post-mortem examination carried out on a sample of 205 RBCT badgers revealed substantially more infected animals, approximately double, than did standard post-mortem examination. Therefore, these prevalence values are likely to be under-estimates.

Cetaceans: Conservation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the UK has taken to reduce cetacean by-catch; and what representations he has made to the EU on common arrangements. [199916]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA and the devolved administrations' fisheries departments published the UK Small Cetacean By-catch Response Strategy in March 2003. An update on the progress of implementing the strategy can be found on the DEFRA website.

As part of this strategy, the UK Government have put over £2 million, between 2000 and 2008, into researching by-catch mitigation measures and monitoring by-catch on vessels through observers. The purpose of this is to identify those fisheries responsible for high levels of cetacean by-catch and mitigation measures that are effective at deterring cetaceans over the long-term and safe and cost-effective for the industry.

In December 2004, the UK Government banned pelagic pair trawling for bass by UK vessels within 12 miles off the south-west coast of England because of concerns it was the cause of large numbers of dolphin deaths. Unfortunately, the European Commission did not support the UK's request to extend this ban to the vessels of other member states operating within these waters.

Member states are required under Council Regulation (EC) 812/2004 to present an annual report to the European Commission on their by-catch observer programmes. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has been asked by the European Commission to look at these annual reports. I await its analysis before deciding if representations need to be made to the Commission about common arrangements.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [198988]

Jonathan Shaw: The core departmental expenditure on advertising and publicity for 2007-08 was £4,382,000.

The largest area of expenditure is focused on delivering public information on how to reduce individual carbon footprints. It also includes engagement with farmers on disease control and a wide range of other matters, much of it necessary or beneficial to the public and the wide range of industries in which DEFRA has an interest, together with local government, voluntary organisations and other bodies.

Individual records of spend for DEFRA's non-departmental public bodies, agencies and financially sponsored organisations are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198940]

Jonathan Shaw: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198951]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on sickness absence in the Civil Service is available at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

Published data are available from the 2004 calendar year to the 2006-07 financial year. The average number of working days lost by each member of staff in DEFRA was as follows:

2004: 7.4

2005: 8.2

2006-07: 7.5

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198969]

Jonathan Shaw: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195880]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of its ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS), DEFRA has an environmental policy which it displays in all of the buildings covered by its EMS. This policy covers sustainable operations on its estate. A copy of the policy statement can be made available on request.

DEFRA has measures in place to make sure it meets the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets. Progress against these targets is assessed annually and results are published by the Sustainable Development Commission in their Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report.

DEFRA published its second Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) in November 2007 which sets out how the Department is putting SD into practice. This plan contains a summary of the initiatives being implemented to improve the operational performance across the estate.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [200125]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton, South-West (Rob Marris) on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 74W.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195827]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no central records of the actual hours worked by staff in DEFRA, as the majority of staff work flexible working hours for which only local records are held. Conditioned net hours (i.e. excluding lunch breaks) are 36 per week for London-based staff and 37 per week elsewhere. In addition, 78,400 hours of overtime were worked in the last financial year. The average number of staff in full-time equivalents in the core Department in 2007-08 was 3,424. This gives an approximate total of 6,533,000 hours worked; an average of 1,900 hours per person per year (36.7 hours per week).

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims for discrimination, based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation, were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194979]

Jonathan Shaw: During the last five years there have been no claims for discrimination based on sex, race or sexual orientation brought by members of this Department which have been settled in or out of court.

The internal formal equal opportunities complaints procedures, including support mechanisms available to staff who perceive discrimination, are on DEFRA's Intranet site and all staff have access to them.

Farms: Inspections

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 123-4W, on farms: inspections, what proportion of the Animal Health budget for 2007-08 is allocated to on-farm work; what the cost was to the public purse arising from farm inspections conducted by the *(a)* Rural Payments Agency, *(b)* Environment Agency, *(c)* Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate, *(d)* Natural England, *(e)* Food Standards Agency, *(f)* Pesticides Safety Directorate and *(g)* Health and Safety Executive in each of the last five years. [198092]

Jonathan Shaw: The total Animal Health budget for 2007-08 was £109,864,000. The proportion for on-farm work is 65 per cent., and is estimated to be £71,412,000. This is only an estimate as not all bills have been processed. This estimate includes all on-farm work, including inspections and visits, and back office costs, for example, administration and travel. This does not include disease outbreak costs and costs relating to abattoir visits.

The reduction in percentage for this financial year is mainly attributed to staff who would have been carrying out on-farm work being required to work on the disease outbreaks in 2007 (estimated to be around 16 per cent. of the budget). Therefore, being unable to perform the on-farm work recorded here.

The following table sets out the costs to the public purse incurred by inspections carried out by the Rural Payments Agency. The figure is all-inclusive, covering direct cost of conducting on-farm inspections, management, co-ordination, support and administrative costs such as accommodation, equipment and travel.

	Cost (£)
2003-04	10,335,572
2004-05	10,026,506
2005-06	11,816,061
2006-07	13,365,000
2007-08	12,932,423

The Environment Agency operates an integrated programme of farm inspections covering a number of regulatory regimes. Some regulatory regimes provide for charges to recover costs from those that are regulated while others are funded by Grant in Aid from DEFRA.

The Environment Agency estimates that the annual Grant in Aid cost of agricultural inspections is approximately £3.4 million. This has not changed significantly over the last five years.

The Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) undertakes a range of plant health duties. While this includes some on-farm inspections, the majority of PHSI inspection work is undertaken either at points of entry or on horticultural premises. It is not possible to separately identify expenditure specific to on-farm work.

Natural England does not undertake formal farm inspections. All formal farm inspections in relation to England Rural Development Programme and Rural Development Programme for England agreements are conducted by the Rural Payments Agency Inspectorate.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate does not undertake farm inspections.

The Health and Safety Executive is not an Agency of DEFRA.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on *(a)* European Union grants made to national fisheries committees of each member state and *(b)* grants to national fisheries committees by each member state authorised by the European Commission since 1997. [198836]

Jonathan Shaw: We do not hold information on grant paid to national fisheries committees in other member states in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No. 391/2007 of 11 April 2007. This Regulation lays down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 861/2006 as regards the expenditure incurred by member states in implementing the monitoring and control systems applicable to the Common Fisheries Policy.

European Union grant awarded to each member state is set out in a Commission Decision which is published annually in the Commission's Official Journal. The Commission Decision gives details of how much grant has been awarded to each member state and for the broad project areas. Details are available on the Commission's website.

Food: Poverty

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to attend the Intergovernmental Plenary of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD); and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the IAASTD process in developing his Department's policy on the future of food, farming, global hunger and rural poverty. [199517]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no plans for any DEFRA Minister to attend the Intergovernmental Plenary of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), and no assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the IAASTD process on developing DEFRA policy.

Inland Waterways: Repairs and maintenance

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on the repair and maintenance of inland waterways in 2005-06; and how much is planned to be spent in 2008-09. [198598]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA only holds information on the amount spent on the repair and maintenance of inland waterways by the three main navigation authorities. These figures are summarised in the following table. The repair and maintenance activities vary between the authorities.

		£ million
	2005-06	2008-09
British Waterways[1]	78.1	85
The Broads[2]	0.72	1.5
The Environment Agency[1]	14	15

[1] England and Wales only.
[2] 2008-09 figure for the Broads authority provides for staff costs of £223,500 whereas staff costs were not available in 2005-06.

Meat

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to increase the proportion of beef, pork and lamb meat consumed in England which has been produced in England. [199423]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government recognise that the marketing of local food can bring benefits for producers and consumers. In general, fewer middlemen are involved, and this allows farmers and small producers to retain a higher proportion of the end price of their produce. It also increases consumer choice and raises awareness and interest in local food by helping to improve consumers' links with, and understanding of, the rural economy and food production. Suppliers will flourish by providing what customers want and there is growing public enthusiasm for locally produced food and food with a clear regional provenance.

We have helped to facilitate local sourcing by providing funding (through our various grant schemes and our support for Food from Britain) towards a range of measures helping regional and local food producers overcome barriers to market. Examples include "meet the buyer" events, the encouragement of food hubs and shared distribution facilities, and training seminars. Support is also available under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) for activities linked to the promotion of quality regional and local food culture, for the use of native English breeds of cattle in environmental stewardship schemes and for activities linked to promoting the economic sustainability of the livestock sector.

I also refer the right hon. Member to the oral ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 39, in which he announced a package of measures to help those farmers most affected by the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. This included £2 million for the promotion and marketing of lamb, beef and pork both at home and in our export markets. The domestic promotional activity carried out by the English Beef and Lamb Executive (Eblex) and the British Pig Executive ran from October 2007 to March 2008 and, during the specific periods of promotion, four week volume sales increased between 2 and 14 per cent. compared to the previous year.

DEFRA also provided £1.2 million of funding from August 2006 to March of this year to kick-start the Beef Better Returns Programme administered by Eblex. This has involved measures to improve the competitiveness of the English beef sector and promote the product under the English Beef Quality Mark.

In addition to this, DEFRA's ongoing Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI), launched in 2003 to help deliver the Government's Sustainable Farming and Food Strategy, aims to increase opportunities for small and local producers to tender to supply food to the public sector. Our funding of this initiative has helped support workshops for buyers and suppliers, regional pilot projects to develop the supply side, and a range of guides aimed at both food producers and public sector buyers. More information on the PSFPI can be found on the DEFRA website.

However, the success of the livestock sectors in England will continue to depend upon their ability to compete upon market principles, including performance, quality and welfare standards.

Pet Travel Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals were part of the Pet Travel scheme in each year since its inception.

broken down by species; and what plans he has for changes in the scheme to bring it into line with other EU countries. [199914]

Jonathan Shaw: The following table shows the number of pet cats, dogs and ferrets entering the UK under the pet travel scheme (PETS) each year since 2000:

	Cats	*Dogs*	*Ferrets*
2000	2,062	12,633	0
2001	3,562	23,158	0
2002	4,359	36,410	0
2003	6,012	48,938	0
2004	7,314	57,418	10
2005	8,346	69,549	39
2006	8,375	74,285	31
2007	10,137	89,127	43
2008 (January-March only)	1,855	17,723	12

No decisions on changes to PETS have yet been taken. The European Commission has proposed an extension to the derogations which the UK and some other member states have under EC Regulation 998/2003 until 31 August 2009. The European Parliament is considering a further extension until 30 June 2010.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which countries have *(a)* multilateral and *(b)* bilateral arrangements with the UK with regard to the Pet Travel scheme. [199915]

Jonathan Shaw: UK-resident dogs, cats and ferrets can travel to any of the countries and territories shown as follows and return to the UK under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS). Pets that come from any of these countries can also enter the UK under PETS as long as they meet the rules. Pets must not have been outside any of the listed countries in the six calendar months before travelling to the UK in order to qualify.

Andorra
Antigua and Barbuda
Antilles
Argentina
Aruba
Ascension Island
Australia
Austria
Azores
Bahrain
Balearic Islands
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Bermuda
Bosnia-Herzegovina
British Virgin Islands
Bulgaria
Canada
Canary Islands
Cayman Islands
Ceuta
Chile
Croatia
Cyprus[1]
Czech Republic
Denmark
Falkland Islands
Estonia
Faroe Islands
Fiji
Finland
French Guyana
French Polynesia
France
Germany
Gibraltar
Greece
Greenland
Guadeloupe[2]
Guam
Hawaii
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland[3]
Italy
Jamaica[4]
Japan
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania.
Luxembourg
Martinique
Madeira
Malaysia[5]
Malta
Mauritius
Mayotte
Melilla
Mexico
Monaco
Montserrat
Netherlands
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Reunion
Romania
Russian Federation[6]
San Marino
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
St. Helena
St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Pierre and Miquelon

St. Vincent
Singapore
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Trinidad and Tobago
United Arab Emirates
USA (mainland)
Vanuatu
Vatican
Wallis and Futuna.

[1] Dogs, cats and ferrets prepared for PETS in, or returning under PETS to the UK from, the Republic of Cyprus may enter or re-enter the UK without quarantine. However, PETS compliant animals travelling from north Cyprus (the area north of the buffer zone) must be licensed into quarantine for six months on arrival in the UK. This must be arranged before the animal travels.

[2] Includes St. Barthelemy and St. Martin (French part of the island).

[3] No preparation or documentation is necessary for the movement of pets directly between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

[4] Although Jamaica is a qualifying country under the EU Regulation, Jamaican law currently prevents the involvement of that country in PETS. PETS-prepared animals may not enter Jamaica and animals may not be prepared for PETS in Jamaica.

[5] The import into UK quarantine of dogs and cats from Malaysia (Peninsula) is prohibited unless health certification provided by the Malaysian veterinary authorities is provided which confirms that the cat or dog:

(i) has had no contact with pigs during at least the 60 days prior to export; and

(ii) has not been resident on holdings where during the past 60 days any case of Nipah disease has been confirmed; and

(iii) has been subjected with a negative result to an IgC capture ELISA test carried out in a laboratory approved for testing for antibody against the Nipah disease viruses by the competent veterinary authorities on a sample of blood taken within 10 days of export.

[6] The Russian Federation consists of 88 subjects (regions). Please note that the following Republics are not part of the Russian Federation: Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Pig Meat

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of pig-meat products bought in England was *(a)* produced in England, *(b)* produced outside England and (i) packaged and (ii) labelled in England and *(c)* produced and packaged outside England in the latest period for which figures are available. [198599]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not collect data in this form.

Rackspace

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total value was of each contract awarded to Rackspace by *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last nine years. [197506]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally, no expenditure has been incurred by core-DEFRA with Rackspace. Information on any expenditure by DEFRA's executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies with Rackspace is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Recreation Spaces: Urban Areas

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pieces of land have been designated as a town green under the Commons Act 2006. [200073]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held centrally. No practical distinction is made in law between town and village greens. A survey of commons registration authorities undertaken in September 2007 recorded that, among the two-fifths of authorities responding, four new greens had been registered under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006 since it was brought into force on 6 April 2007.

Rural Areas: Housing

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the likely effects of ending central Government funding for the rural housing enablers on the number of affordable houses in rural areas. [199938]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2138W.

Veterinary Medicine

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to introduce changes to the Veterinary Medicines Directive. [198810]

Jonathan Shaw: The veterinary medicines directive (2001/82) was last amended by directive 2004/28. These changes were implemented in national legislation by the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005. The European Commission has consulted stakeholders on proposals to change the requirements for varying national marketing authorisations in order to reduce the administrative burden on industry while maintaining the safety of animals, consumers and the environment. Discussions with member states on amendments to directive 2001/82 started recently.

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations are revoked and remade annually in order to keep them up to date and to provide a single piece of veterinary medicines legislation in the UK. The consultation on proposals for change in 2008 has started and comments are due by 9 June 2008. Details of the consultation are available on the veterinary medicines directorate's website:

www.vmd.gov.uk

Whales: Conservation

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations

his Department has made to the government of *(a)* Angola, *(b)* the Republic of Congo, *(c)* Equatorial Guinea, *(d)* Eritrea, *(e)* Ghana, *(f)* Malawi, *(g)* the Federal States of Micronesia, *(h)* Tanzania and *(i)* Vanuatu on the recruitment of each to the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [199457]

Jonathan Shaw: The publication "Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility" has been sent to over 60 countries, both anti and pro-whaling, including current and non members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), encouraging them to join the effort to protect these species.

Providing details of these countries and the letters sent to them could compromise our efforts to either persuade conservation minded countries to join the IWC and adopt an anti-whaling stance, or if thinking of joining the IWC with a pro-foreign and whaling stance, change their mind.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts will continue to lobby countries in support of the UK's position, seeking to encourage new anti-whaling members to the IWC and endeavouring to change the opinion of Governments which currently support whaling.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's aims for the outcome of the forthcoming annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission are; at what level the UK will be represented; and if he will make a statement. [199280]

Jonathan Shaw: The UK will play an important role in the conservation and protection of cetaceans at the next annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to be held in Santiago, Chile in June 2008, which I plan to attend.

We will continue to support the IWC's moratorium on commercial whaling and oppose all forms of whaling, other than limited whaling operations by indigenous people for subsistence purposes.

The UK will promote the non-lethal use of cetaceans (that is, whale-watching) and continue to highlight the unacceptable level of cruelty involved in current whaling operations, supporting proposals that increase welfare provisions. We will once again vote in support of the creation of Whale Sanctuaries.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* the married quarters estate and *(b)* single living accommodation in England and Wales in each year since 1997; and how much will be spent on each type in each year to 2013. [165873]

Derek Twigg: Information regarding maintenance and new build family housing for England and Wales only is not available in the format requested and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information is available for Great Britain from 2001-02 and is:

	£ million
2001-02	337
2002-03	309
2003-04	325
2004-05	304
2005-06	339
2006-07	355

Single living accommodation (SLA) is funded by several areas of the Department and total maintenance expenditure could be collated only at disproportionate cost. Information in relation to SLA modernisation programmes is only available from 2003-04 and is as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	106
2004-05	236
2005-06	183
2006-07	186

Following the comprehensive spending review, the Department is in the process of finalising budgets for individual years and it would be inappropriate to comment on what these budgets will be until that process is complete. We, however, anticipate spending over £8 billion over the next decade, including over £3 billion on the upgrade and improvement of accommodation.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many homes his Department sold in each local authority area of Scotland in each year since 1997; and what proportion of those homes were sold or otherwise transferred to the relevant local authority or a registered social landlord in each of those years. [197418]

Derek Twigg: Records of all Service housing sold in Scotland since 1997 are either not held centrally or no longer available. It will take a time to establish what information can be provided without incurring disproportionate cost and effort. I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Danny Alexander:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your question on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 785W, about the number of homes the Department sold in each local authority area of Scotland in each year since 1997 and the proportion that were sold or otherwise transferred to the relevant local authority or registered social landlord.

Information in the detail requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I am able to provide details of Ministry of Defence properties sold in Scotland in each financial year since 2000-01, which are at Annex A.

Current financial year to end February 2008 Updated 25 March 2008

Site	Address	Town	Financial year
Tarvitt Drive MQ's	48 Tarvitt Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvitt Drive MQ's	58 Tarvitt Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvitt Drive MQ's	62 Tarvitt Drive	Cupar	2007
The Sheilings	20 The Sheilings	Boddam	2007

Current financial year to end February 2008 Updated 25 March 2008

Site	Address	Town	Financial year
Polton Estate MQ's	De Quincey Road No. 29	Edinburgh	2007
Tarvitt Drive MQ's	54 Tarvitt Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvitt Drive MQ's	92 Tarvitt Drive	Cupar	2007
The Sheilings	16 The Shielings	Boddam	2007
Condor Drive MQ's	Condor Drive—No. 2	Arbroath	2007
Condor Drive MQ's	Condor Drive—No. 6	Arbroath	2007
The Common, Fort George	1 The Common	Inverness	2007
The Common, Fort George	2 The Common	Inverness	2007
Tarvit Drive MQ's	28 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Thornhill MQ's	23 Thornhill Crescent	Forres	2007
De Quincey Road SFA	31 De Quincey Road	Edinburgh	2007
The Sheilings	18 The Shielings	Boddam	2007
Howburn Road	9 Howburn Road	Thurso	2007
Nordabrake SFA and Taftens SFA	1 and 2 Taftens, 1-7, 9, 11-13, 17 and 18 Nordabrake	Haroldswick	2007
Morlich Place	Morlich Place No. 18	Kinross	2007
Nordabrake SFA and Taftens SFA	8, 10, 14, 15, 16 Nordabrake	Haroldswick	2007
Ashwood Circle SFA	Ashwood Circle No. 19	Aberdeen	2007
Ashwood Circle SFA	Ashwood Circle No. 21	Aberdeen	2007
The Wimberley Estate	Former Community Centre 22-26 (Evens) Somme Crescent	Inverness	2007
Wollocombe Square and Harper Way SFA	2 Harper Way	Scone	2007
Alnwickhill Road	128 Alnwickhill Road (Laurel Lodge)	Edinburgh	2007
Cramond Place SFA	47 Cramond Road North	Edinburgh	2007
Cramond Place SFA	51 Cramond Road North	Edinburgh	2007
St. Annes Avenue Estate	35 De Quincey Road, Polton	Edinburgh	2007
The Sheilings	2 The Shielings	Boddam	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	37 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	41 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	45 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	47 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	60 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	66 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	70 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	74 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	76 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	82 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	88 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007
Tarvit Drive SFA	96 Tarvit Drive	Cupar	2007

Current financial year to end February 2008 Updated 25 March 2008

Site	Address	Town	Financial year
St. Annes Ave Estate	33 De Quincey Road	Edinburgh	2007
Lossiemouth Road	Elgin - 91/93 Lossiemouth Road	Elgin	2007
Redhall View	1 Redhall View	Edinburgh	2007
Redhall View	21 Redhall View	Edinburgh	2007
Cramond Place SFA	Cramond Place Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 10 and Garage site	Edinburgh	2007
Cramond Place SFA	12 Cramond Place	Edinburgh	2007
Cramond Place SFA	14 Cramond Place	Edinburgh	2007
Morlich Place SFA	Morlich Place No. 30	Kinross	2007
Redhall View MQ's	3 Redhall View	Edinburgh	2007
North Gyle Drive SFA	6 North Gyle Drive	Edinburgh	2007
North Gyle Drive SFA	17 North Gyle Drive	Edinburgh	2007
Lanark Road and Redhall View SFA	9 Redhall View	Edinburgh	2007
Warick Estate SFA	Various addresses Warick Close	Leuchárs	2007

Financial year 2006-07

Site	Town	Financial year
Ashwood Circle 23-37	Aberdeen	2006
Condor Drive MQ's	Arbroath	2006
Tuzo Close MQ's	Balivanich	2006
Tarvitt Drive MQ's	Cupar	2006
Parkhead Lodge	Glencorse	2006
Thornhill	Forres	2006
Rowmore Cottages	Garelochhead	2006
Lammermuir Drive	Paisley	2006
Stormont Road SFA (Phase 3)	Scone	2006
Invernettie Estate	Peterhead	2006
The Sheilings Estate	Boddam	2006
Settlers Hill MQ's	Haroldswick	2006
Dundonald Cres	Irvine	2006
Thornhill	Forres	2006
St. Gerardines Road	Lossiemouth	2006
Stormont Road SFA (Phase 3)	Scone	2006
Cramond Place SFA	Edinburgh	2006
Polton Estate MQ's	Edinburgh	2006
Settlers Hill MQ's	Haroldswick	2006
Cromarty Place MQ's	Lossiemouth	2006
Shaw Place MQ's	Elgin	2006
Shackelton Place / Cromarty Place MQ's	Lossiemouth	2006
Polton Estate MQ's	Edinburgh	2006

Financial year 2005-06

Site	Town	Financial year
17-30 and 53-76 Settlers Hill	Haroldswick	2005
Pinefield - 1-83 Pinefield Cres Phase 3	Elgin	2005
Blaven Court	Forres	2005
12 Pinegrove	Elgin	2005
Thornhill	Forres	2005
Clifton Road - Wellfield Ave	Giffnock	2005
Gallowhill Road	Kinross	2005
Shackleton Place	Lossiemouth	2005
10 St. Olaf Road	Thurso	2005
The Sheilings - Phase 4 (Part)	Boddam	2005

Financial year 2005-06

Site	Town	Financial year
Invernettie Estate	Peterhead	2005
Tuzo Close MQs	Balivanish	2005
Gordon Close Estate - Phase 3 (24 FQs)	Boddam	2005
Claymore Estate - Phase 2 (34 FQs)	Elgin	2005

Financial year 2004-05

Site	Town	Financial year
The Sheilings - Phase 4	Peterhead	2004
12 Avon Place	Edinburgh	2004
Pilmuir Est MQs - (15 in 005/06)	Forres	2004
Pilmuir Est MQ's (17 in 03/04 + 15 in 04/05)	Forres	2004
Thornhill	Forres	2004
6 Roxburgh Place	Fort William	2004
Wellfield Avenue and Clifton Road	Giffnock	2004
4 Seafield Walk	Keith	2004
100-106 Stormont Road	Scone	2004
108, 110, 112 and 114 Stormont Road-Phase2	Scone	2004
Fairmount House	Perth	2004
FQs Invernettie Estate All remaining houses	Peterhead	2004
Remainder of Estate MQs Nos. 23 and 26 and Lock-up No. 4 Grampian Road	Rosyth	2004
32 Castlegreen Road	Thurso	2004

Financial year 2003-04

Site	Town	Financial year
Belmont Avenue/Chalmers Road	Ayr	2003
Marine House	Crombie	2003
Pinegrove Maisonettes (13-36)(24)	Elgin	2003
Pilmuir Estate MQs	Forres	2003
Churchill Estate(50)	Helensburgh	2003
12 and 26Morlich Place	Kinross	2003
FQs Invernettie Estate All remaining houses	Peterhead	2003
2-50 (evens) 13-23(odds) Grampian Rd	Rosyth	2003
Remainder of Estate MQs (8) + (4) Grampian	Rosyth	2003

Financial year 2002-03

Site	Town	Financial year
Sherbrooke Estate	Rosyth	2002
Kaimes Grove	Kirknewton	2002
St. Leonards Bank(3 and 7)	Perth	2002
67B Portland Street	Troon	2002
7 & 9 Catherine Grove	Boness	2002
Claymore Estate - Ph 1 - 26 Houses	Peterhead	2002
31 and 33 Hillside, 34, 26 Cairnview Rd	Milton of Campsie	2002
69 Clifton Rd	Lossiemouth	2002
26 Tandlehill Road	Helensburgh	2002
2-10 Bridgend	Kirkcaldy	2002
Churchill Estate (50)	Helensburgh	2002
Belmont Avenue/Chalmers Rd MQ's	Ayr	2002
10 Woodfarm Road	Glasgow	2002
30 Birdston Road	Milton of Campsie	2002
35-43 Lammermuir Drive	Glasgow	2002
Camperdown Drive (10) and Falkland Drive	Arbroath	2002
MQ's - Pilmuir Estate (60)	Forres	2002

Financial year 2002-03

Site	Town	Financial year
76, 78, 80 Pilmuir (3)	Forres	2002
5 Market Road	Laurencekirk	2002
9 Hawthorn Road	Peterhead	2002
Kings Park (3)	Glasgow	2002
Invernettie (3) Monument Close ph 1	Peterhead	2002
Grampian Road 25-41 (odd) (9)	Rosyth	2002
12 Jamieson Drive	Stornoway	2002
40 Ormlie Crescent	Thurso	2002
4 and 6 Ashwood Circle	Aberdeen	2002
133 and 135 Carmunnock Road	Glasgow	2002

Financial year 2001-02

Site	Town	Financial year
Ex Offr's MQs Observatory	Lerwick	2001
Rosyth, Torridon Lane, Dr, Pl, Grampian Pl, Ct, Rd	Dunfermline	2001
Dunalister House/Laverockdale cot/polo fields	Edinburgh	2001
1 Middlemuir Road	Stirling	2001
New farm loch Phase 2	Kilmarnock	2001
7 and 9 Catherine Grove	Boness,	2001
MQs - 59-71 and 77 Annfield Gardens Phase 2	Stirling,	2001
Benbecula 1-18 Meallard, 35-46 Winfield Way 1-20 and 23-60 Tindall Rd	Benbecula	2001
40, 42 Sutcliffe St, Anniesland	Glasgow,	2001
2-20 (even) Hunter Rd, 2-12 (even) Leach CL and Southern CL	Arbroath	2001
2-8 (even), 9-15 (odd), 19, 27, 31, 35 and 39 Scotstown Rd Phase 2	Peterhead,	2001
Flats 1 to 6 @ 10, 30, 54, 64, 66 Clifton Rd	Lossiemouth,	2001
Polton Estate (56)	Edinburgh	2001
MQs - 109 to 123 Calfer Road	Forres	2001
19/21 Mains Avenue	Helensburgh	2001
1, 3, 10 and 12 Woodfarm Road	Glasgow	2001
35-43 Lammermuir Drive	Paisley	2001
53-55 Viewpark Drive	Glasgow	2001
28 and 134 Pennyland Drive	Thurso	2001

Financial year 2000-01

Site	Town	Financial year
Ardersier MQs	Kinloss	2000
38 and 40 Crosshill Drive	Boness	2000
Churchill Estate (Part) Dunbritton	Helensburgh	2000
Crombie Farm House	Dunfermline	2000
2 and 4 Limekilns Rd	Dunfermline	2000
10-20 (even) Covesea Rd	Elgin	2000
Forres, 83-107 (odd), 104-108 (even), 112-160 (even) Calfer Rd; 12-24 (even), 13-27 (odd) Drumine Rd	Forres	2000
44, 46 Sutcliffe St, Anniesland	Glasgow	2000
1-40 and 42-74 (even) Camperdown Ct, 1 -1 5 Golf Pl. Phases 1 and 2	Helensburgh	2000
MQs Wimberley Way-Future Disposal's Phase 1	Inverness	2000
New farm loch Phase 1	Kilmarnock	2000
2-16 (even) Kelas Ave; 44-50 (even), 53-67 (odd) Moray St; 1 to 7 (odd) Park Place; 18 to 24 (even) MacDuff St; 30 to 36 (even) Elgin Rd; 1 to 7 (odd) Gilmour Cres; 17 to 31 (odd) St. Gerardine's Rd	Lossiemouth	2000
RAF MQs	Machrihanish	2000
1 and 2 St. Dunstan's Lane	Melrose	2000

Financial year 2000-01

Site	*Town*	*Financial year*
2-8 (even), 9-15 (odd), 19, 27, 31, 35 and 39 Scotstown Rd Phase 1	Peterhead	2000
RAF Pitreavie MQ's	Dunfermline	2000
RAF Edzell MQ's	Brechin	2000
1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 Forbes Road	Dunfermline	2000
MQs - 59-71 and 77 Annfield Gardens Phase 1	Stirling	2000
MQs - 22 Middlemuir Rd; 8 Borrowlea Roa	Stirling	2000

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is his policy to allow unmarried members of HM armed forces to live with a permanent partner in service family accommodation. [198806]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* The Ministry of Defence provides benefits, such as an entitlement to live in Service Family Accommodation, to those who are in legally recognised relationships, that is, married or in a civil partnership, but not to other forms of partnership.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average price was paid for his Department's dwellings by Annington Estates. [199225]

Derek Twigg: Under the 1996 Sale Agreement, a total of 57,428 Service Family Accommodation properties were transferred to Annington Homes Ltd of which 55,055 were immediately leased back. The average price per property has been calculated at some £30,000.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many it owned at the time Annington Estates acquired them. [199235]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a total worldwide stock of some 71,000 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties. In 1996, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) sold some 57,428 Service Family Accommodation properties in England and Wales to Annington Homes Ltd (AHL) of which some 55,055 were leased back by the Department.

Today, the majority of SFA properties are still leased from AHL or provided by the host nation as is the case overseas. At 3 April, some 7,523 properties in the UK and some 2,704 properties overseas are owned by the MOD.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's most recent estimate is of *(a)* the number of empty domestic dwellings owned by his Department and the armed forces and *(b)* the number of empty domestic dwellings owned by external bodies which are for use by members of the armed forces and their families. [200183]

Derek Twigg: Details of empty Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties, broken down by those which are owned and not owned by this Department, are not centrally held. However, details of SFA that is void (not in use for its intended purpose) are available. Void stock includes that being held for planned moves of Service Units, or awaiting planned upgrades, sale or release, modernisation or demolition.

Out of a total worldwide stock of some 71,000 properties, some 12,000 are currently void. The Department is actively working to reduce the figure. Since March 2007, the total number of void SFA properties has reduced from 13,336 to some 12,000 properties.

Army: Uniforms

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the cut and sew contract for army uniforms runs out; and when the tender process for the future cut and sew contract begins. [200161]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cut and sew contract runs out in September 2009. The tender process for the new requirement is due to commence shortly.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what items of his Department's *(a)* revenue and *(b)* expenditure are uprated using (i) the consumer prices index, (ii) the retail prices index and (iii) other measures of inflation. [179948]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Mark Hoban:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 28 January 2008, (Official Report, column 33W) about items of the Department's revenue and expenditure that are uprated using the consumer prices index, the retail prices index and other measures of inflation.

I am afraid that it is not possible to list, for individual items across the £33.4Bn Defence programme, the ways in which they have been uprated. In principle, however, where we need to uprate any revenue or expenditure due to inflation, we do so on the basis on one or more of the following measures:

a. HM Treasury's GDP deflator (which is also sometimes rounded for ease of internal planning);

b. The Consumer Price Index;

c. Agreed individual measures of inflation for specific contracts;

d. Advice from experts for individual items that may be subject to unique inflationary factors (e.g. fuel); and

e. Recommendations from independent bodies (e.g. The Armed Forces Pay Review Body).

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report,* column 814W, on the departmental internet, whether Wikipedia entries have been created or amended by officials in his Department who are not special advisers or communications officials. [199954]

Derek Twigg: We are aware that before January 2008 a number of Wikipedia entries were created or amended by staff from MOD networks. Records of these updates are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since January 2008, the MOD has blocked write access to Wikipedia from its major networks, although still allowing users to read the site.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [198991]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence and the single services forecast a spend of £54.12 million on publicity and advertising, including armed forces and civilian recruitment, in the financial year 2007-08. This figure includes all above and below the line activity.

The breakdown of expenditure is as follows:

Service	*Projected expenditure (£ million)*
Royal Navy	13.09
British Army	26.65
Royal Air Force	13.08
Ministry of Defence	1.3m

These figures cover forecasted expenditure by the single service commands (including recruitment campaigns), advertising for civilian recruitment, and directorate general media and communication activity.

Accurate information on other advertising and publicity spend by the Ministry of Defence, Defence agencies, top level budget areas, trading funds, joint headquarters and military units is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pensions in each of the last two years. [193567]

Derek Twigg: 2,825 members of civilian staff in the Ministry of Defence (3.67 per cent.) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2007. 2,619 members of staff (3.60 per cent.) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2008.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department and its agencies have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197060]

Derek Twigg: Information has been provided by the National School of Government. The number of MOD staff attending the courses listed, and the cost to the Department of each course, are set out as follows:

Course	*Number of Attendees*	*Cost (£)*
Influencing with Integrity	7	5,082
Emotional Intelligence	3	4,485
Counselling Skills for the Workplace	1	1,115
Managing Your Confidence	6	6,725
Balancing Work/Life Realities	0	—
Working Assertively	1	726

Helicopters: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training exercises were conducted by Apache and Chinook helicopter crews in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* location and *(b)* type was of each. [174495]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of collective training exercises supported by both Apache and Chinook helicopter crews was seven in 2005, 13 in 2006 and 18 in 2007. Records are not held for collective training exercises conducted prior to 2005. The location and type of each exercise are shown in the following table. The number of collective training exercises supported by Chinook only and Apache only will take longer to collate. I will write to the hon. Member when this information is available. Aircrew training flights are too numerous to quantify.

	Exercise details	*Location*
2005	Exercise Iron Storm—3 (UK) Division live firing Exercise	UK wide
2005	Qualified Helicopter Training Instructor Flying Phase—Air Crew Training Exercise	Scotland
2005 3 times	Exercise Bowman Vanguard—Fleet Collective Training Exercise	UK wide
2005	Exercise Bowman Ord—Fleet Exercise part of HMS Ocean sea trials	Sea trials
2005	Exercise Argonaut—Fleet Collective training Exercise	UK Wide
2006	Exercise Herrick Eagle—16 Brigade Herrick 4 Mission Rehearsal Exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area
2006	Exercise Southern Raider—3 Commando Brigade Mission Rehearsal Exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area
2006 5 times	OPTAG (Operational Training and Advisory Group) confirmation Exercises 3 Commando Brigade units Herrick 5 Pre Deployment Training	Stanford Training Area
2006	Exercise Iron Storm—3 (UK) Division Capstone Combat Services Support Exercise for Engineer Regiments' Herrick 5 Pre Deployment Training	UK Wide

	Exercise details	Location
2006 5 times	OPTAG confirmation Exercises—12 Division units Herrick 6 Pre Deployment Training	Stanford Training Area
2007	Exercise Desert Dragon—12 Division Herrick 6 Mission Rehearsal Exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area
2007	Exercise Pashtun Ace—12 Division Close Combat Attack concentration as part of Herrick 6 Pre Deployment Training	Otterburn Training Area
2007 4 times	Ex Druid's Dance—52 Brigade Herrick 7 Pre Deployment Training	Sennybridge Training Area
2007 5 times	OPTAG Confirmation Exercises—52 Brigade units Herrick 7 Pre Deployment Training	Stanford Training Area
2007	Exercise Desert Dragon—52 Brigade Herrick 7 Mission Rehearsal Exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area
2007	Exercise Eagle's Eye—16 Brigade Airborne Task Force validation Exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2007 5 times	OPTAG Confirmation Exercises—16 Brigade units Herrick 8 Pre Deployment	Training on Stanford Training Area

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 46-47W with details of the number of collective training exercises supported by Chinook only or Apache only.

The number of collective training exercises (lasting longer than 24 hours' duration) supported by the Chinook is 31 and the Apache is four. The location and type of each exercise is shown below:

	Exercise Details—Chinook only	Location
2005	Winter Environmental Training—Commando Helicopter Force	Norway
2005	Tactical Leadership Training—Night Exercise—Air Warfare Centre	Scotland
2005	HMS Ocean Basic Operational Sea Training—(deck landings)	Sea Trials
2005	Exercise Eagle's Strike—Airborne Task Force validation—3 PARA	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2005	Exercise Jebel Sahara—individual pilot training	Morocco
2006	Tactical Leadership Training—Night Exercise—Air Warfare Centre	Scotland
2006	Exercise Executive Stretch—TA Collective Training	Scotland
2006	Exercise Crimson Hurdle—Air Manoeuvre Training and Advisory Team Conversion to Role 4	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2006	HMS Albion Basic Operational Sea Training—deck landings	Sea Trials
2006	Exercise Herrick Archer—16 Air Assault Brigade Herrick 4 pre-deployment training	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2006	Exercise Northern Ranger—TA Annual Camp	Scotland
	Exercise Hawk Owl—Qualified Helicopter Tactics Instructor Fly phase—individual pilot training	Scotland
2006	Exercise Cock Feather—51 (Scottish) Brigade—air skills training	Scotland
2006	Exercise Grey Cormorant—Commando Group validation	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2006	Exercise Jebel Sahara—individual pilot training	Morocco
2006	Exercise Shamrock Blitz—1 Royal Irish Battle Group—Collective Training 1/2	Otterburn Training Area
2006	Exercise Herrick Eagle—16 Air Assault Brigade—Herrick 4—mission rehearsal exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area and Sennybridge Training Area
2007	Exercise Shamrock Marauder—1 Royal Irish Battle Group—Collective Training 3	Otterburn Training Area
2007	Exercise Eagle's Breach 16 Air Assault Brigade Engineers—Collective Training 1/2	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2007	HMS Ark Royal Basic Operational Sea Training—deck landings	Sea Trials
2007	Exercise Eagle's Flight - 16 Air Assault Brigade—air skill training—Collective Training 1/2	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2007	Exercise Eagle's Sapper—16 Air Assault Brigade Engineers—Collective Training 3	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2007	Exercise Hawk Owl 07—Qualified Helicopter Tactics Instructor—individual pilot training	Scotland
2007	Exercise Cock Feather—51 Brigade—air skills training	Scotland
2007	Exercise Grey Heron—FLEET logistics exercise	UK waters
2007	Exercise Eagle's Resolve—7 Royal Horse Artillery—Collective Training 3	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2007	Exercise Whirling Rhino—1 Division—air skills training	Germany
2007	Exercise Jebel Sahara—individual pilot training	Morocco
2007	Exercise Eagle's Eye—16 Air Assault Brigade—Airborne Task Force validation	Salisbury Plain Training Area

	Exercise Details—Chinook only	*Location*
2007	Exercise Tusker Challenge—individual pilot training	UK and Cyprus
2007	Exercise Blue Marauder—Airborne Task Force—build up training	Salisbury Plain Training Area

	Exercise details - Apache only	*Location*
2005	Exercise Lightning Hurdle—Attack Helicopter—Conversion to Role 2	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2005	Exercise Lightening Dawn—Attack Helicopter—Conversion to Role 3	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2006	Exercise Crimson Eagle—Attack Helicopter -Pre-deployment and environmental training	Arizona
2007	Exercise Crimson Eagle—Attack Helicopter—Environmental training and fire support team training	Arizona

In compiling this information, an error was identified in my answer, which covered the number of collective training exercises supported by both helicopters, whereby Exercise Herrick Eagle 2006 and Exercise Eagle's Eye 2007 were included in error as they were only supported by Chinook. In addition the following three exercises were inadvertently omitted from the information provided previously.

	Exercise details involving both Chinook and Apache	*Location*
2006	Exercise Southern Dawn—3 Commando Brigade—Mission Rehearsal Exercise	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2007	Exercise Rosedale—201 Field Hospital Incident Response Team	Salisbury Plain Training Area
2007	Exercise Kush Dragon 52 Brigade Op Herrick—pre-deployment training	Salisbury Plain Training Area

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the letter of 25 February 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent, reference MC01269/2008. [199497]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* I replied to my hon. Friend today.

Ministers' Private Offices

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the running costs of Ministers' private offices in his Department were in each year since 1997. [196619]

Derek Twigg: I am able to provide costs back to financial year 2002-03. There is no requirement for the Department to retain financial information beyond the six year period.

To ensure completeness, data are provided for the business unit within which Ministers' private offices are categorised, and therefore also includes the costs of the private office for the Permanent Under Secretary as well as the MOD parliamentary branch. The data provided incorporate the full costs of running these offices, including salaries for Ministers, civil service and military staff, and special advisers, utilities, equipment and general administration. The figure for financial year 2007-08 includes costs incurred up to the end of February 2008.

Financial year	*Running costs (£)*
2002-03	4,176,562.27
2003-04	4,621,947.68
2004-05	4,051,758.30
2005-06	4,495,317.54
2006-07	4,914,889.42
2007-08	4,380,182.47

National Army Museum

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will request the National Army Museum (NAM) to give to all of the Regimental and Corps Museums funded by his Department *(a)* all reasonable aceess to and *(b)* capacity to copy any record document deposited within NAM that relates to that Regiment or Corps; and if he will make a statement; [187258]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the National Army Museum's access policy; what the Museum's systems and procedures are for dealing with *(a)* other military, Regimental and Corps museums wholly or partly funded by the Ministry of Defence, *(b)* other museums, *(c)* historians, researchers, authors and journalists and *(d)* members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [187260]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Andrew Mackinlay:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Questions on 20 February (Official Report, columns 701-712W) on 19 February (Official Report, column 1178W) about the National Army Museum (NAM).

The NAM is based in London and provides a national archive for some Regimental records and collections. Items in its collections are readily accessible through its reading room to anyone who wishes to see them. Similarly, subject to considerations of copyright and conservation, it provides copies

of documents to members of the public, in whatever capacity they are seeking the information, on payment of the appropriate fee. The NAM is not resourced to provide copies free of charge, nor is it permitted to use its grant-in-aid funding to subsidise other individuals or organisations.

In addition to the NAM, there are currently some 130 Regimental and Corps museums and collections across the UK which provide a source of historical information including uniforms, badges, weapons, military memorabilia and archives. Museums within this network often request information from each other, or indeed the NAM. A nominal charge would be made for these official requests. However, the Curator of a Regimental museum, Miss Moreno, wrote to the NAM Director on 1 February seeking information in a private capacity as part of her studies for her degree. It was standard practice therefore for her to be charged for the information. The NAM Director replied to Miss Moreno on 18 February outlining the charging policy and offering a twenty five percent discount in recognition of the inconvenience the delay in providing the information had caused. I understand that Miss Moreno has now received her information, and paid the fee.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196938]

Mr. Woodward: Provision of wine is managed as part of the Department's general hospitality budget. Separate information on the provision of wine and fair-trade wine is not held.

The Government are committed to improving market access to producers in developing countries through increased participation in fair and sustainable supply chains. Each Government Department is responsible for making its own decisions on such products, against the background of the Government's value for money policy, the EC procurement rules and the Department's objectives. My Department does use a range of Fairtrade produce.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196815]

Mr. Woodward: The (i) purpose and (ii) value of the contracts placed with *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms by the Northern Ireland Office (excluding its agencies and NDPBs) in each of the last 12 months are shown in the following tables:

(a) KPMG

No contracts have been placed with KPMG in the last 12 months.

(b) PricewaterhouseCoopers

Purpose—general management and business	*Value (£)*
April 2007	40,000
1 April 2007 -31 March 2008 total	40,000

(c) Ernst and Young

No contracts have been placed with Ernst and Young in the last 12 months.

(d) McKinsey

No contracts have been placed with McKinsey in the last 12 months.

(e) Deloitte

Purpose—general management and business	*Value (£)*
April 2007	32,250
January 2008	33,440
1 April 2007-31 March 2008 total	65,690

(f) Other consultancy firms

Purpose	*Value (£)*
General management and business	
May 2007	1,774
June 2007	13,608
IT	
July 2007	40,000
Financial	
August 2007	50,878
Other	
July 2007	3,285
August 2007	2,048
September 2007	1,964
November 2007	79,468
December 2007	2,170
January 2008	10,448
February 2008	800
March 2008	108,174
1 April 2007-31 March 2008 total	314,617

SCOTLAND

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its predecessors paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199692]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999; since that date, no payments have been made to this company.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199639]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999; since that date, no payments have been made to this company.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199595]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999; since that date, no payments have been made to this company.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Performing Right Society

Gordon Banks: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much was paid in Performing Right Society licence fees from the parliamentary estate in each of the last five years for which data are available. [198049]

Nick Harvey: There are no records of any direct licence fees being paid to the Performing Right Society.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Control Zones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many areas have been designated as alcohol control zones, broken down by local authority area. [184885]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has been informed that 600 designated public places orders (DPPOs) have been implemented throughout England and Wales. A full list of the councils which have implemented the orders can be accessed at the following internet link. DPPOs are sometimes erroneously referred to as 'alcohol control zones'.

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders09.htm

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of alcohol-related disorder have been reported in Kent in each of the last five years. [195147]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are alcohol-related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for offences involving drunk and disorderly behaviour in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [195325]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests collection held by the Ministry of Justice covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only. Summary offences of 'being drunk and disorderly' are non-notifiable and as a result are not covered by the collection.

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Order Offences

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol consumption designated public place orders have been introduced, broken down by *(a)* location and *(b)* date of commencement. [191312]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has been informed that 600 Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) have been implemented throughout England and Wales. A full list of the councils which have implemented the orders can be accessed at the following internet link which includes the commencement date:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders09.htm

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licensees have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted under section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003 for persistently selling alcohol to those under age. [193947]

Mr. Coaker: No data are currently available. Section 147A of the Licensing Act 2003 was incorporated into the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 which came into effect on 1 April 2008.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people aged *(a)* 12 to 14, *(b)* 15 to 16 and *(c)* 17 years were cautioned for purchasing alcohol in the Peterborough City Council area in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [192460]

Mr. Coaker: There were no young people aged *(a)* 12 to 14, *(b)* 15 to 16 and *(c)* 17 who have been reprimanded or given a final warning, and no persons aged 18 years who were given a caution for the offence: persons under the age of 18 years purchasing alcohol, in Cambridgeshire police force area for the years 2001

to 2006. From June 2000, cautions for offenders under 18 years old were replaced by reprimands and final warnings.

Information held by the court proceedings database is unable to further break down data to city council level. The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005. Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to meet local authority representatives to discuss grant payments for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. [165417]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 November 2007]*: I met with representatives of local authorities last month to discuss this matter. In the meantime, there is on-going dialogue between my officials and local authorities on a number of funding issues in respect of the support provided by local authorities to unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Cannabis

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions took place of individuals found to be supplying cannabis seeds via internet websites in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [200035]

Mr. Coaker: I have been informed by the Ministry of Justice that there have been no such prosecutions. This is because the sale of cannabis seeds is not illegal in the UK.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the links between home-grown cannabis and organised crime; and whether these links have changed since January 2004. [200036]

Mr. Coaker: The Serious Organised Crime Agency produced the 2008-09 UK Threat Assessment of Serious Organised Crime at the beginning of April. The Threat Assessment recognises that while cannabis continues to be imported into the UK in significant quantities commercial cultivation in the UK, mainly by organised criminals, is on the increase, particularly the high potency form of cannabis known as 'skunk'.

Cocaine: Misuse

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the prevalence of cocaine abuse in the 15 to 25 year age group in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [200002]

Mr. Coaker: The British Crime Survey (BCS) provides information on the prevalence and trends of illicit drug use among 16 to 59-year-olds in England and Wales and reports prevalence of cocaine use in the last year for young people aged 16 to 24.

Figures in the following table show prevalence of cocaine use (including crack cocaine and cocaine powder) over the last five years using the 2002-03 to 2006-07 BCS. The BCS shows that cocaine use among young people has remained stable during this period.

BCS: Proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds reporting use of cocaine in the last year

Drug	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Statistically significant change 2002-03 to 2006-07?*	*Percentage Statistically significant change 2005-06 to 2006-07?*
Any cocaine	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.9	6.1		
Cocaine powder	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.9	6.0		
Crack cocaine	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4		
Unweighted base	4,227	5,351	6,796	5,892	5,706		

[1] A statistically significant increase at the 5 per cent. level would be denoted by 'up arrow character'. A statistically significant decrease at the 5 per cent. level would be denoted by 'down arrow character'.

Source:
British Crime Survey

Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess research on the principal variables which affect levels of crime in order to assess their relative significance. [196825]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office has no current plans to undertake such an evaluation. We already make use of the body of criminological and economic research evidence around a number of socioeconomic variables that impact on crime (including, for example, the economy, the impact of the police and criminal justice system, and demographic changes). However, given the complex way in which these factors interact, a conclusive judgment on their relative importance is extremely difficult to make. Furthermore, what comprises key factors may vary significantly between different types of crime and over time.

Crime: Bus Services

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed on buses in each year since 19[illegible] [200250]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. Offences committed in relation to buses cannot be separately identified in the recorded crime series.

Crime: Young People

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of those arrested for robbery in (*a*) the East of England and (*b*) Suffolk in 2006 were aged 17 and under. [162591]

Mr. Coaker: Information on arrests collected by the Ministry of Justice provides data on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group. The available information is given in the following table. Data for 2006-07 will be available later in the year.

Number of persons aged 17 and under arrested for recorded crime[1] notifiable offences within the 'robbery' offence group, by area, 2005-06 (latest available)

	Total		
	Age 17 and under	*All ages and age note known*	*Percentage of age 17 and under*
East region	980	2,061	48
Suffolk police force area	60	191	31

Note

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of incidents of violence against the person involved a (*a*) knife, (*b*) hitting implement, (*c*) glass or bottle, (*d*) stabbing implement, (*e*) firearm, (*f*) stone or stones, (*g*) syringe and (*h*) other implement in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [195598]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. It is not possible to determine the implement used in crimes of violence against the person from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Statistics are published on the number of homicides by the apparent method of killing. Figures for 1996 to 2006-07 are given in the following table.

Table 1.03 Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1996 to 2006-07

Recorded crime

Apparent method	*1996*	*1997*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Male victims												
Sharp instrument	139	133	137	151	153	156	194	182	183	187	162	185
Blunt instrument	49	48	47	41	44	49	36	26	53	49	40	33
Hitting, kicking, etc	64	76	79	76	82	86	120	110	111	110	89	126
Strangulation[2]	20	10	12	29	20	84	17	20	18	16	14	23
Shooting[3]	38	52	45	42	52	63	91	55	61	60	38	53
Explosion[4]	2	1	1	2	3	2		4		2	24	1
Burning	13	15	15	13	9	9	15	7	19	18	16	13
Drowning[5]	4	7	5	3	3	7	8	4	20	9	3	7
Poison or drugs[6]	15	12	12	24	20	21	20	66	11	18	20	24
Motor vehicle[7]	2	11	12	11	10	11	15	17	16	16	11	3
Other	30	24	26	26	25	46	24	29	21	28	17	28
Not known		6	9	12	28	9	17	22	41	39	49	51
Total	376	395	400	430	449	543	557	542	554	552	483	547
Female victims												
Sharp instrument	58	67	65	50	60	57	67	83	59	72	57	73
Blunt instrument	19	23	21	24	26	27	24	22	20	17	19	8
Hitting, kicking, etc	17	23	24	13	13	16	25	38	26	16	20	14
Strangulation[2]	57	54	49	49	36	63	60	46	49	48	41	31
Shooting[3]	9	6	7	4	9	9	6	20	6	10	11	6
Explosion[4]	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	29	—
Burning	11	14	13	19	4	9	14	15	9	15	11	15
Drowning[5]	5	—	1	3	3	2	4	2	4	4	1	1

Table 1.03 Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1996 to 2006-07

Recorded crime

Apparent method	*1996*	*1997*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Poison or drugs[6]	13	5	5	23	33	11	14	135	9	9	10	1
Motor vehicle[7]		1	1	3	1	8	5	4	7	6	2	4
Other	15	13	12	17	16	22	14	21	15	13	7	15
Not known	6	8	10	11	24	5	14	25	18	20	34	19
Total	210	214	208	216	226	229	248	411	222	230	242	187
Total victims												
Sharp instrument	197	200	202	201	213	213	261	265	242	259	219	258
Blunt instrument	68	71	68	65	70	76	60	48	73	66	59	41
Hitting, kicking, etc.	81	99	103	89	95	102	145	148	137	126	109	140
Strangulation[2]	77	64	61	78	56	147	77	66	67	64	55	54
Shooting[3]	47	58	52	46	61	72	97	75	67	70	49	59
Explosion[4]	2	1	1	2	4	2	1	4	–	2	53	1
Burning	24	29	28	32	13	18	29	22	28	33	27	28
Drowning[5]	9	7	6	6	6	9	12	6	24	13	4	8
Poison or drugs[6]	28	17	17	47	53	32	34	201	20	27	30	25
Motor vehicle[7]	2	12	13	14	11	19	20	21	23	22	13	7
Other	45	37	38	43	41	68	38	50	36	41	24	43
Not known	6	14	19	23	52	14	31	47	59	59	83	70
Total	586	609	608	646	675	772	805	953	776	782	725	734

[1] As at 12 November 2007; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Including asphyxiation. Year 2000-01 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a lorry en route into the UK.
[3] These figures may not agree with those in the firearms chapter because (a) figures include cases where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument and (b) homicide figures include shooting by crossbows and are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.
[4] Year 2005-06 includes 52 victims of the 7 July London bombings.
[5] Year 2003-04 includes 20 cockle pickers who drowned in Morecambe Bay.
[6] Year 2002-03 includes 172 victims of Dr. Shipman.
[7] Excluding death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will set a target to increase the use of video-conferencing by her Department to reduce the need to travel to meetings. [195869]

Mr. Byrne: There are no plans to introduce such a target, however it is now standard practice to put in at least one set of video conferencing (VC) equipment in Home Office properties.

Detention Centres: Drugs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prescriptions were dispensed to persons held in *(a)* immigration detention centres and *(b)* immigration removal centres for (i) subutex, (ii) methadone and (iii) other opiate replacements in each of the last five years. [197936]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency does not hold central records that contain this information and it would incur disproportionate costs to research the data requested.

Detention Centres: HIV Infection

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prescriptions for anti-retroviral drugs were dispensed to persons detained in *(a)* immigration detention centres and *(b)* immigration removal centres in each of the last five years. [197939]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency does not hold central records that contain this information and it would incur disproportionate costs to research the data requested.

Detention Centres: MRSA

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile were recorded in each (i) immigration detention centre and (ii) immigration removal centre in each of the last five years. [197925]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency does not hold central records that contain this information and it would incur disproportionate costs to research the data requested.

Drugs: Children

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* imprisoned for drugs offences in each of the last five years. [198627]

Jacqui Smith: Available information is collected, and has been provided, by the Ministry of Justice.

The arrests data collection holds data on persons arrested only for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity and main offence group. Table 1 shows the number of persons aged between 10 and 17 (inclusive) arrested for notifiable drug offences in England and Wales each year between 2001-02 and 2005-06. Data for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Data for the number of defendants aged 10 to 17 proceeded against and given a custodial sentence for drug offences in England and Wales from 2002 to 2006 are given in table 2.

The figures given in the table on prosecutions relate to persons for whom the principal offence for which they were dealt with was a drug offence. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons aged between 10 and 17 (inclusive) arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) within the 'Drugs Offences' offence group[1]. England and Wales, 2001-02 to 2005-06[2, 3]

	Number
2001-02	17,600
2002-03	19,500
2003-04	18,100
2004-05	14,600
2005-06	14,400

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Data for 2006-07 are not yet available.
Source:
RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice.

Number of defendants aged between 10 and 17 (inclusive) proceeded against at magistrates courts and given a custodial sentence for drug offences[1]. England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[2, 3]

	Proceeded against	Immediate custody
2002	5,954	150
2003	6,603	173
2004	5,125	181
2005	5,214	200
2006	4,977	214

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Data for 2007 are not yet available.
Source:
RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice.

Entry Clearances: Thailand

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for visitor visas were made by Thai nationals in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what percentage were successful *(a)* on first application and *(b)* on appeal. [198600]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* The number of applications for visit visas made by Thai nationals (at any of our overseas posts) in each of the months during the period February 2007 to February 2008 is shown in table A as follows:

Table A

2007	Applications	Issued	Refused	Withdrawn	Lapsed	Issue rate (percentage)
February	2,131	1,855	246	7	0	88
March	4,059	3,688	253	9	1	93
April	2,505	2,302	232	6	1	91
May	3,124	2,828	285	6	4	91
June	3,006	2,726	237	12	1	92
July	2,421	2,145	259	4	0	89
August	2,534	2,217	289	19	1	88
September	2,356	2,174	230	4	0	90
October	2,689	2,395	291	12	0	89
November	2,169	1,933	226	4	0	89
December	1,121	1,002	134	5	0	88
2008						
January	1,795	1,578	222	9	1	87
February	2,586	2,253	250	1	0	90
Total	32,496	29,096	3,154	94	9	90

Appeals data are only available by post, not by nationality. Data are therefore not available to show how many of those refused in the above table were later successful on appeal. The figures below in Table B

relate to appeals received at our Embassy in Bangkok (and will therefore include appeals made by other nationalities). The number of appeals resolved each month during the same period, and the percentage of these that were successful, is shown.

Table B

2007	*Allowed*	*Dismissed*	*Allowed rate (percentage)*	*Dismissal rate (percentage)*
February	0	1	0	100
March	0	1	0	100
April	0	1	0	100
May	2	1	67	33
June	0	0	0	0
July	1	0	100	0
August	1	3	25	75
September	0	2	0	100
October	3	1	75	25
November	2	0	100	0
December	0	0	0	0
2008				
January	1	1	50	50
February	0	0	0	0

Firearms: Alcoholic Drinks

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were subject to legal proceedings arising from being in possession of a loaded firearm while under the influence of alcohol in each of the last five years. [197073]

Jacqui Smith: Data showing the number of persons proceeded against for being drunk when in possession of a loaded firearm in England and Wales from 2002 to 2006 have been provided by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and are given in the following table.

The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for being drunk when in possession of a loaded firearm, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006[1, 2]

	Number
2002	5
2003	10
2004	7
2005	5
2006	3

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the consultation period on migrant domestic workers visas ends; and if she will meet abused or trafficked migrant domestic workers to discuss their situation. [197983]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* Research and analysis in respect of the current provisions for overseas domestic workers is ongoing and will be published when it is completed. In the light of its findings we will consider separately, with interested parties, how best to achieve protection for any person, irrespective of how they have entered the UK, who is found to be a victim of trafficking.

This may involve further direct meetings with migrant domestic workers or with organisations representing them.

Genetics: Databases

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 31WS, on the Justice and Home Affairs Council, when she expects the UK to begin sharing data on fingerprints, DNA and vehicle registration under the terms of the EU Council Decision on the stepping up of cross-border co-operation. [192783]

Jacqui Smith: The EU Council Decision on the stepping up of cross-border co-operation (also know as the Prüm Council Decision) provides improved arrangements for the sharing of fingerprint, DNA and vehicle registration data by law enforcement authorities. For example, where a DNA sample retrieved from a crime scene is searched against a national database and no match is found, the Council Decision permits for those data to be transmitted and searched through member states' national databases. A notification is sent to the requesting member state notifying of a hit or no hit i.e. matching profile. If a match is identified, further requests for information are processed through existing secure police channels allowing for appropriate data protection safeguards.

The UK expects to begin sharing data in this way within three years of adoption and publication of the legal texts.

Immigration

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the two teams announced in paragraph 13 of her Department's Green Paper "The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System" will make their report. [198557]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* The two cross-departmental teams are scoping work and will provide advice to Ministers in the summer.

Immigration: EC Action

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon in respect of *(a)* uniform standards for asylum and *(b)* the rights of legal immigrants from outside the EU. [198689]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 April 2008]:* The provisions set out a more detailed analysis of the basic principles of Article 63 on minimum standards for asylum and legal migration in the Treaty Establishing the European Community.

Under the Lisbon treaty the UK will be able to choose whether or not to participate in each individual Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) measure.

Metropolitan Police: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of carbon offsetting through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund by the Metropolitan Police Service for travel in 2006-07 was for air travel *(a)* by those on official business outside London and *(b)* for operational police purposes within London. [198220]

Mr. Byrne: Participation in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund and air travel undertaken by the Metropolitan Police within and outside London are matters for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. However, a list of Government Carbon Offsetting Fund members, their emission figures and what activities they have offset through the fund is available online at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the reply of the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency to question 18 of the evidence session before the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January 2008, in how many cases deportation of a foreign individual serving more than 12 months has not occurred because of *(a)* a decision by a court and *(b)* a decision not to seek deportation for other reasons. [181848]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost. We have made clear that our objective is that foreign national prisoners should face deportation, when they meet the relevant criteria, and that deportation should happen as early as possible in their sentence.

Police

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued to the police on dealing with people who voluntarily present themselves at police stations to help police with enquiries. [192249]

Jacqui Smith: Code C issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 is the code of practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers. Persons who attend the police station voluntarily must be offered refreshments at appropriate times and if they are not arrested but are cautioned, informed that they have the right to obtain free legal advice. There are no restrictions on the ability of the person to make contact with people outside the police station. The code also requires that any person who is arrested at the police station having attended voluntarily must be brought before the custody officer as soon as possible after their arrest. The custody officer is then responsible for opening a custody record for the individual and ensuring that the relevant provisions and safeguards in PACE are applied.

Police: Public Opinion

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the findings of opinion polls on changes in public attitudes towards the police. [197293]

Jacqui Smith: The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely includes a question on confidence in the local police and the results are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Crime in England and Wales, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Following a long period of declining levels of confidence in the police, there have been rising levels of confidence in recent years. The 2006-07 BCS showed that 51 per cent. of people thought their local police did a good or excellent job.

Pornography: Internet

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought under the Communications Act 2003 for using the internet to upload offensive or indecent images. [195543]

Jacqui Smith: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to using the internet to upload offensive or indecent images under the Communications Act 2003 S.127 in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The Communications Act 2003 Section 127 came into full force on 29 December 2003.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to using the internet to upload offensive or indecent images under the Communications Act 2003 S.127 in England and Wales for the years 2003 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Proceeded against
2003	0
2004	214
2005	355
2006	550

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] The communications Act S.127 came into full force on 29 December 2003
[3] Data include the following statute and corresponding offence description: Communications Act 2003 S.127 - Improper use of public electronic communications network.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Public Order Offences

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether people arrested for public order offences when drunk are routinely tested for illegal drugs; [199996]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of people arrested for public order offences who were found to have taken cocaine in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [200003]

(3) whether people arrested for public order offences are routinely tested for illegal drugs. [200004]

Mr. Coaker: Drug testing of offenders for specified Class A drugs in police custody operates as part of the Drug Interventions Programme in some 176 custody suites across England and Wales.

The police currently have the power to request persons aged 18 and over in police detention who have been charged or arrested with a "trigger offence", to provide a sample for testing for the presence of a specified Class A drug.

The trigger offences are set out in Schedule 6 to the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. These are the offences which have been shown to have the clearest link with drug misuse, particularly the misuse of heroin and cocaine/crack. The Drugs Intervention Programme regularly reviews the list of trigger offences.

A person arrested or charged with a non trigger offence may be tested if a police officer decides that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that Class A drug use caused or contributed to the offence. The decision to authorise a sample must be referred to a police officer of at least the rank of Inspector.

Public order offences are not among the list of trigger offences which require the police to test the offender for the presence of specified Class A drugs including cocaine although tests can be conducted using Inspector's Authority.

Between 2003 and February 2008, some 2283 tests were conducted for Public Order offences, 32 per cent. (728) of them tested positive for the presence of cocaine. Of these 481 tested positive for cocaine only and 247 for both cocaine and opiates.

Racial Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many racially motivated violent attacks took place in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [198000]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to recorded offences of racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding and assault without injury and is available from 1999-2000. Figures for England and Wales and the North East are given in the following tables. The Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency comes within the Middlesbrough Basic Command Unit for which figures are available from 2000-01. Data for Tees Valley are not available.

Table 1: racially or religiously aggravated offences of violence recorded by the police—2000-01 and 2001-02

	1999-2000		*2000-01*		*2001-02*	
Area	*Less serious wounding*	*Assault without injury*	*Less serious wounding*	*Assault without injury*	*Less serious wounding*	*Assault without injury*
England and Wales	2,687	4,275	3,176	4,711	3,463	5,164
North East Region	29	27	39	54	64	97
Middlesbrough BCU	n/a	n/a	1	4	6	1

n/a = Not available.

Note:
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Because of this figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. Prior to that date assault without injury under Home Office Counting rules could include some minor injury.

Table 2: racially or religiously aggravated offences of violence recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2006-07

	2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Area	*Less serious wounding*	*Assault without injury*	*Less serious wounding*	*Assault without injury*	*Less serious wounding*	*Assault without injury*	*Less serious wounding*	*Assault without injury*	*Less serious wounding*	*Assault without injury*
England and Wales	4,415	4,602	4,930	4,161	5,426	3,866	6,107	3,945	5,619	4,350
North East Region	68	345	144	124	161	89	182	93	191	109
Middlesbrough BCU	8	7	17	17	15	8	15	19	7	20

Note:
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Because of this figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. Prior to that date assault without injury under Home Office Counting rules could include some minor injury.

Security: Licensing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licence applications were not determined by the Security Industry Authority within *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months and *(c)* 12 months in the latest period for which figures are available. [196415]

Mr. Coaker: The SIA is currently making a number of improvements to its handling of applications.

The most recent period for which figures from the Security Industry Authority are available is October 2007. During that month approximately 861 applications, representing about 10 per cent. of the total applications decided that month, took the SIA over three months to determine. The reasons for the longer processing times in such cases would have included the need to make further inquiries of the applicant, or await the outcome of additional checks in respect of, for example, any overseas criminality convictions, clarification of qualifications or the right to work in the UK. The SIA does not hold data which show how many applications were not determined within 6 or 12 months.

Terrorism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff are employed by her Department *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time on the Prevent strand of Project Contest. [183418]

Jacqui Smith: The Prevent aspects of the Government's strategy on counter-terrorism are dealt with in the Home Office by the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT). The Home Office also works with other Government Departments and agencies on Prevent.

24 full-time and two part-time Home Office staff are currently engaged directly on Prevent. This number will increase in accordance with the priority attached to this work. In addition, there are several other members of staff in the Home Office who are engaged on Prevent work as part of their wider responsibilities for counter-terrorism.

The current cross-Whitehall total of staff (including those in the Home Office) fully employed on Prevent is 83 full time staff and 22 part-time staff. There are staff in other agencies not included in the following list who are also working on Prevent. Details are as follows:

DCSF: two full-time and two part-time;

DIUS: one full-time and four part-time;

DCMS: one full-time;

MOD (including NOMS): seven full-time

MoJ and DSCF (joint post): one part-time;

FCO: 19 full-time;

DFID: seven full-time and one part-time;

DWP: three part-time;

CLG: 22 full-time;

RICU (cross-Whitehall unit): nine part-time;

HO: 24 full-time and two part-time.

In addition, more and more local government and police forces are directly engaging staff on Prevent work.

TREASURY

Disabled People

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199040]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury, in common with other Whitehall Departments, has adopted the targets set out in the Cabinet Office's 10 point plan on diversity in relation to the employment of people with disabilities. The current target for the Treasury's senior civil service on the representation of employees with disabilities is 3.2 per cent. and for the feeder grades to the Treasury's senior civil service the target is 5.0 per cent.

The current targets, set for 2005-08, will be revised post April 2008. Work is under way on setting targets for 2008-11.

Energy: Prices

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of recent changes in energy prices. [199390]

Angela Eagle: The Government published their latest assessment of recent economic developments and prospects in the Financial Statement and Budget report on 12 March 2008.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assumption he has made of the number of new cars paying the first year charge vehicle excise duty in *(a)* Band E, *(b)* Band F, *(c)* Band G, *(d)* Band H, *(e)* Band I, *(f)* Band J, *(g)* Band K, *(h)* Band L and *(i)* Band M in 2010-11 in relation to the Red Book tax revenue calculations in line 35 Table 1.2, page 9; and if he will make a statement; [196305]

(2) what assumption he has made of the number of existing cars paying vehicle excise duty in *(a)* Band A, *(b)* Band B, *(c)* Band C, *(d)* Band D, *(e)* Band E, *(f)* Band F, *(g)* Band G, *(h)* Band H, *(i)* Band I, *(j)* Band J, *(k)* Band K, *(l)* Band L and *(m)* Band M in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 in relation to the Red Book tax revenue calculations in line 35 Table 1.2, page 9; and if he will make a statement. [196306]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 25 March 2008]:* The number of new cars assumed to be paying the first year VED rate in 2010-11 are: 461,865 in band E; 367,998 in band F; 365,726 in band G; 209,668 in band H; 164,899 in band I; 190,705 in band J; 110,257 in band K; 65,169 in band L and 57,096 in band M.

The number of existing cars assumed to be paying VED in each band in each of the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, are as set out in the following tables.

Band	*CO_2 (g/km)*	*2008-09*
A	Up to 100	395
B	101-120	435,128

Band	CO_2 (g/km)	2008-09
C	121-150	4,475,675
D	151-165	3,600,604
E	166-185	2,988,220
F	Over 185	3,833,614
G	Over 226	319,155

Band	CO_2 (g/km)	2009-10	2010-11
A	Up to 100	402	406
B	101-110	159,677	213,780
C	111-120	391,784	461,838
D	121-130	545,764	659,329
E	131-140	1,958,283	2,350,966
F	141-150	2,709,904	3,024,826
G	151-160	2,897,680	3,194,682
H	161-170	2,133,478	2,348,648
I	171-180	1,627,854	1,747,207
J	181-200	2,354,888	2,523,103
K	201-225	2,430,478	1,424,751
L	226-255	216,319	936,364
M	Over 255	240,371	709,042

Income Tax: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in Bexley paid income tax at the 10 pence basic rate in 2007-08; [199488]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on residents of Bexley in receipt of occupational pensions of abolition of the 10 pence rate of income tax. [199489]

Jane Kennedy: The removal of the 10p rate is part of a package of reforms announced in Budget 2007 to simplify the personal tax system and provide more support to families and pensioners. The package includes increasing age-related allowances by £1,180 above indexation, meaning that every person qualifying for these allowances will pay no more tax than without the reforms announced in Budget 2007 and removing 600,000 pensioners from paying tax.

Estimates of the number paying tax at the starting rate in the UK for 2007-08 are given in Table 2.5 based on projections of the 2004-05 Survey of Personal Incomes. This table can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website and will be updated with the results of the 2005-06 survey at the end of April.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Available information on numbers of taxpayers in each London borough is shown in table T3.14, which can be found at the HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

The effect of the package on households in receipt of occupational pensions will depend on their circumstances, for example, their age, whether they have dependent children and other income.

Northern Rock

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of the EU capital requirements directive on the liquidity of Northern Rock in the last 12 months. [191583]

Angela Eagle: The assessment of the capital and liquidity position of banks, and the linkages between the two, is a matter for the Financial Services Authority as banking supervisor. The FSA monitors these on an ongoing basis. The introduction of the capital requirements directive has not changed this underlying position.

VAT: Sunscreens

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to make suntan lotions for children zero-rated for VAT. [199826]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 998W, to the hon. Member for Castle Point (Bob Spink).

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Construction

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many construction apprenticeship *(a)* starts and *(b)* completions there were in each region in each of the last five years. [199655]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is provided in the following table. Figures for the number of completions in 2006/07 are not currently available but will be by the summer.

Construction apprenticeships starts and framework completions by region of learner's home postcode 2002/03 to 2006/07

	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07
Region[1]	Starts	Framework completions	Starts	Framework completions	Starts	Framework completions	Starts	Framework completions	Starts
East Midlands	2,113	247	1,479	230	1,722	615	1,056	692	1,525
East of England	2,217	202	1,136	251	1,740	512	1,266	348	1,570
London	848	42	1,296	242	906	89	1,782	1,056	2,634
North East	2,825	277	721	92	2,220	762	640	601	681
North West	4,998	435	1,660	245	4,194	1,266	1,819	513	2,354
South East	2,802	168	1,378	254	1,942	621	2,725	1,055	3,366
South West	2,722	161	1,537	295	1,859	460	1,572	789	2,275

Construction apprenticeships starts and framework completions by region of learner's home postcode 2002/03 to 2006/07

	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07
Region[1]	*Starts*	*Framework completions*	*Starts*	*Framework completions*	*Starts*	*Framework completions*	*Starts*	*Framework completions*	*Starts*
West Midlands	1,557	207	1,132	265	1,484	483	1,061	889	1,397
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,357	151	1,312	248	2,462	891	1,153	2,444	1,791
Total England	23,439	1,890	11,651	2,122	18,529	5,699	13,074	8,387	17,593
Northern Ireland	—	—	100	22	—	—	66	2	110
Scotland	24	2	1,979	379	26	7	1,162	278	1,347
Wales	57	10	655	106	43	12	851	431	1,092
Total UK	23,520	1,902	14,385	2,629	18,598	5,718	15,153	9,098	20,742
Not Recorded	186	35	844	146	144	35	578	400	862
Total	23,706	1,937	15,229	2,775	18,742	5,753	15,731	9,498	21,004

[1] Region is based on the home postcode of the learner, where residential learning is taking place in the MOD, the postcode of where the learner is based is used.

Notes

1. Includes all age groups and both apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships.
2. Frameworks included in construction are 107, engineering construction and 116, construction.

Source

Work Based Learning Individualised Learner Record

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which external consultants have been contracted by his Department since it was established for contracts in excess of £50,000; and what the work contracted for was. [199929]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Since this time the Department has spent in excess of £50,000 on the following:

	£
Outsights Ltd	513,714.71
KPMG	391,905.25
Company Reporting Ltd	208,416.67
PricewaterhouseCoopers	198,212.00
SHIFTN	127,920.00
Saxton Bampfylde Hever Plc	119,493.06
PA Consulting Group	103,075.00
Tribal Consulting Ltd	101,168.55
Evidence Ltd	75,470.00
Jags Consulting Ltd T/A Jags Consul	72,100.00
Dialogue By Design	58,234.00
Enterprise (AOL) Limited	54,400.00
KMC International	51,451.10

To investigate specific contracts in excess of £50,000 would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electricity

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on electricity in each month in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [196989]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Since this time, the Department has spent on electricity, a total of £32,023.54. This can be split up further into £31,816.23 to the end of November and £207.31 in January. DCSF provides DIUS with share services which include the provision of office space, an element of this expenditure relates to electricity, but split obtainable only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his Departmental website. [200147]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was formed on 28 June 2007, following the machinery of Government changes. Costs for the design and implementation of the departmental website to date are projected to be in the region of £85,000.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198316]

Mr. Lammy: Since July 2007, there has been one Act sponsored by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills—the Further Education and Training Act 2007. This Act did not create any criminal offences.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment in his Department there were in each month since May 2005. [199548]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was created by Machinery of Government changes in July 2007 from elements of the then Department of Trade and Industry and Department for Education and Skills. For this reason—and until spring 2009—we are continuing to operate from two Human Resource databases and two separate payrolls for all employees.

As regards part *(a)* of the question, we are able to provide quarterly 'snapshots' of information about the number of permanent civil servant posts, as follows:

	Number
July 2007	762
October 2007	793
January 2008	825
April 2008	808

(b) There are no permanent non-civil servant posts in the Department; and

(c) records of temporary or agency workers are not held centrally and to collect this information would involve disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the 10 highest salaries paid by his Department to non-civil servants are. [199920]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was set up as part of the Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. In the subsequent period, as part of the process of establishing the new Department, it has been necessary on occasion to engage the services of contractors, consultants and temporary staff who are usually not employees and are not on the DIUS payroll. Aside from this situation, the non-civil servants on the payroll are Ministers whose salaries are already in the public domain.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the 10 highest items of expenditure on purchases by his Department were in the last 12 months for which are available. [200039]

Mr. Lammy: We are unable to provide a response to this question as it does not specify sufficiently the basis on which these data are sought.

To illustrate, the question does not state if it relates to running or capital costs or both, and if it relates to individual contracts or suppliers.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much translation of documents produced by his Department in the last 12 months has cost, broken down by language. [199926]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has made payments for translation services to the value of £11,094.25 during the financial year 2007-08. To investigate as to whether these services were provided for the translation of documents and into language category would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many written questions to his Department had not received an answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193390]

Mr. Lammy: The Department received a total number of 889 PQs during the period covering 6 November 2007 to 25 February 2008. According to our records, the breakdown of questions, at least two weeks old, that had not received an answer on 25 February 2008 was as shown in the following table.

	(a) Two to four weeks	*(b) Four to six weeks*	*(c) Six to eight weeks*	*(d) More than eight weeks*	*Total*
Commons Named Day	0	0	1	1	2
Commons Written	5	3	3	16	27
Total	5	3	4	17	29

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress his Department has made on its parliamentary question tracking system to record whether named day questions are provided with a substantive answer on the due day since November 2007. [199993]

Mr. Lammy: Although parts of the Department's PQ tracking system have been upgraded there is still some outstanding work to be completed on the parts of the system that provide management information reports. In the interim, the parliamentary team are maintaining a manual check on all named day questions to monitor the timeliness of replies.

Learning and Skills Councils: North West

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to increase the revenue budget of the Learning and Skills Council for the North West to meet objectives to reduce the number of young people not in education, training or employment. [199419]

Mr. Lammy: Progress is being made in reducing the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). Latest figures show that 206,200 (10.3 per cent.) 16 to 18-year-olds were NEET at the end of 2006, a reduction from 217,000 (10.9 per cent.) at the end of 2005.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) makes decisions about allocations of funding to specific areas based on strategic discussions with local partners about the range of provision that is needed.

The overall north-west NEET budget is increasing, with the direct NEET programme funding increasing from £3.75 million in 2007-08 to £3.95 million in 2008-09, including a pilot programme for KS4 pupils at risk of disengagement, and funding for a parents to be programme.

There are also other sources of funds including from the LSC and also local authorities that directly or indirectly support young people who are NEET.

Official Gifts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what use his Department makes of items from the Donated Asset Reserve; and if he will make a statement. [199923]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. The Department does not have any items held within a Donated Asset Reserve.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Capita

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many employees of Capita plc have been *(a)* seconded to his Department and *(b)* appointed to his Department's non departmental public bodies since 1997; to which body each secondment or appointment was made; and for how long each secondment or appointment lasted. [199702]

Phil Hope: There have been no employees of Capita plc seconded to the Cabinet Office since 1997. Currently, no appointees to Cabinet Office non-departmental public bodies are employees of Capita plc. Details of past appointees to Cabinet Office non-departmental public bodies since 1997 and their employment history are not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199831]

Phil Hope: From latest available figures as at 31 December 2007, there were 1,222 posts (FTE) within the Cabinet Office filled by permanent civil servants. This figure includes permanent Cabinet Office staff and staff on loan from another Government Department.

In addition, there were 182 non-permanent staff (FTE). This figure includes staff on a fixed term or short-term appointment, staff seconded in from outside the civil service, fee-paid staff, agency staff, consultants and contractors.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199627]

Phil Hope: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Total annual costs for the wages and associated employment costs of permanently employed staff, agency staff, Ministers and special advisers are provided in note 9 (Staff numbers and related costs) to the Department's annual report and resource accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200018]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Migration: Statistics

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the workplan published by the Interdepartmental Task Force laying out the actions needed to improve the estimates of migration is Government policy. [199299]

Phil Hope: The Government welcome the report of the task force and is fully supportive of efforts to further improve migration data. Governance arrangements have been established by the National Statistician, in consultation with Departments, to ensure work progresses according to agreed work plans and she will be responsible for overseeing delivery.

On 4 February, the Minister for Local Government, John Healey, announced to the House that a cross-government programme would be put in place, driven by senior officials from central Government and the Local Government Association, and led by the National Statistician. This Programme Board of officials will help steer the work and advise on priorities.

A ministerial group will support the National Statistician and help drive forward the changes. This latter group is to be chaired jointly by John Healey, the Minister for Local Government, and Liam Byrne, Home Office Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, for the Government. The UK Statistics Authority will ensure the quality of the statistics that are produced.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of Arts Council England's annual budget, as announced in his Department's press release 117/07, dated 12 October 2007, has been reserved for future partnership schemes with his Department. [199842]

Margaret Hodge: The following amount of Arts Council England funding have been reserved for future partnership schemes with my Department over the next three years.

£000

Budget	Joint research budget	Taking Part	Living Places	ArtCo
2008-09	200	300	24	100,000
2009-10	200	300		100,000
2010-11	200	300		

The Arts Council will also be contributing towards the jointly owned work programme of the cultural services improvement unit at the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). A figure for this contribution has not yet been finalised.

Conference Centres

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department provides *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue support to any conference or exhibition centre; and if he will make a statement. [199436]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to the Department's records, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not provide any capital or revenue support to conference and/or exhibition centres.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997. [198290]

Margaret Hodge: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of his Department's budget as allocated in the Comprehensive Spending Review is yet to be assigned. [199841]

Andy Burnham: In successive spending reviews, we have sought to allocate settlements in full over the three years of each review. This provides our sponsored bodies with maximum financial certainty within which to plan ahead for the development and provision of excellent services. Some scope to change plans is provided at the margin by end year flexibility.

Accordingly, our resource budget is fully allocated. Our capital budget is almost fully allocated.

English Sports Council: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of Sport England's annual budget for 2008-09 has been reserved for future partnership schemes with his Department. [199843]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England will contribute at least £600,000 to part fund the Taking Part Survey commissioned by the Department and its key non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), £36,000 towards a joint research budget for the Department and its NDPBs, and £25,000 towards the administration of the Living Places Partnership, an agreement between the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department and its partner NDPBs and the Academy for Sustainable Communities, to ensure that all communities can benefit from cultural and sporting opportunities.

Sport England is still considering whether a contribution will be made to the Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IDeA) for the coming year. Sport England will agree its overall strategy in May 2008.

The exact figures will be available once their 2008-09 budget has been set.

Euclid

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what services his Department obtained from Euclid in each of the last three years; and what the cost of these services was in each year. [199864]

Margaret Hodge: Euclid is contracted by DCMS to act as the UK's cultural contact point (CCP) for the European Union's Culture Programme. Euclid provides European and international information, research and consultancy services to the cultural sector, including guidance on funding opportunities. The UK CCP receives funding of £50,000 from the European Commission annually and my Department match funds to this amount. The current CCP contract runs from January 2007 until December 2009.

Euclid also holds the contract to promote the European Year of Intercultural dialogue in the UK. The cost of this contract was a one off payment of £10,000.

Internet: Children

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of the Byron Review has been. [198394]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 2 April 2008]:* Dr. Tanya Byron published her report on 27 March 2008 and the Government have accepted her recommendations. The review has just ended and while accounting procedures are still to be completed, we estimate that a total of around £275,000 has been spent on the review, not including salaries and expenses of the civil servants on the Review's secretariat.

This included expenditure on consultation with parents and other stakeholders, and a comprehensive literature review.

This expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the Cabinet Office guidelines and a value for money assessment.

Mobile Phones: Rural Areas

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what is being done to promote better mobile telephone coverage in rural areas of the country. [195219]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The mobile network operators build base stations in order to meet customers need for coverage and service. The decision to build in a particular location is largely a commercial matter for the operators.

For new 3G networks, an 80 per cent. population coverage obligation by 2007 was placed on each licence holder to encourage network rollout. This could equate to approximately 45 per cent. land area coverage averaged over the whole of the United Kingdom. The Office of Communications (Ofcom) has now completed its assessment of compliance with the obligation and has proposed action against O2, the one operator not yet having complied. However coverage beyond this obligation would again be a commercial matter for operators. For 2G or GSM networks the original coverage obligations laid on GSM operators were discharged many years ago and have been significantly exceeded on a voluntary basis.

In some areas, opposition to mast construction can have detrimental effect on operators' plans to extend mobile phone coverage. It is possible that a direct approach to an operator indicating a suitable site might be productive in obtaining greater mobile coverage for an area.

Museum, Libraries and Archives Council: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council's budget for 2008-09 has been reserved for future partnership schemes with his Department. [199844]

Margaret Hodge: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is contributing £80,000 towards the "Taking Part" survey commissioned by the Department and its partner non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs); £78,000 towards the jointly owned work programme of the cultural services improvement unit at the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA); £24,000 towards the administration of the Living Places Partnership—an agreement between the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department and its partner NDPBs and the Academy for Sustainable Communities—to ensure that all communities can benefit from cultural and sporting opportunities, particularly those experiencing housing-led growth and regeneration; and £7,000 towards a joint research budget for the Department and its partner NDPBs.

Tourism: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to promote tourism in Essex since 1997. [197652]

Margaret Hodge: Government support for tourism promotion in the east of England, and the other eight regions of England, has increased substantially since 1997.

From 1997-98 to 2002-03, the east of England tourist board received funding of between £427,000 and £868,000 per year from the former English Tourism Council (previously known as the English Tourist Board).

As part of the DCMS Tourism Reform programme, responsibility for supporting tourism passed to the regional development agencies (RDAs), including the east of England development agency (EEDA) in 2003. The RDAs together estimate total spending of £43.5 million on tourism support in 2007-08. EEDA has invested substantially in sector, with £0.8 million, £1.5 million and £1.8 million in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

At national level, DCMS funds VisitBritain to market and promote all parts of England, including the east of England, to domestic and international visitors. Spreading the benefits of this work is an important part of the relevant funding agreement, which requires VisitBritain to achieve a specified proportion of additional expenditure by inbound visitors outside London. For 2005-06, the target was 55 per cent. and VisitBritain achieved 61 per cent. For 2006-07, the target was 54 per cent. and VisitBritain achieved 57 per cent.

Further support for the sector, including the bulk of promotion to the domestic market (which makes up around 80 per cent. of the sector), is led by local councils. DCMS has also made substantial investment in heritage, arts and culture throughout the country since 1997. These sectors, in addition to their intrinsic value to the nation's cultural life, benefit the visitor economy.

Tourism: North East

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government has taken to promote tourism in the North East since 1997. [197264]

Margaret Hodge: Government support for tourism promotion in the north east, and the other eight regions of England, has increased substantially since 1997.

From 1997-98 to 2002-03, the Northumbria Tourist Board received funding of between £241,000 and £570,000 a year from the former English Tourism Council (previously known as the English Tourist Board).

As part of the DCMS Tourism Reform Programme, responsibility for supporting tourism passed to the regional development agencies (RDAs), including One NorthEast (ONE) in 2003. The RDAs together estimate total spending of £43.5 million on tourism

support in 2007-08. ONE has made a substantial investment in the tourism sector; including funding of £1.7 million, £4.4 and £3.6 million in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively to promote the north east.

At national level, DCMS funds VisitBritain to market and promote all parts of England, including the north east, to domestic and international visitors. Spreading the benefits of this work is an important part of the relevant funding agreement, which requires VisitBritain to achieve a specified proportion of additional expenditure by inbound visitors outside London. For 2005-06, the target was 55 per cent. and VisitBritain achieved 61 per cent. For 2006-07, the target was 54 per cent. and VisitBritain achieved 57 per cent.

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children: Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to reduce child poverty globally in the last year. [199408]

Gillian Merron: The UK Government have committed significant funds for reducing child poverty, including £8.5 billion for education (2007-15), £150 million for children affected by HIV/AIDS (2004-2007) and over £7 million for addressing forced labour and child labour.

In addition the Department for International Development supports children and young people through direct funding to non-governmental organisations, including Plan UK (2007-2011; £3.1 million for the first three years) and Save the Children (2005-2011; £20.7 million for the first three years). In 2007 a joint DFID and civil society network on children was established to learn from civil society experience of working to promote child rights and reduce child poverty. DFID has also contributed £7 million (2006-2009) to the 'Young Lives project', which is a 15 year study of child poverty in four countries.

In 2008 HMG is leading on a global 'Call to Action' around the millennium development goals (the MDGs), which focus on achieving measurably improved outcomes for millions of the world's most deprived children on for example income poverty, nutrition and access to education and health services. DFID will be renewing efforts around the MDGs and we will also be working with other international players to ensure that the global community—including the business community—commit all the resources and energy needed to reduce child poverty.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196447]

Gillian Merron: Non-permanent members of staff at the Department for International Development (DFID) receive payment on either an annual salary basis or an hourly rate basis, depending on the terms of their contract.

Non-permanent, salaried staff are recruited to fill a wide range of managerial, advisory and administrative posts, and salaries vary significantly depending on the post held. The salary may also be subject to review during the period of their appointment. Details of the hourly rates of pay for all salaried non-permanent members of staff for each of the last 12 months could only be provided at disproportionate cost, following a detailed review of each individual's salary records.

DFID also appoints non-permanent staff through recruitment agencies to undertake both administrative and specialist roles, including IT and communications specialists. Administrative appointments are managed centrally, but individual departments within DFID have delegated authority to engage specialist staff. Records are not held centrally for this group.

Since April 2007 the majority of administrative appointments have been made through two agencies serving our two headquarters locations—one in London and one in East Kilbride. The average hourly rate paid for these agency staff over the past 12 months (from April 2007 to March 2008) is:

	£
London	11.36
East Kilbride	9.27

Note

Under the terms of the contract with the agency suppliers, DFID is unable to make public information that may be of value to a competitor. This specifically precludes us releasing details of the hourly rates paid for each grade of staff.

The number of staff appointed through these agencies in each of the last 12 months is detailed in the following table.

2007	*Number*
April	6
May	10
June	14
July	18
August	19
September	24
October	27
November	29
December	33
2008	
January	38
February	47
March	53

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198935]

Gillian Merron: Details of the working days lost by the Department for International Development (DFID) to stress related illnesses for each month from January 2006 to December 2007 (i.e. the last 24 months for which collated details are available) are shown in the following table:

Working days lost to stress related illnesses

	2006	2007
January	148	156
February	142	75
March	157	30
April	120	24
May	105	18
June	84	15
July	60	38
August	63	56
September	36	65
October	67	104
November	120	154
December	188	147

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198949]

Gillian Merron: For the years 2003-07 the average working days per employee lost to sick leave for the Department for International Development (DFID) are:

	Sick leave
2003	7.0
2004	4.8
2005	5.7
2006	5.0
2007	4.4

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198973]

Gillian Merron: The numbers of Department for International Development (DFID) staff, by pay grade, who took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, are shown in the following table:

Stress related sick absences

	>5 days	>10 days	>15 days	>20 days	>25 days	>30 days	>35 days	>40 days	Total
2003									
SCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
A2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
B1D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
B2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4
C1	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	9
C2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
Total	5	4	1	1	3	2	0	9	25
2004									
SCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
A2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
A3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B1D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
B2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	6
C1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	5
C2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	5
Total	4	5	0	0	1	1	2	11	24
2005									
SCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
A2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
A3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
B1D	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
B1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
B2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	4	7
C1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	6

	Stress related sick absences								
	>5 days	>10 days	>15 days	>20 days	>25 days	>30 days	>35 days	>40 days	Total
C2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Total	2	1	1	2	1	0	3	14	24
2006									
SCS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
A1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
A3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
B1D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	6
B2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
C1	2	1	2	3	0	0	0	3	11
C2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	4	3	3	3	1	0	1	12	27
2007									
SCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
A2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
A3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
B1D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	4
B2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	5
C1	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	2	8
C2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	2	1	6	1	2	0	8	22

Global Fund to Fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries have committed funding for the Global Fund to fight AIDS; and how much each has committed. [198683]

Gillian Merron: About 30 donors, including the private sector and private foundations, have either pledged or are projected to contribute a total of $9.7 billion to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the period 2008-2010.

A table setting out these pledges in detail has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. A more detailed spreadsheet showing all pledges and contributions since the Global Fund was established can be found on the Global Fund's website:

http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/files/pledges&contributions.xls

The UK pledged £360 million, with £30 million of this subject to demand and results and an additional £640 million from 2011-15, providing the Global Fund is receiving good quality proposals from countries, continues to perform well, and is demonstrating sustainable impact.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200222]

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not currently provide social care services paid for out of public funds.

DFID does provide healthcare services for staff working and living overseas. In the majority of circumstances, this service facilitates referrals into the NHS, but occasionally makes use, as appropriate, of medical services overseas, the cost of which is paid for from public funds.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department to Karian and Box since 1997. [199643]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no record of current or previous contracts with Karian and Box for the period requested.

Somalia: Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the World Food Programme on the situation in Somalia. [199445]

Gillian Merron: DFID officials are in regular and sustained contact with the WFP regarding food aid needs in Somalia, overall humanitarian and food aid strategies and logistical matters. These contacts include telephone calls, meetings in Nairobi and joint visits to Somalia.

DFID is the second largest contributor to the WFP element of the 2008 UN Humanitarian Appeal for Somalia.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2564W, on Admiralty House, (1) what the *(a)* make, *(b)* model and *(c)* energy efficiency rating of the (i) washer dryer, (ii) tumble dryer and (iii) fridge-freezer was; [196298]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of departmental purchase orders 228224, 225497, 228317, 228314 and 228318 in relation to the minor works undertaken. [196299]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 25 March 2008]*: Departmental purchase orders and supplies of appliances are not normally disclosed for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the *(a)* UN High Commissioner for Refugees and *(b)* government of (i) India and (ii) Bangladesh on the potential numbers of people migrating from Chin state, western Burma as a result of famine and human rights violations; [198374]

(2) what reports he has received of famine in Chin state, western Burma; what steps he has taken to investigate such reports; and what steps he plans to take in the event of such reports being confirmed. [198376]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield the (Mr. Mitchell) on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 34W.

We are aware that in parts of Chin state, as well as neighbouring areas in India and Bangladesh, people are experiencing significant hardship due to rodent infestations and consequent crop damage. The Department for International Development (DFID) is in contact with the UN Development Programme and World Food Programme about what humanitarian response may be required. DFID already provides a significant amount of support to Chin state from inside Burma. We also closely monitor the human rights situation in Burma, including abuses committed against ethnic groups.

We have received no reports of any recent upsurge in levels of migration across Indian and Bangladeshi borders from Chin state and as a result have not discussed the issue with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees or Indian and Bangladeshi governments. We do, however, discuss conditions in Burma generally and the plight of refugees from Burma with neighbouring countries.

Commonwealth: Students

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements he has made to ensure continued scholarship opportunities for high quality doctoral students from developed Commonwealth countries following his decision to terminate funding for Commonwealth Scholarships in the UK after 2008-09. [198364]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has committed £79,110,000 to scholarship funding (including to Commonwealth countries) over the next three years in accordance with the FCO's global strategy and priorities. Other sources of funding for overseas doctoral students performing research in the UK are available through research councils and universities themselves.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997. [198293]

Meg Munn: Criminal offences under the Genocide Act 1969 were repealed by the International Criminal Court Act 2001; the International Criminal Court Act 2001, however, re-enacted the crime of genocide, with a wider jurisdictional ambit.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198313]

Meg Munn: No new primary legislation sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been enacted in the period in question.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the hourly rates of pay of all non-permanent staff working for his Department and its agencies were in each of the last 12 months; and how many staff were receiving each rate in each of those months. [196450]

Meg Munn: In the UK the Foreign and Commonwealth Office employs the following categories of non-permanent staff:

external consultants/contractors

temporary staff supplied by employment agencies; and

fee-paid staff paid an hourly rate.

The terms under which we employ consultants and contractors vary according to each contract or supply agreement. We do not hold a central record of these agreements.

In respect of the rates we have paid to non-permanent staff supplied by employment agencies I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 11 March

2008, *Official Report*, column 328W to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart).

In each of the past 12 months we have employed the following numbers of non-permanent fee-paid staff at the following hourly rates. The hourly rates are themselves based on annual salaries for permanent staff in the corresponding grade:

Month	*Number*	*Hourly minimum (£)*	*Hourly maximum (£)*
March 2008	26	9.18	35.12
February 2008	28	9.18	35.12
January 2008	29	6.91	35.12
December 2007	24	6.91	35.12
November 2007	25	6.91	35.12
October 2007	29	6.91	55.56
September 2007	27	6.91	55.56
August 2007	23	6.91	55.56
July 2007	21	6.91	55.56
June 2007	16	9.18	55.56
May 2007	11	9.18	55.56
April 2007	8	13.13	55.56

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195864]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Environment Policy Statement on Operations is available on the FCO's website at the following address:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/how-we-are-organised/improvements/environmental-performance.

Gaza: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions on the political situation in Gaza he has had with *(a)* Cabinet colleagues, *(b)* the Israeli authorities, *(c)* Palestinian officials and *(d)* non-governmental organisations. [197891]

Meg Munn: The UK is working intensively to address the latest violence in the Gaza Strip and the continued firing of rockets from Gaza into Israel. In recent weeks, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary briefed his Cabinet colleagues and has regular conversations with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development regarding Gaza and southern Israel.

In addition, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in contact with Palestinian President Abbas on 6 March, Israeli Defence Minister Barak on 28 February and 17 April, Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 27 March, 10 April and 16 April, Egyptian Foreign Minister Gheit on 9 March, US Secretary of State Rice most recently on 2 April, and the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 27 March.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have been in regular contact with non-governmental organisations. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has recently written to the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, Jews for Justice, and Oxfam. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with the British Overseas Agencies Group which represents ActionAid, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, Christian Aid, Oxfam GB and Save the Children on 14 April. Officials have recently met with Oxfam, Amnesty International, Médecihs Sans Frontières and Christian Aid.

We continue to urge all parties to exercise restraint and refrain from the use of force.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government will be encouraging the European Union to take in light of the agreement on UN Security Council Resolution 1803 on 3 March 2008; and if he will make a statement. [199074]

Dr. Howells: Following UN Security Council resolution 1803, we are pressing for further EU measures in the form of a new Common Position and additional listings of entities and individuals that meet the criteria laid out in the existing Common Positions. A range of proposals are under consideration, including further financial and other measures and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will inform the House when these have been agreed.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects additional EU sanctions on Iran to be agreed; and if he will make a statement. [199080]

Dr. Howells: On the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 1803, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and our officials are working closely with EU partners to design and adopt further EU measures as a matter of urgency. Discussions are continuing in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will inform the House of the outcome of those negotiations as soon as he is able to do so.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that Iraqi prisoners who are handed over to the Iraqi government by coalition forces are accorded the level of treatment expected under international conventions; and if he will make a statement. [198348]

Dr. Howells: The Government concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Iraq on 8 November 2004 entitled "Memorandum of understanding between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland contingent of Multinational Forces-Iraq and the Ministries of Justice and Interior of Iraq regarding criminal suspects".

This MOU sets out the process by which transfers are to be conducted and also sets out the expectations of the Government in relation to the treatment of individuals transferred. We have previously sought the

permission of the Government of Iraq to lay a copy of the MOU before Parliament, but that permission was withheld.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the use of Iranian-made rockets in attacks against Iraqi targets and coalition forces in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [199077]

Dr. Howells: We consistently monitor the equipment and armaments being used by militias and other insurgents in Iraq. Any support for insurgents through supply of weapons, training or funding contributes to instability in Iraq.

We welcome the Iraqi government's statements that it will not tolerate any outside interference which undermines the prospects for a secure, stable and democratic Iraq.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had on the Israel-Palestine conflict and its humanitarian implications with the United States administration. [197889]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had regular contact with US Secretary of State Rice, most recently on 2 April. We remain gravely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Essential services, including water and sanitation, are close to breakdown and a number of essential medical items and drugs are out of stock. The UK continues to stress the need for the international community to remain fully engaged on the middle east peace process.

Nuclear Fuels

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2791W, on nuclear fuels, what the UK's objectives are for the 17 to 18 April conference on nuclear fuel cycle arrangements. [199082]

Dr. Howells: Together with our German and Dutch co-hosts we aim to bring together countries that are considering introducing nuclear energy and countries that have specific experience in nuclear fuel supply to share expertise and best practice. We will listen to states' views on the Multilateral Nuclear Approaches agenda. This will help in developing a viable regime of nuclear fuel assurances under the International Atomic Energy Agency auspices that will support states' rights to the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on *(a)* independence and *(b)* greater political autonomy for Tibet. [198066]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 3 April 2008]*: Successive Governments have regarded Tibet as autonomous while recognising the special position of the Chinese authorities there. We have consistently informed the Chinese government of our view that greater autonomy should be granted to the Tibetans. But like all other EU members, we do not advocate Tibetan independence. We have emphasised that the current political difficulties in Tibet can best be resolved through dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama has stated publicly that he opposes violence and does not seek independence, but greater autonomy for Tibet. We consider that this provides a basis for a negotiated settlement to the issue of Tibet.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will meet representatives of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to discuss the formal publication of the OHCHR Report on Western Sahara; and if he will make a statement. [198353]

Dr. Howells: The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) visited the region in 2006 to gather information on the human rights situation. The OHCHR shared its report privately with Morocco, Algeria and the Polisario on 8 September 2006, but did not publish it, and I understand the OHCHR maintains its decision not to make the report public. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to meet with the OHCHR and respects its decision to not publish the report.

We are keen to see a resolution to the question of Western Sahara. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter Van Walsum, to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. We support the process of UN-chaired negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario currently under way.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Finance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much he has allocated to business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* each financial year to 2010-11; and how much of this planned expenditure will be channelled via the regional development agencies' single pot in each such year. [197806]

Mr. McFadden: Regarding how much the Department allocated to business support, promotion of enterprise and economic development in 2007-08, I

have nothing to add to the answer to the hon. Member on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1288W.

Regarding the amount of planned expenditure channelled through the Regional Development Agencies' single pot, my Department has allocated £535 million in 2008-09, £523 million in 2009-10 and £512 million in 2010-11 to the single budget.

The RDA single budget is intended to deliver a range of statutory objectives including regeneration, business support, employment, skills and sustainable development. The RDAs' detailed proposals covering the next three years will be set out in their corporate plans, which will be published in the near future.

Business: Regulation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to minimise the burden of regulation for businesses; [190938]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to assist small businesses in the cost of dealing with regulation. [190939]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 5 March 2008]:* Government undertook an exercise, supported by industry, to measure the Administrative Burdens that impact businesses of all sizes as a result of complying with regulations. Upon the completion of this exercise, 25 per cent. net targets by 2010 were set to reduce this burden.

In December 2007, 19 Simplification Plans were published, showing more than 700 measures to reduce the burdens of complying with regulations. Over 280 of these measures have already been delivered saving businesses £800 million per year.

Examples of include:

Simpler law for smaller businesses (BERR):

Smaller businesses stand to benefit from substantial rewrite of Company Law. Coupled with better guidance, new provisions are expected to lower third party costs and make compliance easier. Conservative estimate of £2 million annual savings delivered.

Changes to Small Business Rate Relief (Communities):

Small firms eligible for Small Business Rate Relief no longer have to register for relief annually. £3 million annual savings delivered, and expected to rise to £11 million by 2010.

Small Firms audit requirements (Financial Services Authority):

Removed the need for 3,400 small firms to have a statutory audit, saving £12.9 million per year.

Copies of these plans are available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/policy/simplifying-existing-regulation/simplification-plans/2007/page44068.html

Centre for Alternative Technology

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will consider providing financial support to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales. [200189]

Mr. Thomas: We recognise the benefits of the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Wales. The CAT can apply for grants for demonstration of technologies under the existing programmes of the Environmental Transformation Fund where it meets the criteria. However we are not currently in a position to be able to provide additional core support to the Centre.

Civil Service Appeal Board

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of appeals by employees of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were (i) heard and (ii) upheld by the Civil Service Appeal Board in each of the last 10 years; how much was awarded in compensation by the Board to each successful appellant in each year; what the reason was for each compensation award; how many appellants were reinstated by the Board in each year; and what the reason was for each (A) dismissal and (B) reinstatement. [192563]

Mr. Thomas: 34 employees of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, formerly Department of Trade and Industry and its agencies have made an appeal to the Civil Service Appeal Board, in the last 10 years. Two of these cases have been upheld at the Civil Service Appeal Board since 2002. To provide information on compensation awarded at the Civil Service Appeal Board would be at a disproportionate cost, also to give further details of the individual cases may compromise the identity of the individual contravening the Data Protection Act.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Environment Protection

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will carry out a strategic environmental assessment of energy policy with regard to the environmental impact of new coal-fired power stations. [189924]

Malcolm Wicks: We have no such plans. Our use of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) has been focussed on technologies where we have the necessary information on where projects would be located. For most onshore power stations it is the market that decides where they are located.

Conference Centres

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department provides any *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue support to any conference or exhibition centre; and if he will make a statement. [199437]

Mr. Thomas: My Department has one conference centre based at its HQ building at 1 Victoria street. An external service provider is contracted to manage the centre on the Department's behalf for which they are paid a monthly fee. As part of the BERR estate, the conference centre has a regular maintenance schedule that may involve some capital or revenue expenditure.

Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what timetable his Department plans for the *(a)* commencement and *(b)* implementation of each of the provisions of the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 yet to be commenced and implemented. [199562]

Mr. Thomas: The Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 (the Act) contains provisions relating to three distinct policy areas—Consumer Voice, estate agents and contracts concluded away from business premises ("doorstep selling")—which are being commenced and implemented to different timetables:

1. The new National Consumer Council, Scottish Consumer Council, Welsh Consumer Council, Northern Ireland Postal Services Committee, and new statutory redress schemes for gas, electricity, and postal services consumers, are planned to be operational on 1 October 2008. Work is well under way on the development of these new arrangements. Commencement of the relevant provisions of the Act reflects both the progress and the needs of the implementation programme. The Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Act 2007 (Commencement No. 2) Order 2007 (SI 2007 No. 3546) brought into force on 21 December 2007 the provisions which enabled the appointments of Chairs and Members to be made formally to the new bodies, and for the new bodies to make an important contribution to the implementation process. That Order also commenced provisions relating to the new redress schemes. The Commencement No. 4 Order (SI 2008 No. 905), which was made on 26 March 2008, commenced with effect from 1 April 2008 the provisions which made the new National Consumer Council responsible for maintaining accounts. The Commencement No. 3 Order has been published in draft, and is subject to approval by a resolution of each House of Parliament. The draft Order seeks to commence the provisions relating to the requirement on the new National Consumer Council to publish and consult upon a forward work programme.

2. Provisions in the Act that amend the Estate Agents Act 1979 by making provision for redress schemes dealing with complaints about estate agents were brought into force on 8 October 2007 by the Commencement No. 1 Order (SI 2007 No. 2934). Once the Office of Fair Trading has approved a redress scheme open to all estate agents, an order requiring estate agents to belong to an approved scheme can be made. Subject to OFT approving a scheme, the Government expects this requirement to be in force with effect from 1 October 2008. Provisions in the Act that amend the Estate Agents Act 1979 by expanding the grounds for the issue by the OFT of prohibition and warning orders and increasing the investigatory powers of enforcement officers, were included in the Commencement No. 4 Order and will come into force on 1 October 2008. The Government expects to commence the remaining estate agents provisions on 6 April 2009.

3. The Government expect to make the new Regulation on "door-step selling" in May and commence the Regulation on 1 October 2008. The Regulation will extend the protections consumers have when a visit is unsolicited (e.g. right of withdrawal and cooling off period) to sales as result of a solicited visit, and require traders to include the notice of the right to cancel within a written contract.

Cosmetics: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what submissions he has received from manufacturers of cosmetic products on data on animal testing required under Regulation 9(1)(i) of the Cosmetics Products (Safety) Regulations 2004 in each of the last three years. [199387]

Mr. Thomas: None. The information required by this Regulation is to be kept by manufacturers and importers and made available to local authority Trading Standards Departments upon request.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department requires manufacturers to take in notifying new cosmetics products under the Cosmetics Products (Safety) Regulations 2004. [199388]

Mr. Thomas: Regulation 10 of the Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2004 (as amended) requires UK based cosmetic product manufacturers and importers where the UK is the first place a cosmetic product is placed on the EU market, to notify BERR of the place of manufacture or importation and the type of cosmetic product.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how his Department has implemented *(a)* Regulations 5 (7) to 5 (16) of the Cosmetics Products (Safety) Regulations 2004 with particular reference to Regulation 5 (9), and *(b)* the EU requirement that member states prohibit the sale of cosmetic ingredients and finished products that have been tested on animals using animal methods which may be replaced by valid alternative tests using fewer or no animals; and if he will make a statement. [199389]

Mr. Thomas: Regulation 5(7)-5(16) of the Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2004 (as amended) is the UK's implementation of the 7th Amendment to the European Union's Cosmetics Directive, which principally dealt with animal testing issues. These requirements are enforced by local authority Trading Standards Departments; no central records of their enforcement activity are kept.

Departmental Correspondence

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether it is his policy that Ministers should sign all letters responding to hon. Members' correspondence; and if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's advice and guidance to staff on dealing with Members' correspondence. [198710]

Mr. Thomas: All letters in response to hon. Members' correspondence are approved by BERR Ministers. Electronic signatures and letters from private secretaries are sometimes used to accelerate responses to hon. Members.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel

Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197158]

Mr. Thomas: The current Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and his predecessor visited, as part of their official engagements:

the Manchester Central for a ministerial road show on 18 October 2007;

the Excel Conference Centre, Docklands for the UK Motor Show on 18 July 2006 and for the Boat Show Exhibition on 11 January 2007;

The QEII Conference Centre for the Chancellor's Advancing Enterprise Conference on 23 January 2005, to make a speech at the CBI Diversity Conference on 14 March 2005, for a Stakeholders Event and Reception on 20 June 2005, to launch the Energy Review on 23 January 2006, for the Annual Conference of the British Chambers of Commerce on 4 April 2006, for a speech to the Russian Economic Forum on 25 April, for the British Chambers of Commerce Annual Conference on 16 April 2007, and for a speech to the Russian Economic Forum on 24 April 2007.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 328W, on departmental ICT, how many missing or stolen *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistants have been replaced by his Department; and at what cost. [198280]

Mr. Thomas: All those items which were departmental property will have been replaced. The estimated replacement costs of laptops and PDAs for each year since 2001 are set out in the following table.

Replacement costs

	Laptops	£ *PDAs*
2007	3,600	—
2006	4,500	270
2005	10,000	900
2004	10,800	300
2003	22,000	300
2002	30,000	1,200
2001	10,500	—

Mobile phones would have been replaced as routine upgrades at no additional cost to the Department.

Departmental Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of staff in his Department were making additional voluntary contributions to their pension in each of the last two years. [193549]

Mr. Thomas: 100 members of staff in the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (2.85) per cent. of the total number of staff employed by the Department) were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2007. This has decreased to 94 members of staff (2.96 per cent. of total number of staff employed by the department) who were making additional voluntary pension contributions through deductions from their pay in February 2008.

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance is issued to members of his Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if he will make a statement. [196736]

Mr. Thomas: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195866]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has published its sustainable development action plan for 2006-07 and is in the process of producing its action plan for 2007-08.

Discrimination

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many claims for discrimination based on *(a)* sex, *(b)* race and *(c)* sexual orientation were brought by members of his Department and settled (i) in and (ii) out of court in each of the last five years. [194991]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is in the following table.

Employment Tribunal cases 2003-07

	Settled at ET			*Settled outside ET*		
	Sex	*Race*	*Sexual orientation*	*Sex*	*Race*	*Sexual orientation*
2003	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0	2	0
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hearing Impaired

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what provision is made for deaf people to access services provided by his Department through call centres. [194952]

Mr. Thomas: The Department provides access to its services for deaf people via a minicom number in its Central Enquiry Unit.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Service (ACAS) and Companies House, who are Executive Agencies of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, also provide access via minicom numbers.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessors paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199593]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that no contracts have been awarded by the Department and its predecessors to JP Morgan since 1997.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199636]

Mr. Thomas: Our central records indicate that no contracts have been awarded by the Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997.

Minimum Wage

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were recorded to be receiving less than the minimum wage in each year since its introduction. [198001]

Mr. McFadden: Estimates of employee jobs paid below the national minimum wage are produced by the Office for National Statistics. These estimates are presented in the following table.

These figures do not provide an accurate estimate of the extent of non-compliance with the national minimum wage. There are a number of circumstances in which an individual may legitimately be paid less than the national minimum wage, for example apprentices and those provided with accommodation as part of their jobs.

Number of employee jobs (and percentage of UK employees jobs) paid below the national minimum wage in the UK

	Thousand	*Percentage*
1999	490	2.1
2000	230	1.0
2001	240	1.0
2002	340	1.4
2003	250	1.0
2004	276	1.1
2005	308	1.2
2006	296	1.2
2007	292	1.2

Notes:

1. Number of jobs paid at less than £3.00 per hour (aged 18-21) or £3.60 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 1998 to 2000.
2. Number of jobs paid at less than £3.20 per hour (aged 18-21) or £3.70 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2001.
3. Number of jobs paid at less than £3.50 per hour (aged 18-21) or £4.10 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2002.
4. Number of jobs paid at less than £3.60 per hour (aged 18-21) or £4.20 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2003.
5. Number of jobs paid at less than £3.80 per hour (aged 18-21) or £4.50 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2004.
6. Number of jobs paid at less than £3.00 per hour (aged 16-17) or £4.10 per hour (aged 18-21) or £4.85 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2005.
7. Number of jobs paid at less than £3.00 per hour (aged 16-17) or £4.25 per hour (aged 18-21) or £5.05 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2006.
8. Number of jobs paid at less than £3.30 per hour (aged 16-17) or £4.45 per hour (aged 18-21) or £5.35 per hour (aged 22 and over) for 2007.
9. Before 2005 the estimates are for employees aged 18 and over, from 2005 the estimates are for those aged 16 and over
10. The following link is for the ONS web page containing the aforementioned information.
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lpay1107.pdf

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Morgan Stanley in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each such payment was. [199683]

Mr. Thomas: Central records indicate that the Department and its predecessors have paid the following to Morgan Stanley since 1997:

	Amount (£)	*Purpose*
2006	112,602	Advice to the Energy Review

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has issued on those ineligible to donate to UK political parties or to contribute to political parties via trade union funds. [198076]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer has produced guidance on those ineligible to donate to UK political parties or to contribute to political parties via trade union funds.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has issued on the use of paid leave for trade union duties being used for political campaigning and related activities. [198077]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer has produced specific guidance on this issue. The Certification Officer has no statutory duties regarding paid time off for trade union duties.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to ensure that Post Office Ltd. does not prevent sub-postmasters, whose post offices are threatened with closure, from consulting their Member of Parliament. [192009]

Mr. McFadden: I understand that Post Office Ltd. only asks sub-postmasters to maintain confidentiality about the proposed closure of their own or neighbouring offices to avoid speculation which could be commercially damaging to the offices concerned until the relevant area plan closure proposals have been finalised for public consultation.

Once proposals have been finalised for public consultation there is nothing to stop sub-postmasters discussing their views on the network change programme with their MP.

Regional Development Agencies: Expenditure

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much Government funding has been spent in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency by the regional development agency in the last three years. [192550]

Mr. McFadden: The NWDA expenditure in Morecambe and Lunesdale for the past three years is:

	£
2004-05	623,253
2005-06	1,226,491
2006-07	2,344,192

Please note that the above information does not include projects that fall within more than one parliamentary constituency.

Small Businesses: Bureaucracy

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to reduce the burden of regulation for small and medium-sized businesses in West Lancashire constituency. [189803]

Mr. McFadden: Government undertook an exercise, supported by industry, to measure the administrative burdens that impact businesses of all sizes as a result of complying with regulations. Upon the completion of this exercise, 25 per cent. net targets by 2010 were set to reduce this burden.

In December 2007, 19 simplification plans were published, showing more than 700 measures to reduce the burdens of complying with regulations. Over 280 of these measures have already been delivered saving businesses £800 million per year.

Examples include:

Simpler law for smaller businesses (BERR):

Smaller businesses stand to benefit from substantial rewrite of company law. Coupled with better guidance, new provisions are expected to lower third party costs and make compliance easier. Conservative estimate of £2 million annual savings delivered.

Changes to Small Business Rate Relief (Communities):

Small firms eligible for small business rate relief no longer have to register for relief annually. £3 million annual savings delivered, and expected to rise to £11 million by 2010.

Small Firms audit requirements (Financial Services Authority):

Removed the need for 3, 400 small firms to have a statutory audit, saving £12.9 million per year. Copies of these plans are available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/policy/simplifying-existing-regulation/simplification- plans/2007/page44068.html

Telephone Contact Centres

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will answer *(a)* question 173134, tabled on 6 December 2007 and *(b)* Question 175767, on telephone contact centres, tabled on 17 December 2007 by the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne. [190877]

Mr. Thomas: I replied to both questions from the hon. Member on 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 983W and column 99W.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to amend the regulatory regime to permit the use of remote electronic voting in trade union ballots. [198079]

Mr. McFadden: The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has requested the Government to use the order-making power in Section 54 of the Employment Relations Act 2004 to permit the use of electronic balloting in statutory ballots under trade union law. The Department is currently examining the TUC's proposal. We would not bring forward legislation in this area without first undertaking a full public consultation.

Trade Unions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will instruct *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer to raise public awareness of the right of trade union members to opt out of the trade union political levy in trade unions which have political funds. [198072]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform raises awareness of the right to opt out of a trade union political fund via a publication entitled 'Trade union political funds: a guide for trade unions, their members and others' which is freely available on the Departments website.

The Certification Officer is an independent office holder appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out specific statutory functions which are set out in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 Act. The Secretary of State does not instruct the Certification Officer in the performance of his functions.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification

Officer has issued on the application of cooling-off periods to the sale of trade union membership. [198078]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department nor the Certification Officer has produced guidance on the application of cooling-off periods when people become trade union members.

UBS

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on suitability of UBS AG to continue work for his Department on the financial and commercial aspects of new nuclear build of that Bank's announcement of its Chairman's resignation. [199291]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is content that this issue does not impact upon the ability or suitability of UBS to undertake this work for Government. However, as with all such contracts, the Department will continue to assess the suitability and performance of its advisers on an ongoing basis.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals to raise the legal age for buying alcohol from 18 to 21 years. [197719]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are not considering raising the legal age for buying alcohol from 18 to 21 years.

Care Homes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the Government plans to take to improve the treatment of older people in care homes; [199313]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to improve the investigation process when elder abuse has been reported in the last 12 months. [199314]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* On 14 June 2007, I announced two important measures to help improve the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. This followed the publication of the "UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People: Prevalence Survey Report", by Kings College London and the National Centre for Social Research. The Department contributed £250,000 towards this research, which was jointly commissioned with Comic Relief.

Plans are now being put in place to introduce a new national monitoring system to report the extent of abuse, so that each individual council can monitor abuse locally and act on it. This will be based on a standardised method for the collection of data on protection of vulnerable adult referrals in England, offering new understanding about the size of the challenge we face and allowing comparisons between councils.

No Secrets, the existing statutory guidance on safeguarding vulnerable adults, which was issued in 2000, provides for health, social services and the police, to work together to protect vulnerable adults from abuse. Seven years on, and in the light of experience and knowledge gained, we are now working to review this guidance and to consult with the public and other Government Departments that have an interest in this field. We will also consider the case for legislation as part of the review process. A copy of the "No Secrets", guidance is available in the Library.

On 27 March this year, I announced the launch of a further major research project, which is also to be co-funded by the Department and Comic Relief. The new study, entitled "Abuse, Neglect and Loss of Dignity in the Institutional Care of Older People", will examine the experience of older people—and those caring for them—in institutional settings, such as care homes and national health service wards, and will focus more broadly on issues of loss of dignity as well as abuse or mistreatment. The tender process for this work will start shortly.

Total funding of the new research initiative, which will comprise a series of linked studies over a three year period, will be £2 million.

Care Homes: Inspectors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average period of employment for a Commission for Social Care Inspection inspector was at the most recent date for which information is available; [195807]

(2) how many *(a)* inspectors and *(b)* full-time equivalent inspectors work for the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [195808]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that, as at 26 March 2008, the average period of employment of an inspector was 5.34 years. CSCI does not have information on the dates inspectors began work from the period prior to the establishment of its predecessor organisation, the National Care Standards Commission, on 1 April 2002.

As at 26 March 2008, the number of CSCI regulatory inspectors were:

Headcount: 869; and

Full-time equivalent: 825.25.

Chlamydia: Information Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways his Department is increasing *(a)* public and *(b)* professional awareness of the risks of Chlamydia infection. [197829]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Chlamydia Screening Programme for England aims to control Chlamydia through early detection and treatment of asymptomatic infection. One of the key aims of the programme is raise awareness of Chlamydia and its effects among the public and health professionals alike. In addition, the Department's 'Condom Essential Wear' campaign includes messages and information regarding a wide range of sexually transmitted infections including Chlamydia to an audience of sexually active 18 to 34-year-olds alongside its key condom normalisation message.

Chlamydia: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on Chlamydia screening, (1) what steps his Department plans to take against those areas that fail to meet their targets for screening 15 per cent. of their 15 to 24 population in 2007-08; [197820]

(2) on what dates officials in his Department discussed Chlamydia screening in the last six months with strategic health authorities; what the content of the discussions was with each strategic health authority; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the performance management routes described in the Answer; and if he will make a statement. [197830]

Dawn Primarolo: Officials within the Department have discussed Chlamydia screening with strategic health authorities (SHAs) in both formal and informal settings on a number of occasions within the last six months. The following table shows the dates when officials met with SHAs and at most of these meetings Chlamydia was discussed. The content of the discussions focused on the performance of SHAs in relation to Chlamydia screening.

Month	*Dates*
2007	
October	2, 10, 16, 17, 19, 23, 26
November	2, 6, 14, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29
December	3, 11, 12, 19, 20
2008	
January	10, 11, 16, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25
February	13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 26, 29
March	11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 27

Performance on Chlamydia screening is one of the indicators used to inform primary care trusts rating through the Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check in 2007-08. Reducing Chlamydia prevalence has been identified as a national priority target for local delivery in the national planning guidance for the national health service in the 'NHS Operational Plans 2008-09 to 2010-11', which highlights the Government's continuing commitment to tackling this infection. A copy of the guidance is available in the Library. We will continue to work through performance management routes to support delivery of this target and increase screening volumes.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2853-54W, on Chlamydia screening, which areas the National Support Team for Sexual Health is supporting to help meet the 15 per cent. screening target; what support is being given by the National Support Team for Sexual Health to those areas finding it most challenging to meet their targets; and what central funding has been given to the National Support Team for Sexual Health in each year since its inception. [197831]

Dawn Primarolo: The sexual health national support team (SH-NST) was set up in February 2006 to support local areas to deliver against the 48 hour genito-urinary medicine access target. Since inception the national support team has undertaken 62 visits and provided associated ongoing support to local areas across England. The total staffing and visit costs of the team to date is £1.2 million.

In 2008-09, the SH-NST will be shifting its focus to providing support on the Chlamydia screening indicator. It will work closely with the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) to increase screening volumes, working jointly with strategic health authorities to identify those areas facing the greatest challenge and supporting and monitoring the NCSP to ensure rapid progress to target.

Departmental Grants

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has awarded in section 64 grants to the charitable and public sectors since 1978. [200136]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The total amount awarded under the Section 64 General Scheme of Grants to third sector organisations (including charities and other not for profit organisations) from 1996 is given in the following table. Information on amounts awarded prior to 1996 is not available. Public sector organisations are not eligible for grants under Section 64 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968.

	£ million
1996-97	21.0
1997-98	21.4
1998-99	20.6
1999-2000	22.3
2000-01	22.7
2001-02	21.5
2002-03	22.1
2003-04	21.4
2004-05	[1]17.8
2005-06	[1]17.9
2006-07	[1]17.2
2007-08	[1]17.2
2008-09	[1]17.7

[1] In 2004-05 £4.2 million was transferred to the Department for Education and Skills for projects relating to children's social care policy following reorganisation of departmental responsibilities for children's social services. Following the transfer the Department for Children, Schools and Families Section 64 grant scheme was renamed Safeguarding Children and Supporting Families Grants.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on rationalisation of his Department's processes for the procurement of goods and services in the last 12 months. [197643]

Mr. Bradshaw: Over the last year the Department has rationalised its supplier base, cleansed its purchase order system and conducted an exercise to populate a new contracts database.

The Department has also set up a procurement centre of expertise to make sure that good procurement practice is followed by influencing all its non-pay expenditure on goods and services.

The Department is also developing a new finance, human resources and purchasing system to standardise its business processes.

Eating Disorders

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital for eating disorders in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* sex and *(c)* those aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 18 and (iii) over 18 years. [199941]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Health Innovation Council

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Health Innovation Council first met; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda, *(b)* remit and *(c)* minutes. [198355]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Innovation Council first met on 27 November 2007. The role of the council is to provide strategic advice on how to further develop innovation in health and social care. Copies of the terms of reference, agendas and agreed notes of meetings have been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Commissioning/Worldclasscommissioning/DH_083661

Health Services: Prisons

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of each notifiable disease were diagnosed in each of Her Majesty's Prisons in each of the last five years. [199943]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected. Disease surveillance is the responsibility of the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Prisons are not currently specifically identified in HPA surveillance systems.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199615]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's financial records only go back to April 2001 and they show that no payments have been made to JP Morgan for the period April 2001 to March 2008.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects Avastin to be available on NHS prescription for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration. [199827]

Dawn Primarolo: Avastin is not currently licensed for the treatment of wet-age related macular degeneration. A clinician may prescribe a drug outside its licensed indications (off licence or off label), provided their local primary care trust agree to supply it at national health service expense.

Medical Records: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients will be able to opt out of having *(a)* their detailed patient information, *(b)* their basic patient information including prescription and allergy details and *(c)* their demographic information, including name, date of birth, address and NHS number uploaded to Spine or placed on their summary care record. [195204]

Mr. Bradshaw: Patients are able to opt out of having both their basic clinical information, including medication and allergy details, and their detailed clinical information, uploaded to the 'spine', the national database of key information about patients' health and care within the care records service (NHS CRS), by choosing not to have a summary care record.

Patients are not able to prevent their basic demographic and contact details from being held within the NHS CRS. The NHS has maintained registers of its service users from the earliest days of its existence to support the delivery of health care. A record is also kept of which general practice each patient is registered with, and reasons of efficiency and probity require this to be held centrally, for example to prevent multiple GPs from being paid for the same patient, and to ensure that the correct commissioning body meets the cost of care provided. A register is also needed to enable the Secretary of State to meet the obligation to provide health care, free at the point of contact, for those patients who are ordinarily resident in England.

While for these reasons it is not practicable to give patients choice about whether their demographic details will be held in the system, safeguards have been built into the NHS CRS personal demographics service (PDS) which allow an individual's contact details to be hidden from NHS staff if patients request this level of protection.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 16 and 17-year-olds were treated by adult mental health services *(a)* at the most recent date and *(b)* in each year for which figures are available. [198601]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the number of bed days on adult psychiatric wards of patients aged 16 or 17 was 29,306 in 2005-06 and 19,988 in 2006-07. These are the only years for which we have information available. The statistical basis for collecting this information changed between the two years and the figures are not directly comparable. Guidance was issued in 2005-06 to address anomalies of reporting of bed days for patients passing their 16th or 18th birthdays while in hospital.

The Mental Health Act 2007 contains a provision (section 31) that ensures that patients aged under 18 are treated in an environment in hospital, which is suitable having regard to their age (subject to their needs). The Government have made a commitment to commence this provision in England by April 2010. We provided capital funding of £31 million in 2007-08 for 17 projects specifically designed to help eliminate the inappropriate use of adult psychiatric wards for children and young people.

Mentally Ill

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the NHS measures the capability of patients with a history of violent behaviour induced by mental illness to be reintegrated into society; [199653]

(2) what provisions the NHS has in place for the reintegration of patients with a history of mental illness and violence back into society; what factors are taken into account before reintegration takes place; and what budget was allocated to such reintegration policies in each of the last 10 years. [199654]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Safety for the individual service user, their families, staff and the general public is central to all good healthcare. This is particularly important in mental health services. Risk assessment and risk management are central to planning safe and effective care for individuals who may be a risk to themselves or others. Effective discharge planning from inpatient care and rehabilitation in the community rely on appropriate clinical risk assessment and risk management. As an integral part of clinical care this is not something that is costed separately and therefore we do not have the information requested held centrally.

To help manage people effectively and safely in the community we introduced community treatment orders in the Mental Health Act 2007. While it is not possible to say that they will prevent all episodes of violence, they will usefully be employed in the treatment of individuals with a history of non-compliance in the community, potentially reducing the risks they pose to themselves or others.

The Department has also recently published Best practice in managing risk: principles and guidance for best practice in the assessment and management of risk to self and others in mental health services. It underpins risk assessment with principles of good practice for all mental health settings and provides a list of tools offering structure to risk management.

The Department has also published its review of the care programme approach (CPA), including how risk assessment and management is incorporated into CPA systems. CPA is the system of assessment, planning and a review of care for people receiving secondary mental health services.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many hospital admissions related to episodes of psychosis there were in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [199944]

(2) how many hospital admissions related to episodes of schizophrenia there were in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [199998]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the following tables.

Table 1 shows finished admission episodes (FAEs) with primary or secondary diagnosis of schizophrenia.

Table 2 shows FAEs with primary or secondary diagnosis of psychosis.

Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

*Table 1: Counts of FAEs for selected primary diagnoses and primary and secondary diagnoses of *schizophrenia: national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

	Primary diagnoses of *schizophrenia[1]	Primary and secondary diagnoses of *schizophrenia[2]
1995-96	25,065	33,267
1996-97	25,224	34,267
1997-98	24,627	34,525
1998-99	27,211	37,858
1999-2000	26,091	37,231
2000-01	25,540	37,072
2001-02	26,035	37,873
2002-03	26,267	39,808
2003-04	25,543	40,763
2004-05	26,570	44,279
2005-06	24,571	45,054
2006-07	23,041	45,955

*Table 2: Counts of finished admission episodes for selected primary diagnoses and primary and secondary diagnoses of *psychosis: NHS hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS*

	Primary diagnoses of psychosis[1]	Primary and secondary diagnoses of psychosis[2]
1995-96	84,813	141,031
1996-97	83,908	142,805
1997-98	81,186	142,131
1998-99	85,622	151,247
1999-2000	82,135	152,387
2000-01	78,195	150,943
2001-02	78,791	157,587
2002-03	80,444	170,149
2003-04	76,615	176,776
2004-05	77,497	192,526
2005-06	72,014	201,446
2006-07	67,004	213,624

[1] Primary diagnoses of *schizophrenia. These figures represent a count of FAEs where the selected diagnosis codes for schizophrenia was mentioned in the primary diagnosis field.

[2] Primary and secondary diagnoses of *schizophrenia. These figures represent a count of FAEs where the selected diagnosis codes for schizophrenia was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record. A record is counted only once if any of these codes recorded more than once in diagnoses fields.

Notes:

1. FAEs:
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

2. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis):
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

3.Secondary diagnoses:
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in (HES) that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Mentally Ill: Children

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in England and Wales have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder. [198603]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not routinely collect this information. However, a 2004 survey by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) found that 9.6 per cent. of children in Great Britain aged between five and 16 suffered from some kind of mental disorder. The survey was based on interviews with a sample of parents and children. The full results are published in the ONS report Mental health of children and young people in Great Britain, a copy of this publication has been placed in the Library.

Myofascial Pain Syndrome

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the treatment of *(a)* myofascial pain syndrome and *(b)* fibromyalgia; and if he will make a statement. [198853]

Dawn Primarolo: The usual practice of the Department's National Institute for Health Research and of the Medical Research Council is not to ring-fence funds for expenditure on particular topics. Research proposals in all areas compete for the funding available. Both organisations welcome applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the scientific quality of the proposals made.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of evidence on a potential link between the use of hydrocortisone injections and *(a)* myofascial pain syndrome and *(b)* fibromyalgia; and if he will make a statement. [198854]

Dawn Primarolo: Hydrocortisone is a synthetic anti-inflammatory steroid which is licensed for use in replacement therapy in adrenocortical insufficiency and a range of anti-inflammatory conditions. Hydrocortisone injections are not licensed for the treatment of fibromyalgia or myofascial pain syndrome, but may sometimes be used for the temporary symptomatic relief of pain associated with fibromyalgia when a prescriber judges that such unlicensed use is in the patient's best interest.

The use of hydrocortisone is associated with a number of adverse effects which are listed in the Summary of Product Characteristics and Patient Information Leaflet, fibromyalgia and myofascial pain syndrome are not recognised side-effects of treatment. As with all medicines, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency continuously monitors the safety of hydrocortisone and has not received any reports of fibromyalgia or myofascial pain syndrome in patients treated with hydrocortisone.

NHS Organisations

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a list of NHS organisations in England, broken down by local authority area. [199988]

Mr. Bradshaw: A list of all strategic health authorities, special health authorities, national health service trusts, NHS foundation trusts and primary care trusts as at 18 April 2008, broken down by region, has been placed in the Library. Information about corresponding local authority area is not held centrally.

NHS: Alarms

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance his Department has issued to NHS organisations on the use of carbon monoxide alarms; [199501]

(2) how many hospitals had audible carbon monoxide alarms fitted at the most recent date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [199502]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is committed to help prevent deaths and injuries caused by carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and the focus of the initiatives it has taken has been on raising awareness of the dangers of CO poisoning among the public and medical profession. It has not issued specific guidance to the national health service about the use of CO alarms.

In his winter update issued in November 2007, which is sent to all doctors registered with the General Medical Council in England, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) provides a range of advice on diagnosis of CO poisoning, including the use of neurological examination.

This builds on two previous publications, the advice of which is still current: "CMO Winter 2005 Update"; and the CMO and Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) joint letter issued in 2002. CMO's update includes recognition of the symptoms of CO poisoning, key questions to ask in diagnosis, appropriate tests and treatment. The CMO/CNO letter, distributed to community nurses, midwives, health visitors and general practitioners, provides detailed advice for recognising the symptoms of CO poisoning and specific advice about investigations and testing techniques. A copy of the letter has been placed in the Library.

In addition, the Department has recently called for research to investigate the incidence of CO poisoning, health outcomes and patient's experience following exposure, which will help inform the development of appropriate policy.

The Department also provides funding to leading national voluntary organisations through the Section 64 General Scheme of Grants, which helps in their work in raising awareness about the dangers of CO with both the public and health professionals and in supporting victims and providing information on how to prevent poisoning.

In collaboration with key stakeholders, the Department is currently looking at options for new awareness-raising initiatives as well as reviewing activities in which it is already engaged.

Information on the number of hospitals fitted with audible carbon monoxide alarms is not collected centrally.

NHS: Belgium

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated to the running of the NHS office in Brussels in each of the last three years. [198214]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS European office was established in September 2007 and therefore no funding and expenditure was allocated prior to this date. The NHS European office is jointly funded by the strategic health authorities and financial information for the office will be published in the accounts of South-East Coast Strategic Health Authority, for part of the financial year 2007-08 which the office was operational.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-4W, on NHS: drugs, (1) what the basis was of his calculation of the target reduction in Category M medicines expenditure as specified in the answer; [197876]

(2) what proportion of the reimbursement prices paid to pharmacy contractors he estimates to be represented by the profit margin of pharmacy contractors; [197927]

(3) to what he ascribes the increase in Category M cost of reimbursement, expressed at March 2005 prices, between financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07. [197928]

Dawn Primarolo: The basis of the target reductions was provided in the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-4W.

In addition, adjustments are also made to reimbursement prices to take account of the reduction in market prices that usually occurs in the months after the introduction of a generic medicine following patent expiry of an in-patent medicine.

In the period 1 April 2005 to 30 September 2007 the target reduction for the adjustment in category M medicines expenditure was £1.05 billion by reference to March 2005 prices. To include medicines joining category M since April 2005, the planned, further reduction of £100 million per quarter from 1 October 2007 was implemented by reference to July 2007 prices.

£500 million of the annual level of funding agreed by the Department and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee is derived from profits made by pharmacies buying medicines for less than they are reimbursed by the national health service (the retained purchase margin).

The increase of the Category M cost of reimbursement is attributable to the increased growth in the volume of the cost of NHS generic medicines reimbursed in England since the introduction of the Category M system. However, although the cost of Category M generic medicines prescribed and dispensed has increased (22 per cent.) that growth would have been greater (27 per cent.) if Category M had not been introduced. The breakdown is shown in the following table.

Increased cost of the Category M reimbursement for NHS generic medicines reimbursed in England

	At March 2005 prices (£)	*Actual cost (£)*
2005-06	1,412,149,436	1,087,738,827
2006-07	1,797,838,505	1,326,817,414
Increase between 2005-06 and 2006-07	385,689,069	239,078,587
Percentage increase	27	22

NHS: Identity Cards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) with reference to the Answer of 29 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1608W on identity cards, to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough, what the conclusions were of his Department's consideration of the costs and benefits of using identity cards within the National Health Service, including the cost of card readers, with particular reference to the NHS Connecting for Health National Programme for IT; [200111]

(2) what stage has been reached in the development of the proposed NHS card referred to in section 2.21 of the NHS Improvement Plan, published on 24 June 2004; [200135]

(3) with reference to the Answer of 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 439W, on the European Health Insurance Card, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on links between *(a)* an NHS card and *(b)* Connecting for Health, and the identity cards programme. [200230]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is too early in the process to make any conclusions of the costs and benefits of using identity cards within the national health service.

There are no current plans to introduce an NHS card, although this will be kept under review.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State meets the Home Secretary and other ministerial colleagues to discuss matters of common interest, including on occasion the National Identity Scheme.

Schizophrenia

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of changes in the incidence of schizophrenia in 15 to 25 year olds in the last 30 years; [199997]

(2) what assessment he has made of the evidence linking cannabis use and the onset of schizophrenia in the 15 to 25 year age group; [199999]

(3) what assessment he has made of the changes in incidence of psychosis in 15 to 25 year olds in the last 30 years. [200000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is difficult to assess the trends in incidence of psychosis or schizophrenia for this age group over the last thirty years due to the relatively small numbers of people suffering from these conditions. This makes any assessment of statistical significance of a change vulnerable to error. Also during this time diagnosis classifications have changed for these conditions,

which could mean that comparisons over this period would not be measuring like for like.

The Department is concerned about the negative impact of cannabis use and intoxication on acute mental health patients and on mental health services, and about the increased evidence for a possible role for cannabis in the causation of longer-term disorders such as schizophrenia.

The Department advises that cannabis use is harmful for people with existing mental health problems, being linked with relapse and resistance to treatments.

Research data also indicate that the impact of cannabis is likely to be on those already vulnerable to onset of schizophrenia.

It is also recognised that cannabis can cause an acute, short lived psychosis, from which the person recovers quickly following cessation of cannabis use but which, in severe cases, may require a short period of inpatient care. We keep the evidence and research in this area under constant review.

Self-Mutilation

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of self harm were diagnosed in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* sex and *(c)* those aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 18 and (iii) over 18 years. [199940]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available has been placed in the Library. The Department has supplied the number of finished admissions where the external cause code of admission to hospital was self harm.

Many cases of self harm may be diagnosed in a primary care setting rather than in hospital (apart from serious cases where hospital/medical care is required). We do not know what proportion of people diagnosed are actually treated in hospital so can only give the number of admissions. This is not a count of people who are admitted to hospital as one person could be admitted several times.

Smoking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has allocated to *(a)* Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust (PCT) and its predecessor PCTs and *(b)* PCTs with a similar smoking prevalence for smoking cessation in each of the last five years; and what the average smoking cessation budget was for PCTs in England in each of the last five years. [195150]

Dawn Primarolo: The total revenue allocations made to Eastern and Coastal Kent primary care trust (PCT) for the period 2003-04 to 2008-09 are provided in the following table. These include allocations for national health service stop smoking services (SSS).

£000

	Allocation					
PCT name	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	643,780	704,384	769,650	917,451	1,013,331	1,068,679

Note:
Comparisons cannot be made between allocations rounds for the following reasons:
organisational changes and changes are made to the weighted capitation formula for each allocations round, therefore, comparisons would not be on a like with like basis; and
the first year that primary medical services were incorporated into revenue allocations was 2006-07.

The information requested on revenue allocations to PCTs with a similar smoking prevalence is not available in the exact format requested.

Data on NHS SSS PCT allocation are not collected or held centrally.

Aggregated data on total allocation to NHS SSS for strategic health authorities (SHAs) are collected and held centrally as part of the NHS stop smoking services quarterly monitoring return forms. Data for 2006-07 can be found in table 1.

Data on smoking prevalence by PCT are not available. The General Household Survey provides estimates of smoking prevalence for adults by Government office region. This information is presented in table 2 for 2002 to 2006.

Table 1: NHS stop smoking services allocation by strategic health authority, 2006-07, England

	£000
England	56,690
North East Government Office Region	
County Durham and Tees Valley	3,249
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	1,478
	1,770
North West Government Office Region	
Cheshire and Merseyside	9,420
Cumbria and Lancashire	3,627
Greater Manchester	2,289
	3,504
Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region	
North and East Yorkshire, Northern Lincolnshire	5,717
South Yorkshire	1,656
West Yorkshire	1,693
	2,369

Table 1: NHS stop smoking services allocation by strategic health authority, 2006-07, England

	£000
East Midlands Government Office Region	
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	4,944
Trent	1,569
	3,375
West Midlands Government Office Region	
Birmingham and the Black Country	7,473
Shropshire and Staffordshire	4,008
West Midlands South	1,703
	1,762
East of England Government Office Region	
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	4,493
Essex	1,414
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	1,301
	1,777
London Government Office Region	
North Central London	9,228
North East London	2,055
North West London	1,879
South East London	2,064
South West London	1,877
	1,352
South East Government Office Region	
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	7,616
Kent and Medway	1,483
Surrey and Sussex	1,186
Thames Valley	3,033
	1,913
South West Government Office Region	
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	4,551
Dorset and Somerset	2,007
South West Peninsula	1,036
	1,508

Source:
The NHS Information Centre.

Table 2: Prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults[1], by Government office region, 2002-06, England

	Weighted (Percentage)					*Thousand*	
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005[2]*	*2006*	*Weighted bases 2006*	*Unweighted sample 2006*
England	26	25	25	24	22	36,613	14,292
North East	27	28	29	29	25	1,719	677
North West	28	30	28	24	25	4,885	2,011
Yorkshire and the Humber	27	25	28	25	23	3,791	1,544
East Midlands	24	27	27	25	20	3,444	1,426
West Midlands	23	25	23	22	22	3,668	1,446
East of England	25	25	24	23	19	4,170	1,686
London	24	24	22	22	21	4,897	1,460
South East	26	24	22	22	20	6,093	2,415
South West	25	24	23	25	23	3,946	1,627

[1] Aged 16 and over.
[2] 2005 data include last quarter of 2004-05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

Source:
General Household Survey 2006, Office for National Statistics.

Westminster Primary Care Trust: General Practitioners

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, on Westminster Primary Care Trust: general practitioners, what the *(a)* names and *(b)* locations are of the GP practices with closed lists within the Westminster Primary Care Trust; how many patients each has; what the cost of each practice to the NHS was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [199477]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The Primary Care Access Survey data for November 2007 to January 2008 show that the two general practitioner

(GP) practices within Westminster Primary Care Trust (PCT) reported as having closed lists have list sizes of 2,942 patients and 3,704 patients. However, the data do not identify the names and locations of the practices. In addition, information about the cost of each practice to the national health service is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise these issues with the chief executive of Westminster PCT.

Under the contractual arrangements for primary medical services, GP practice lists are classed as either 'open' or 'closed'. PCTs will grant a GP practice closed list status only once both parties have made reasonable endeavours to keep the list open and the conclusion is reached that this is not possible.

The Department is currently exploring, as part of the NHS Next Stage Review being undertaken by the Under-Secretary of State Lord Darzi, whether further action is needed to ensure patients have more choice in the practice with which they register.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199601]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's financial records only go back to April 2001 and they show that no payments have been made to Zurich Financial Services for the period April 2001 to March 2008.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* employed, *(b)* self-employed and *(c)* unemployed parents with care not claiming income support or jobseeker's allowance received maintenance in each region in each quarter since January 1997. [194667]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 22 April 2008:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what proportion of (a) employed, (b) self-employed and (c) unemployed parents with care not claiming income support or jobseeker's allowance received maintenance in each region in each quarter since January 1997. [194667]

The Agency does not record the employment status of parents with care as it is not relevant to the maintenance assessment, therefore the information you have requested is not available.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what visits he made to *(a)* Harrogate International Centre, *(b)* International Conference Centre, Birmingham, *(c)* Manchester Central, *(d)* Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow, *(e)* Edinburgh International Conference Centre, *(f)* Bournemouth International Conference Centre, *(g)* the Brighton Centre, Brighton, *(h)* the Riviera Centre, Torquay, *(i)* Queen Elizabeth Centre, London, *(j)* Excel Conference Centre, Docklands, London, and *(k)* Business Design Centre, Islington, London, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007; and what events he attended at each. [197156]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table provides the information requested.

	Conference Centres	*Event/Number of visits made*	*Date*
(a)	Harrogate International Centre	No visit made	
(b)	International Conference Centre, Birmingham	No visit made	
(c)	Manchester Central	No visit made	
(d)	Scottish Exhibitional and Conference Centre, Glasgow	Glasgow Social Inclusion Round Table - Closing Speech	18 October 2005
(e)	Edinburgh International Conference Centre	No visit made	
(f)	Bournemouth International Conference Centre	No visit made	
(g)	The Brighton Centre, Brighton	No visit made	
(h)	The Riviera Centre, Torquay	No visit made	
(i)	Queen Elizabeth Centre, London	Future Services Network - Summit - Speech	26 June 2007
		21 Century Public Services - Putting People First -Speech	6 June 2006
		Remploy Event - Speech	14 June 2005
		ABI (Association of British Insurers) Conference -Speech	9 March 2005
(j)	Excel Conference Centre, Docklands	NAPF (National Association of Pension Funds) Annual Conference - Speech	8 June 2006
		Pensions Commissions event - Speech	21 June 2005
(k)	Business Design Centre, Islington, London	No visit made	

Employment: Vacancies

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unfilled job vacancies there were *(a)* nationally and *(b)* at York Jobcentre on (i) the most recent date for which figures are available and (ii) in the same month in each year since 2000. [188767]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 25 February 2008]*: Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies, not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus, are available from the monthly Office for National Statistics Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of 6,000 enterprises and are in the following table.

Vacancies as shown in ONS Vacancy Survey, United Kingdom

Date	*Number*
April 2001	670,900
January 2002	589,100
January 2003	578,400
January 2004	580,200
January 2005	650,400
January 2006	588,300
January 2007	627,700
January 2008[1]	682,300

[1] January 2008 data are provisional and subject to revision.

Notes:

1. Figures are seasonally adjusted.
2. Figures are based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises.
3. Figures exclude agriculture, forestry and fishing industries.
4. The ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

Source:

Office for National Statistics Vacancy Survey, monthly estimates.

Comparable information on unfilled vacancies at jobcentres over time is not currently available because of changes in Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. There are around 2,010[1] unfilled vacancies at York Stonebow House jobcentre with on average 1,970[2] new vacancies being notified each month. These opportunities represent just a part of total recruitment in the local economy.

[1] Average of unfilled vacancies over the last 12 months.

[2] Average of vacancies notified over the last 12 months.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to publish information on the level of shortfalls experienced by *(a)* existing housing benefit claimants and *(b)* local housing allowance claimants by (i) number of bedrooms, (ii) local authority area and (iii) broad rental market area for each quarter of 2008-09. [200091]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions currently monitors information on shortfalls but has no immediate plans to publish this on a regular basis.

The Department is, however, considering publication of information on average shortfalls as part of the Two Year Review of the Local Housing Allowance. The format in which this data will be published has yet to be finalised but we will give consideration to quarterly monitoring at broad market rental area level.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will issue guidance to local authorities on identifying claimants who may be able to make a backdated claim for housing benefit or council tax benefit. [200095]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions claim forms for housing benefit and council tax benefit make it clear that benefit can be paid from an earlier date than the date the claim is received where there is good reason to do so.

A separate section of the claim form asks customers who want to have their claims paid earlier to provide a date from which they wish to claim benefit and to provide the reasons why they have not claimed sooner.

Local authorities can issue their own claim forms where the customer contacts them direct rather than through the Department for Work and Pensions. In these circumstances, guidance recommends that the content of those forms is similar to the Department for Work and Pensions claim forms. So in practice, customers should be offered the choice of having their claim backdated where appropriate.

Currently claims from pensioners are automatically considered for backdating for up to 12 months.

Incapacity Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 780W, on social security benefits, how many people were claiming incapacity benefit while living abroad in each year since 1998, broken down by reason for their claim. [199918]

Mrs. McGuire: The primary diagnosis does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. Entitlement is dependent upon the medical test of incapacity for work, the Personal Capability Assessment. The available information is in the following table.

Working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) claimants who are living abroad by primary diagnosis

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	As at May each year									
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	100	100	90	80	100	100	100	90	90	100
Neoplasms	100	100	220	230	250	290	310	300	320	310
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism	0	100	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	200	100	220	210	200	220	210	210	200	180

Working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) claimants who are living abroad by primary diagnosis

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	As at May each year 2006	2007
Mental and behavioural disorders	1,800	1,900	2,350	2,490	2,650	2,830	2,990	3,110	3,200	3,220
Diseases of the nervous system	500	400	680	720	740	800	850	900	940	930
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	100	0	80	80	80	80	110	110	110	110
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	100	100	50	50	50	40	50	50	50	60
Diseases of the circulatory system	800	800	1,130	1,090	1,090	1,080	1,110	1,110	1,040	1,020
Diseases of the respiratory system	300	300	330	320	320	320	320	300	280	270
Diseases of the digestive system	100	100	200	190	210	220	230	230	220	210
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous system	0	0	60	60	60	60	70	70	70	60
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	2,400	2,300	2,330	2,440	2,570	2,730	2,860	3,010	2,990	2,980
Diseases of the genitourinary system	100	100	90	100	90	90	100	100	100	100
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	10
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	100	100	50	40	40	60	60	60	70	70
Symptoms, signs and abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	1,900	1,700	1,710	1,630	1,620	1,560	1,500	1,540	1,450	1,440
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	400	400	520	550	600	650	690	750	750	750
Others	100	100	80	70	80	90	100	110	110	100

Notes:
1. Caseload figures prior to May 2000 are rounded to the nearest 100, and to the nearest 10 thereafter.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. IB/SDA claimant figures include all IB and SDA (including IB credits only cases).
4. Caseload figures prior to May 2000 have been produced using 5 per cent. data and rated up proportionally using 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
5. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
6. 'Others' are those recipients not categorised in any of the above.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 100 per cent. data - May 2000 onwards.
IAD Information Centre 5 per cent samples - May 1998 to May 1999.

Incapacity Benefit: Inverness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed incapacity benefit in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each year since 1997, broken down by reason for claim. [200083]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is not available prior to 2005. The available information is in the following table.

Working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency by main primary diagnosis

	May 2005	2006	2007
Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	20	20	20
Neoplasms	50	50	60
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism	10	10	10
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	50	50	60
Mental and behavioural disorders	1,600	1,670	1,720
Diseases of the nervous system	360	340	340
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	30	30	20
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	20	20	20
Diseases of the circulatory system	200	190	180
Diseases of the respiratory system	70	80	70

Working age incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency by main primary diagnosis

	May		
	2005	2006	2007
Diseases of the digestive system	60	70	70
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous system	40	30	30
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	590	560	530
Diseases of the genitourinary system	30	30	30
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	10	10	10
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0	0	0
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	50	50	50
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	780	770	760
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	180	190	190
Others	90	90	120

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
4. The diagnosed condition does not of itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits. Entitlement is dependent upon the medical test of incapacity for work, the Personal Capability Assessment.
5. 'Others' are those recipients not categorised in any of the above.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 percent WPLS

Incapacity Benefit: Myofascial Pain Syndrome

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants cited *(a)* myofascial pain syndrome and *(b)* fibromyalgia as a main cause of their medical problem in each of the last three years; how many of each category were awarded benefit; and if he will make a statement. [198852]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many jobseeker's allowance claimants were sanctioned or disallowed in each month in 2006-07; what the main reasons for these decisions were; and if he will make a statement. [192920]

(2) how many jobseeker's allowance claimants were sanctioned or disallowed in *(a)* April 2007, *(b)* May 2007, *(c)* June 2007 and *(d)* July 2007. [192921]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information has been placed in the Library.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 576W, on jobseeker's allowance, how many jobseeker's allowance claimants went on holiday for *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* over four weeks in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [195777]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. A jobseeker can be treated as actively seeking work while away from home, for example on holiday, for up to two weeks in any 12-month period. As they do not need to look for work during this period no proof of job search is required, but they must remain in Great Britain and be available for work during this period in order to continue receiving jobseeker's allowance. However, jobseeker's allowance is terminated when someone goes outside the country for more than a day, unless it is for an interview. There is nothing on the jobseeker's allowance payment system datasets to identify customers on holiday in Great Britain who remain eligible for jobseeker's allowance.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those participants leaving the *(a)* New Deal for Young People, *(b)* New Deal 25 Plus, *(c)* New Deal 50 Plus, *(d)* New Deal for Lone Parents, *(e)* New Deal for Disabled People and *(f)* New Deal for Partners immediately entered (i) employment and (ii) sustainable employment in each month of the existence of each programme. [190580]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* A measure of sustainability is only available for new deal for young people, new deal 25-plus, new deal for lone parents and new deal for disabled people.

The available information for all new deals has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Forms

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what forms individuals seeking *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* housing benefit and *(d)* council tax benefit are required to complete. [198994]

Mr. Plaskitt: Claims for DWP administered working-age benefits, including incapacity benefit, jobseeker's allowance and income support are generally made via a freephone telephone call to a Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre. Clerical claim forms are also available for those customers who may have difficulty using a telephone or do not want to claim via telephone. Where a customer is also claiming housing benefit and council tax benefit, the Department forward the details to the relevant local authority.

Pensioners making a claim for housing benefit and council tax benefit alongside pension credit are issued with a pre-populated three page claim form to check and return direct to the local authority.

Where an individual makes their claim for housing benefit and council tax benefit direct to the local authority, the type of form they use and the process they undertake varies between each local authority area.

For all these benefits, other forms may need to be completed depending on individual circumstances.

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the error rate in the Accuracy of Payments System database is. [198995]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department's estimates of fraud and error are published in a series of reports called 'Fraud and Error in the Benefit System'. The most recent report, 'Fraud and Error in the Benefit System October 2005 to September 2006', was published in December 2007. Copies are available in the Library. The report can also be viewed on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/fem_oct05_sep06.pdf

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women who drew their state retirement pension when they reached state pension age in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [195639]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 20 March 2008]*: By the end of March 2007 approximately 230,000 men and 320,000 women in Great Britain that had reached state pension age in 2006 were in receipt of a state pension; this is approximately 94 per cent and 87 per cent respectively of the population estimated to have reached SPA in 2006 with entitlement to a state pension and alive at the end of March 2007.

The remaining pensioners not in receipt of a state pension will be in the process of deferring their state pension. Following a period of state pension deferral a claimant can either:

(1) Take a lump sum that will have accrued at a rate of two percentage points above the Bank of England base rate or;

(2) Receive extra state pension whereby an additional one per cent is added to the value of the state pension for every five weeks of deferral.

Tribunals: Employment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance is issued to employment tribunals on procedures to follow in cases where a claimant has a learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [197285]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The Tribunals Service does not provide specific guidance on the provision of reasonable adjustments for people with learning disabilities attending a tribunal hearing. The Tribunals Service considers any request for a reasonable adjustment on a case by case basis as the specific requirements for each person will be different.

However, I agree this is an important issue especially to ensure access to justice for all and so I shall ask the Head of the Tribunals Service to consider issuing guidance.

JUSTICE

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment in his Department there were in each month since May 2005. [199534]

Bridget Prentice: The information is as follows:

Part A

The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007, bringing together the Department for Constitutional Affairs, Her Majesty's Court Service and Associated Offices, the National Offender Management Service, the Prison and Probation Services, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

As this is a round robin question tabled to all Departments, prior to this Machinery of Government change on 9 May 2007 the National Offender Management Service, the Prison and Probation Services, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform are included as part of the response from the Home Office.

Part B

From May 2005 up to 9 May 2007 a response for the Former DCA part of the MoJ only is included. This includes Her Majesty's Court Service, Public Guardianship Office, Tribunals Service and Associated Offices.

Therefore figures for this response are provided in two parts.

Part A - MoJ 9 May 2007

(a) Permanent Civil Service Posts & b) Permanent Non-Civil Service Posts (how many there were in each month since May 2005)

Information on the number of posts for the whole of the MoJ is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The only Department that holds this information is the Public Sector Prison Service. This is recorded quarterly and is included in the following table. All these posts relate to Civil Servants. Decisions as to whether the identified posts are filled by permanent or temporary staff are made locally and not recorded centrally.

Public Sector Prison Service

Date	*Planned posts permanent/non-permanent split not defined (FTE)*
30 June 2007	50,889
30 September 2007	50,669
31 December 2007	51,024
31 March 2008	Info not yet collated

Figures for Permanent Civil Service Posts (Staff in Post - FTE) are available from the Former DCA, NOMS and OCJR. Figures on permanent non-civil staff are not held centrally by these departments and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Permanent civil service staff in post

FTE

	NOMS and OCJR staffing figures (May 2007- March 2008)	*MOJ staffing figures (Former DCA)*
May 2007	1,684	24,339
June 2007	1,672	24,418
July 2007	1,660	24,237
August 2007	1,656	24,144
September 2007	1,669	24,068
October 2007	1,685	24,075
November 2007	1,727	24,004
December 2007	1,733	23,939
January 2008	1,725	23,906
February 2008	1,747	23,908
March 2008	1,750	23,781

(c) Temporary or Agency workers in employment in his Department (how many there were in each month since May 2005)

For the MoJ, the Former DCA and Public Sector Prison Service can provide information only on Casual and Fixed Term appointment staff. No records of Agency or Contract staff are held centrally. NOMS and OCJR are able to provide information on both temporary and Agency Staff. These figures are in the following table:

FTE

Month/Year	*MoJ (Former DCA) (Casual and fixed-term appointment)*	*NOMS and OCJR (Temporary and agency workers)*	*Public Sector Prisons Service (Casual and fixed-term appointment)*
May 2007	743	180	1,703
June 2007	807	183	1,722
July 2007	985	194	1,763
August 2007	1,016	212	1,767
September 2007	988	219	1,704
October 2007	939	228	1,736
November 2007	937	232	1,773
December 2007	971	229	1,826
January 2008	972	305	1,795
February 2008	981	301	1,764
March 2008	844	303	1,715

Part B—Former DCA up to 9 May 2007

(a) Permanent Civil Service Posts and (b) Permanent Non-Civil Service Posts (how many there were in each month since May 2005)

This information on posts is not held centrally and could be obtained only as at a disproportionate cost.

(c) Temporary or Agency workers in employment in his Department (how many there were in each month since May 2005)

The breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual staff in post has been published as part of the Office for National Statistics Quarterly Public Sector Employment statistics. This is the key official source of workforce numbers for the Civil Service and provides a breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees by Department. Statistics on the number of contractors employed by Departments are not published. The Civil Service statistics represent those employees paid directly from the Department's payroll. Any contractors employed via agencies and so not paid directly by the Department are not included. Temporary Staff in Post figures are included in the following table.

The Former Department of Constitutional Affairs within the Ministry Of Justice (including Her Majesty's Court Service, Public Guardianship Office, Tribunals Service and Associated Offices) have a national contract with Kelly Services Ltd. for the provision of agency staff. Information relating to workers employed through employment agencies for the Ministry of Justice and its Agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Quarter/Year	*MoJ (Former DCA) (Casual and fixed-term appointment) (FTE)*
June 2005	710
September 2005	699
December 2005	633
March 2006	667
June 2006	624
September 2006	731
December 2006	714
March 2007	710
April 2007	712

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200010]

Bridget Prentice: The following tables give details of surveys, questionnaires and other services provided to the Ministry of Justice by polling companies in the financial year 2007-08.

Name of the survey etc	*Name of firm carrying out work*	*Type*		
		(a) Survey	*(b) Questionnaire*	*(c) Other*
The courts experiences of adults with mental health problems: learning disabilities and limited mental capacity	British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	—	Yes	(a) Face to face interviews (b) Telephone interviews (questionnaires by email)
Victims advocates pilot scheme evaluation	British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	—	—	Qualitative interviews
Awareness of and development of offender management across prison and probation staff	Burns and Co.	Yes	—	

Name of the survey etc	Name of firm carrying out work	Type (a) Survey	(b) Questionnaire	(c) Other
Focus groups—victims of crime, leaflet	Central Office of Information and Burns and Co	—	—	Focus groups
Health and social care professionals awareness of the mental capacity act (paper survey)	Distribution through Binleys. Survey conducted by Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
The pro bono work of legal executives	ECOTEC Research and Consulting	Yes	—	
Evaluation of alternative dispute resolution in social security and child support tribunals	ECOTEC Research and Consulting	—	—	Qualitative interviews
Salford Community Justice initiative evaluation	Evidence Led Solutions	—	—	Qualitative interviews
Tribunal Service customer satisfaction survey	FDS International Ltd	Yes	—	
Testing of language and understanding of departmental strategic objectives with general public and staff	GfK NOP through Central Office of Information Communications	Yes	—	
Sentencing and rehabilitation	ICM (via omnibus questions)	Yes	—	
HMCS court user survey	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Witness and victim experience survey	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Inform, persuade, remind research	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Nottingham Community Justice public opinion poll	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Survey on tackling and preventing sexual harassment	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Tribunal service customer expectation survey	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Customer satisfaction questionnaire	Ipsos MORI	—	Yes	
Beacon approach evaluation	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
General public awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (Capibus survey)	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Legal professionals awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (online survey)	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Office of Public Guardian and Court of Protection customer survey	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Constitution directorate tracker survey	Ipsos MORI	Yes	—	
Opinion research, Merthyr Tydfil Community Justice project	Lamajo	Yes	—	
Dedicated drug court pilots: a process report	Matrix Knowledge Group	—	—	(a) Focus groups (b) Structured interviews
Reporting restrictions in the coroners courts	Opinion Leader Research (OLR)	—	—	Workshop
MOJ staff satisfaction pulse survey	Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) International	Yes	—	
Stock take of attitudinal data	PA Consulting, Ipsos MORI	—	—	Research review—published evidence on public attitudes to CJS
Public consultation for community justice Leicester	Perpetuity	—	—	Consultation
HM prison service annual staff survey	Snap Survey	Yes	—	
Tracker survey of local residents, community justice centre, north Liverpool	Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS)	—	Yes	
Public perception of risk and protection from serious and violent crime	Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS)	—	—	Focus groups
Preparatory facilitation for MOJ engagement study working group	Towers Perrin-ISR	—	—	Working group facilitation
Staff opinion survey/engagement study/culture audit for all MOJ staff	Towers Perrin-ISR	Yes	—	
Employment tribunal mediation pilot	Westminster University, fieldwork subcontracted to British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	Yes	—	

Annex A: Additional information on purpose and costs of projects

Name of the survey etc	Name of firm carrying out work	Why the work was done	Total cost 2007-08	Total cost 2007-08	Type		
					(a) Survey	(b) Question	(c) Other - give details
The courts experiences of adults with mental health problems, learning disabilities and limited mental capacity	British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	To map current service provision available nationally across the court system to support parties, victims and witnesses with mental health problems, learning disabilities and limited mental capacity. Qualitative work including face to face and/or phone interviews and email questionnaires. The total cost also includes other project activities such as report writing and desk research	49,856	58,581			Yes
Victims Advocates pilot scheme evaluation	British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	To evaluate the success of the Victims Advocates pilot. Qualitative interviews with practitioners and bereaved family members taking part in the scheme	125,913	147,947			Yes
Awareness of and development of offender management across prison and probation staff	Burns and Co	Establish how staff in different organisations working in offender management will share best practice on joined-up working between custody and community	19,500	22,912	Yes		
Focus groups – victims of crime, leaflet	Central Office of Information and Burns and Co	Review/improve Victims of Crime Leaflet through Focus groups (6) with victims of crime (public) and with frontline practitioners (4)	33,400	39,245			Yes
Health and social care professionals awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (paper survey)	Distribution through Binleys, survey conducted by Ipsos MORI	Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act among health and social care professionals prior to implementation	24,278	28,468	Yes		
The pro bono work of legal executives	ECOTEC Research and Consulting	Primary purpose of this research was to estimate the extent and value of pro bono work being carried out by legal executives. However, there were some questions seeking opinions, e.g. on legal executives' feelings about carrying out pro bono work	39,813	46,780	Yes		
Evaluation of alternative dispute resolution in social security and child support tribunals	ECOTEC Research and Consulting	To investigate how alternative dispute resolution compares to the standard tribunal	40,000	47,000			Yes
Salford Community Justice initiative evaluation	Evidence Led Solutions	Evaluation of the implementation of the Salford Community Justice project. Included research of opinion of community members. Multiple year project		24,075			Yes

Annex A: Additional information on purpose and costs of projects

Name of the survey etc	Name of firm carrying out work	Why the work was done	Total cost 2007-08[1]	Total cost 2007-08[2]	Type		
					(a) Survey	(b) Question	(c) Other - give details
Tribunal Service customer satisfaction survey	FDS International Ltd	To inform key performance indicator on customer satisfaction			Yes		
Testing of language and understanding of departmental strategic objectives with general public and staff	GfK NOP through Central Office of Information Communications	Testing of language and understanding of departmental strategic objectives. Involving survey with 500 members of the public, six mini focus groups with citizens and four staff workshops.	31,200	36,660	Yes		
Sentencing and rehabilitation	ICM (via omnibus questions)	To gauge public awareness of, and support public information on community sentencing	7,165	8,419	Yes		
HMCS Court User Survey	Ipsos MORI	To elicit levels of court user satisfaction with standards or customer service and other key service issues across the High Court, the Crown, county and magistrates courts and associated offices.			Yes		
Witness and victim experience survey	Ipsos MORI	To gather consistent and comparable local and national data on victim and witness satisfaction with Criminal Justice System agencies in cases that resulted in a prosecution			Yes		
Inform, persuade, remind research	Ipsos MORI	To test the impact of an information booklet upon public confidence in the Criminal Justice System.	20,000	23,500	Yes		
Nottingham Community Justice public opinion poll	Ipsos MORI	Consultation to gauge public opinion of the criminal justice system in St Ann's and Aspley via two telephone survey waves.		32,000	Yes		
Survey on tackling and preventing sexual harassment	Ipsos MORI	To provide detailed picture of the incidence and nature of sexual harassment amongst prison staff and to assist the Prison Service to deliver on its commitment to tackle inappropriate behaviour.	32,708	38,431	Yes		
Tribunal Service customer expectation survey	Ipsos MORI	Survey originally commissioned by Appeals Service. It was adapted to cover a different purpose in testing customer perception and expectation across the a number of jurisdictions.	37,000	43,475	Yes		
Customer satisfaction questionnaire	Ipsos MORI	To develop a questionnaire to survey complainants regarding customer satisfaction.	49,856	58,581	—	Yes	

Annex A: Additional information on purpose and costs of projects

Name of the survey etc	Name of firm carrying out work	Why the work was done	Total cost 2007-08[a]	Total cost 2007-08[b]	Type		
					(a) Survey	(b) Question	(c) Other - give details
Beacon approach evaluation	Ipsos MORI	To independently assess the success of the Approach in promoting new ways of working with local Community Justice boards.	54,380	63,897	Yes		
General public awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (Capibus survey)	Ipsos MORI	Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act among the general public prior to implementation	22,280	26,179	Yes		
Legal professionals awareness of the Mental Capacity Act (online survey)	Ipsos MORI	Determine baseline data on awareness of the Mental Capacity Act among legal professionals prior to implementation	7,800	9,165	Yes		
Office of Public Guardian and Court of Protection customer survey	Ipsos MORI	To provide quantitative baseline data on Office of Public Guardian and Court services as perceived by users. The results for the initial baseline survey will establish where improvements can/need to be made and will lay foundations to make improvements to the Office of Public Guardian and Court services, in addition to setting an appropriate Key Performance Indicator target for customer satisfaction.	25,981	30,528	Yes		
Constitution Directorate tracker survey	Ipsos MORI	Periodic "tracker" survey to monitor public knowledge and opinion on a range of issues related to constitution, democracy and rights.	50,565	50,565	Yes		
Opinion research, Merthyr Tydfil Community Justice project	Lamayo	Consultation to gauge public opinion of the criminal justice system in Merthyr Tydfil including surveys, questionnaires and focus groups.		24,000	Yes		
Dedicated drug court pilots: a process report	Matrix Knowledge Group	As part of an independent evaluation of the two Dedicated Drug Court pilots commissioned in order to assess the impact of the model and to inform key stakeholders of the value of this specialist approach to drug-related offending. As a part of evaluation of pilots focus groups and structured interviews were carried out.	94,173	110,653			Yes

Annex A: Additional information on purpose and costs of projects

Name of the survey etc	Name of firm carrying out work	Why the work was done	Total cost 2007-08[1]	Total cost 2007-08[1]	Type		
					(a) Survey	(b) Question	(c) Other—give details
Reporting restrictions in the coroners courts	Opinion Leader Research (OLR)	Preparation, facilitation and hosting of workshop on reporting restrictions proposals in the Coroners Bill to reach a consensus among key stakeholders on the best way forward	6,830	8,025	—	—	Yes
MOJ staff satisfaction pulse survey	Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) International	To assess progress and improvements against action plans implemented following the full staff opinion survey carried out 12 months previously	21,220	24,934	Yes	—	—
Stock take of attitudinal data	PA Consulting, Ipsos MORI	To inform the development the Criminal Justice System strategic plan 2008-11 through review of research and other published evidence on public attitudes to the Criminal Justice System	4,725	5,552	—	—	Yes
Public consultation for Community Justice Leicester	Perpetuity	To gauge public opinion of the criminal justice system in the area covered by the project	25,532	30,000	—	—	Yes
HM Prison Service annual staff survey	Snap Survey	It is the Prison Service's annual staff opinion survey	9,234	10,849	Yes	—	—
Tracker survey of local residents, Community Justice Centre, north Liverpool	Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS)	Part of an evaluation of community justice scheme to measure impact of scheme on local residents. Multiple year project	20,162	23,690	—	Yes	—
Public perception of risk and protection from serious and violent crime	Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS)	These focus group discussions on awareness of public protection arrangements (sexual and violent offenders) explored ways of providing public information. This was to inform work of the National Offender Management Service public protection unit and a MoJ strategic review of public protection, and to gauge public understanding of current arrangements, including Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements and Approved Premises, to protect them from violent and sexual offenders.	12,000	14,100	—	—	Yes

Annex A: Additional information on purpose and costs of projects

Name of the survey etc	Name of firm carrying out work	Why the work was done	Total cost 2007-08[1]	Total cost 2007-08[2]	Type		
					(a) Survey	(b) Question	(c) Other—give details
Preparatory facilitation for MOJ engagement study working group	Towers Perrin-ISR	Facilitation and development of an effective working group to ensure that they all clearly understand their roles and responsibilities and are all in a position to take forward activities within their respective business units relating to the development, design, administration, communications, and post-results action planning/monitoring of achievements of the planned staff opinion survey/engagement study (now to include additionally culture audit). Start January 2008, completion by March 2008	24,500	28,788			Yes
Staff opinion survey/engagement study/culture audit for all MoJ staff	Towers Perrin-ISR	(i) To conduct a staff opinion survey for 30,000 former DCA/NOMS/OCJR staff — meeting the requirement to provide Cabinet Office with core survey data. (ii) To develop an index for measuring levels of employee engagement within MoJ. (iii) To test our assumptions around the key drivers for engagement using the Cabinet Office Model – Say-Stay-Strive. Multiple year project.	30,000	35,250	Yes		
Employment tribunal mediation pilot	Westminster University, fieldwork sub-contracted to British Market Research Bureau (BMRB)	To assess effectiveness of judicial mediation in the employment tribunal.	43,800	51,465	Yes		
			963,871	1,203,714			

[1] Excluding VAT
[2] Including VAT
[3] Costing information is not supplied as this is commercial in confidence. This survey is subject to periodic re-tendering and release of the costings.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199042]

Mr. Wills: As a result of the establishment of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, we are currently in the process of revising our diversity targets for all under-represented groups, which will include setting targets for our staff with disabilities.

The timetable for setting the Department's targets will be determined by guidance from the Cabinet Office, which is due late summer 2008.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many of each category of fixed penalty notices were *(a)* issued and *(b)* paid in each month since their introduction in each police force area; [198520]

(2) how many on-the-spot fines have been issued in each police area. [198536]

Maria Eagle: The most recent available information on motoring fixed penalty notices as well as data on penalty notices for disorder (PNDS) covering the years 2004 to 2006 have been provided in my earlier answer of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1288W.

Additionally, data on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for environmental offences are available

from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) via the following web link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/fpn/index.htm

Gloucester Prison

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on the recent report of the Independent Monitoring Board on Gloucester Prison; and what the implications of its recommendations are for the future of the prison. [198720]

Maria Eagle: I am very grateful to the Independent Monitoring Board for the work they do on behalf of Gloucester prison. The report is thorough and generally very positive; highlighting several areas of recognised good practice and acknowledging Gl ucester's achievements in gaining level 4 status and receiving the most improved prison award in 2007. I will formally respond to the report shortly.

Gloucester continues to perform well in key areas, despite the physical constraints of Victorian buildings and a town centre location, and I have no reason to suppose that it will not continue to do so. The governor and staff are committed to maintaining and improving upon this performance, providing the best possible opportunities for prisoners to address their offending behaviour in a supportive and safe environment.

JP Morgan and Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much his Department and its predecessors paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was; [199587]

(2) how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199606]

Bridget Prentice: The responses covering each part of the Ministry are as follows:

Former DCA/MOJ

Since 1 April 2005, there have been no payments made by the former DCA to either JP Morgan or Zurich Financial Services.

Data prior to 1 April 2005 may be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

HMCS

Since 1 April 2005, there have been no payments made by HMCS to either JP Morgan or Zurich Financial Services.

Data prior to 1 April 2005 may be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Tribunals

Since the launch of the Tribunals Service in April 2006, there have been no payments made to either JP Morgan or Zurich Financial Services within the Executive agency.

Office of the Public Guardian (PGO/OPG)

The PGO/OPG paid £68,823.09 to JP Morgan Fleming Asset Management in 2001. Payment was in respect of consulting on investment matters. No other payments have been made to JP Morgan by the OPG.

There have been no payments made by PGO to Zurich Financial Services.

Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR)

The OCJR only have expenditure data starting from 1 April 2004. Since that date, there have been no payments made by OCJR to either JP Morgan or Zurich Financial Services.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

NOMS are only able to provide this information at disproportionate costs, as it would require first identifying payments to these suppliers (which could not be done if it was through a broker), and then looking up the invoice to try and identify the purpose.

Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS)

There have been no payments made by HMPS to JP Morgan.

HMPS paid Zurich Financial Services £5,000 in January 2005 and £3,000 in November 2007. Both payments were in respect of insurance services.

Personal Injury

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish his conclusions in relation to his Department's consultation Case Track Limits and the Claims Process. [198872]

Bridget Prentice: The Response to Consultation is nearing completion and will be published as soon as possible.

Police Custody: Young People

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles were held overnight in custody in police cells in (*a*) Tamworth and (*b*) Staffordshire in each of the last five years. [193612]

Mr. Straw: Since October 2006, the Government have used police cells in significant numbers to help manage pressure in the prison population. The Government's policy, however, is that juveniles should only be held overnight in police cells in the most exceptional circumstances. Our records indicate that since October 2006, no juveniles have been held overnight in police cells in Tamworth or in the rest of Staffordshire. Data prior to this cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Young Offender Institutions: Restraint Techniques

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many injuries sustained by juvenile and young adult offenders held in (*a*) young offender institutions and (*b*) secure children's homes during restrictive physical interventions required hospital treatment in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [197306]

Mr. Hanson: Young adults are not placed in secure children's homes. The Youth Justice Board has been collecting restraint data against common definitions across the secure estate since April 2007. The following table shows the requested information for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 January 2008 in relation to under-18 young offender institutions and secure children's homes. Information on injuries to young adults in senior young offender institutions is not collected centrally.

Establishment type	Injuries needing hospital treatment
Young offender institutions	2
Secure children's homes	0

Source:
Data supplied by the Youth Justice Board from administrative computer systems

Young Offenders: Mentally Ill

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young people in custody have been diagnosed with mental health problems. [198602]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 153W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets his Department has set to improve the educational outcomes of children in care; and if he will make a statement. [196881]

Kevin Brennan: For CSR2007 there are three public service agreement targets for the educational achievement of looked after children (LAC). These are that:

60 per cent. of LAC to obtain level 4 at key stage 2 in English by 2011;

55 per cent. of LAC to obtain level 4 at key stage 2 in maths by 2011; and

20 per cent. of LAC at key stage 4 to obtain five GSCEs graded A*-C (or equivalent), by 2011.

These targets are reflected in the statutory targets for local authorities that form part of the new National Indicator Set.

Not enough progress has been made on improving the educational achievement of LAC. They often face a wide range of barriers to learning that most children do not experience. However, we are determined to do more and improving the education of LAC is a top priority. It is key to improving their life chances and a successful transition to adulthood.

We have set out our intentions in "Care Matters: Time for Change" and the implementation plan "Care Matters: Time to deliver for children in care" published by the Government with the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Children's Services, on Wednesday 26 March 2008.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* children and *(b)* asylum-seeking children went missing from local authority care in each of the last five years. [199503]

Kevin Brennan: The numbers of children looked after who went missing from local authority care in each of the last five years are shown in the following tables.

(a) The number of children looked after who went missing from care for 24 hours or more, in each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007, including asylum-seeking children, was as follows:

	Number
2003	990
2004	730
2005	860
2006	890
2007	950

These figures account for all children looked after excluding children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

(b) The number of asylum-seeking children who went missing from care for 24 hours or more, in each of the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007, was as follows:

	Number
2003	70
2004	50
2005	70
2006	110
2007	90

For both answers above, where a child went missing from his or her agreed placement, for 24 hours or more, on more than one occasion during the same year, he or she has been counted only once.

Children: Databases

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the ContactPoint database has cost to date; and how much has been budgeted to complete the project. [200108]

Kevin Brennan: Approximately £103 million has been spent to date on the ContactPoint project.

The estimated set-up cost of ContactPoint is £224 million (most of which is expected to be incurred by the end of the financial year 2009-10). This includes: the costs of adapting existing systems that will supply data to ContactPoint and the costs of ensuring that data are accurate; adapting the day-to-day systems used by practitioners so they can access ContactPoint from them; and the costs of introducing robust arrangements to ensure proper security, and effective ContactPoint user training.

Thereafter, estimated operating costs will be £41 million per year. Most of this will pay for the additional staff needed to ensure the ongoing security, accuracy and audit of ContactPoint.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* linkages and *(b)* cross checks are proposed between data records of individuals on (i) the ContactPoint database and (ii) other Government databases. [200109]

Kevin Brennan: ContactPoint will hold, for each child or young person in England:

basic identifying information: name, address, gender, date of birth and a unique identifying number;

contact details for the child's parent or carer;

contact details for services involved with the child: as a minimum school and GP practice, but also other services where appropriate; and

the facility for practitioners to indicate to others if they are a lead professional, and have undertaken a common assessment, in relation to a child.

There are no links in a child record to any other family members apart from the parent/carer details above. For safeguarding purposes, practitioners can make use of a facility in ContactPoint to search for previous and current co-residing children from a child record. In limited circumstances, details revealing the whereabouts of a child/young person and/or their parent/carer can be 'shielded'. The decisions to 'shield' will be taken case by case, based on the level of threat posed if information about their whereabouts was to be revealed.

To ensure ContactPoint records are as accurate and up-to-date as possible, ContactPoint will cross-check, match and remove duplication of fragments of data received from a range of local and national data sources. These national data sources include a number of government departments, namely the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department of Health and Office for National Statistics. This is a one way process. No data will be supplied to another system from ContactPoint nor will users be able to access any other systems via ContactPoint.

To support the Data Protection Act 1998, there will be mechanisms in place to notify data sources where discrepancies occur between differently sourced fragments. In doing so, the contents of ContactPoint records will not be shared with data sources.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recommendations from the Laming report into the death of Victoria Climbie have yet to be implemented. [186767]

Kevin Brennan: This Government launched a radical programme of reform in response to Lord Laming's Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. Through the Children Act 2004 we have put in place a much stronger framework for children's services and particularly for safeguarding children. The Government's detailed response to the recommendations of the Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report was set out in "Keeping Children Safe" which was published in 2003, alongside the Green Paper "Every Child Matters". The actions the Government committed to undertaking in response to Lord Laming's recommendations have been carried out or are ongoing, an exception is the revision of guidance on the Children Act 1989. Volume 1, on Court Orders, has been revised and published, and many of the key messages which "Keeping Children Safe" said were to be incorporated in the revised Children Act 1989 guidance have been incorporated into other guidance documents and standards. We plan to revise further volumes of the 1989 guidance next year, taking into account commitments announced in Care Matters: Time for Change, proposed legislative changes through the Children and Young Person's Bill currently going through Parliament, and proposed revisions to the National Minimum Standards for children's social care.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [198982]

Kevin Brennan: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central advertising and publicity budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates. The Department employs advertising agencies and public relations agencies for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide local and regional campaign support.

Once all payments have been finalised, the predicted spend from the advertising and publicity budget for 2007-08 is £11.8 million. In addition to funding promotional campaigns, this budget also covers a wide range of other publicity activity (including magazine production and infrastructure costs such as mailing and storage of departmental publications).

The spend on promotional campaigns from individual policy directorate programmes cannot be separately identified, except at disproportionate cost.

However, it is possible to separate all the Department's spend on advertising and publicity, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. For 2007-08, the Department spent £1,567,144 on PR and £5,160,218 on advertising.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196939]

Kevin Brennan: Data on the number of events held by this Department where *(a)* wine was served and *(b)* Fairtrade wine was served are not held centrally. Gathering this information would be at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme or plans to do so in the next 12 months. [198042]

Kevin Brennan: The Carbon Trust completed a review of our Headquarters estate in 2006. Their findings have been adopted within our Sustainable Operations Environmental Management System carbon management action plans. The Department did not take up the

Carbon Trust carbon management programme on the basis that these reviews had been undertaken.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department met the target in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate initiative to reverse the upward trend in carbon dioxide emissions by April 2007. [198043]

Kevin Brennan: I am pleased to report that the Department has met the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate target to reverse the upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007.

Departmental Cost-effectiveness

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made in its zero-based budget review under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [191494]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the annex pertaining to my Department in "Meeting the aspirations of the British people: the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review" (Cm 7227).

In addition to this, my Department published its delivery agreement at the end of 2007. This delivery agreement explains how my Department will achieve its value for money efficiency gains during the comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07) which covers the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. The document details the major reforms, changes and initiatives the Department intends to undertake in order to achieve its savings ambition. This document is available on our website at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/

The Department will report further progress under the CSR07 through existing departmental reporting processes.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his Departmental website. [200162]

Kevin Brennan: The most recent redesign and implementation of the Department's website cost £6,345.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199628]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes announced on 28 June 2007, so figures are only available from July 2007 as set out in the following table:

	Permanent civil servants	*Permanent non-civil servants*	*Temp civil servants*	*Agency workers*
July 2007	2,919		11	17
August 2007	2,908		10	18
September 2007	2,919	1	12	9
October 2007	2,919	1	17	19
November 2007	2,908	4	15	42
December 2007	2,900	3	14	49
January 2008	2,857	3	14	62
February 2008	2,846	4	12	75
March 2008	2,781	4	12	73

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199629]

Kevin Brennan: The Department was set up in 28 June 2008. The information is not available centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the annual spend to 31 March 2008 for permanent civil service posts was £120 million including overtime, and temporary and agency workers was £1.9 million and £0.8 million respectively.

The Department has no permanent non-civil service posts.

Departmental Property

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many residential properties his Department owns; how many of these are vacant; and how many of these have been vacant for longer than *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months. [192982]

Kevin Brennan: The Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families does not own any residential properties.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years. [198961]

Kevin Brennan: The average number of sick days for staff in my Department is set out in the following table:

Calendar Year[1]	*Average number days lost through sick leave per staff year*
2007	9.3
2006	8.4
2005	8.9
2004	9.0
2003	10.3

[1] Figures for calendar years 2003-06 relate to the former DFES. The figure for calendar year 2007 relates to the DCSF over a six month period only (July-December).

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198979]

Kevin Brennan: The breakdown of days sickness absence due to stress in the Department could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Department normally collects the information quarterly. For the last recorded six months period (July to December 2007), 15 per cent. of all working days lost due to sickness absence could be attributed to stress-related conditions.

The Department has put in place a range of measures to support managers and employees on health and well-being issues, including the provision of professional counselling and support from the Department's Employee Assistance Provider, Right Corecare. The Department has also piloted a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Stress Questionnaire in one part of the organisation and conducted Individual Stress Risk Assessments for employees who require them. It will shortly be launching a comprehensive Stress Prevention Policy, based on HSE Management Standards.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195894]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's updated Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) for 2008-10 is due for publication at the end of April 2008. This will include our sustainable operations policy statement and an associated delivery plan will track our progress towards meeting the Government's targets for sustainable operation of the estate.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department is on course to meet Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [198041]

Kevin Brennan: The latest published information on Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate report for 2007 noted that my previous Department the Department for Education and Skills achieved the following results:

(a) good progress made on the target to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and noted as being on track.

(b) excellent progress made on the target to recycle 40 per cent. of waste by 2010 with the target already met.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff in his Department have attended the *(a)* Influencing with Integrity, *(b)* Emotional Intelligence, *(c)* Counselling Skills for the Workplace, *(d)* Managing your Confidence, *(e)* Balancing Work/Life Realities and *(f)* Working Assertively training course run by the National School of Government in the last 12 months for which information is available; and at what cost. [197057]

Kevin Brennan: In the last 12 months, my Department has funded the following places on the National School for Government events tabled as follows:

Event	*Place*	*Total cost (£)*
Influencing with Integrity	None	0
Emotional Intelligence	None	0
Counselling Skills in the Workplace	1	1,115
Managing your Confidence	None	0
Balancing Work/Life Realities	None	0
Working Assertively	2	1,452

The total spend on these events was £2,567.

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195822]

Kevin Brennan: The information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Contracted hours for the majority of full-time members of staff based in London are 41 hours per week. Full-time employees based outside London, work a 42 hour week. Employees can work more than these hours and flexible arrangements are in place to allow people to take time off at a later date or to compensate them. A number of employees also work part-time.

Departmental Written Questions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many written Questions to his Department had not received an Answer as at 25 February 2008 for *(a)* between two and four, *(b)* between four and six, *(c)* between six and eight and *(d)* more than eight weeks; and how many in each category were tabled for named day answer. [193387]

Kevin Brennan: The Department received a total number of 2,224 PQs during the period covering 6 November 2007 to 25 February 2008. According to our records, the breakdown of questions, at least two weeks old, that had not received an answer on 25 February 2008 was as shown in the following table.

	Commons named day	*Commons written*	*Total*
(a) 2-4 weeks	2	5	7
(b) 4-6 weeks	1	2	3
(c) 6-8 weeks	0	0	0
(d) More than 8 weeks	1	8	9
Total	4	15	19

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199051]

Kevin Brennan: For the period following the implementation of the Cabinet Office 10 point plan, my Department has set challenging targets for the employment of disabled staff at senior civil service level, our current target of 4 per cent. exceeds Cabinet Office guidance.

The Department is currently looking at our workforce planning for the next five years and will be setting challenging targets for all grades shortly.

Domestic Violence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken on *(a)* domestic violence and *(b)* forced marriage since the coming into force of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2003. [198789]

Kevin Brennan: Keeping children and young people safe is a top priority for this Government and the Department. We have introduced new legislation, new guidance and new structures to make children safer.

The Children Act 2004 put in place a much stronger framework for children's services and for safeguarding children in particular. This Act gave a range of statutory agencies a legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Statutory guidance, "Making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004", issued in July 2005 and updated in March 2007, is aimed at the police, hospitals, prisons and others covered by the requirement and sets out what they should do to make sure children are safe. The guidance makes clear for example that police need to identify vulnerable children in domestic violence cases, and that housing authorities need to consider the safety of children when they are offering help in domestic violence cases.

"Working Together to Safeguard Children", published in April 2006, is the Government's main interagency guide to safeguarding. This explains what is meant by forced marriage, makes clear that it comes under the definition of domestic violence, and stresses the need for professionals to be aware of the strong links between domestic violence and child protection concerns and to take appropriate action.

This Government have also created statutory local safeguarding children boards (LSCBs) to co-ordinate what local bodies do to safeguard children and to ensure that they are working effectively together. We have also required local authorities to have lead members and directors who are clearly accountable for their children's services.

The cross-Government "Staying Safe: Action Plan", published in February 2008, sets out specific commitments to help tackle forced marriage and domestic violence. The Action Plan is underpinned by the new public service agreement to improve children and young people's safety.

Working with the forced marriage unit, we will develop materials on the issue of forced marriage specifically for use by schools and tailored to young people and we will actively encourage schools to use them. DCSF Ministers will shortly be writing to all schools and local authorities reminding them of their responsibilities and of the existing guidance—both general safeguarding children guidance and the specific forced marriage guidance for education professionals, issued jointly with the forced marriage unit. We will also set out our plans to consult on revised forced marriage guidance which will then be placed on a statutory footing this autumn.

Domestic Violence: Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on work on *(a)* domestic violence and *(b)* forced marriage since 2003; and what budget allocations have been made for each in the next three years. [198788]

Kevin Brennan: Expenditure on safeguarding children from domestic violence and forced marriage is met principally by local authorities from general funding.

The then Department for Education and Skills took over certain policy responsibilities from the Department of Health in 2003 and with this came responsibility for grants to the Women's Aid Federation of England (WAFE) which related to domestic violence. Under the section 64 grant scheme WAFE received £300,000 between 2003-04 and 2006-07, plus WAFE received £49,000 per year between 2003-04 and 2007-08 as a contribution to the National Domestic Violence Helpline service.

In addition, the Department currently provides funding under the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) grant scheme to two domestic violence related projects. 'Daybreak Family Group Conferences' are funded for a project that aims to address the impact of domestic violence on the safety and welfare of children and their chances of achieving their full potential. The funding amounts to £283,000 over three years (2006-07 to 2008-09). WAFE currently receives funding to develop and raise the profile of support for women and children as victims of domestic violence. CYPF grant funding for WAFE is £120,000 over two years (2007-08 to 2008-09).

The Department is also committed to continued close working with the joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Home Office Forced Marriage Unit to revise the forced marriage guidance issued in 2005 and place this on a statutory footing. We are also working with the Forced Marriage Unit to develop materials on the issue of forced marriage specifically for use by schools and tailored to young people.

Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to promote Fair Trade Fortnight 2008 amongst staff within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [189499]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has an agreement with our catering supplier that a selection of Fairtrade food and drink products shall be available throughout all their catering operations—this will apply during fair trade fortnight. A range of internal communications channels will be used to promote fair trade fortnight to staff.

Forced Marriage

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what monitoring and evaluation his Department carries out on the implementation of its guidance on forced marriages; and if he will make a statement. [198787]

Kevin Brennan: "Working Together to Safeguard Children" (April 2006), the main interagency guide to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" (November 2006), consolidated guidance on recruitment in education settings, explain what is meant by forced marriage, make clear that it comes under the definition of domestic violence, and advise that if there are concerns that a child is at risk of forced marriage, local agencies and professionals should contact the Forced Marriage Unit, the police and children's social care.

"Working Together" provides a link to the guidance produced by the Forced Marriage Unit and partners, and "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" signposts specifically to the guidance for education professionals, "Dealing with Cases of Forced Marriage". This was issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for Education and Skills, and Home Office in 2005. DCSF will be working with the Forced Marriage Unit to revise the existing forced marriage guidance and place it on a statutory footing this autumn.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for co-ordinating what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and for ensuring the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for that purpose. The effectiveness of the LSCB itself should form part of the judgment of the inspectorates, particularly through the Joint Area Review (JAR).

As part of Ofsted inspections, schools are judged on whether they are meeting their statutory requirements on safeguarding.

The current system of local authority inspection (Joint Area Reviews and Annual Performance Assessments of children's services) will be replaced by Comprehensive Area Assessments from 2009. This was announced in the 2006 Local Government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities".

This will mean few rolling programmes of inspection of local authority services, with most inspections triggered on an authority-specific basis following an annual risk assessment. The case for separate programmed inspection of safeguarding is currently being considered and a decision will be made in spring 2008.

The Local Government White Paper made clear that any such programmes will incorporate proportionality in individual inspections. For more information on the new Comprehensive Area Assessments see:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/performanceframeworkpartnerships

Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will hold discussions with Alcoholics Anonymous on educating school children on alcoholism and alcohol abuse. [199992]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is working on a Youth Alcohol Action Plan, which will look at what more might be done to reduce excessive drinking by young people. I have asked my officials to get in touch with Alcoholics Anonymous to make sure this work takes account of their views and expertise.

Inclusive Technology

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 692W, what payments his Department and its predecessor made to Inclusive Technology in each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. [199664]

Kevin Brennan: Our financial records show that the Department has not made any payments to Inclusive Technology in the last seven years. The Department is not required to keep financial records beyond that period.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199632]

Kevin Brennan: Our financial records show that the Department has not made any payments to Karian and Box in the last seven years. The Department is not required to keep financial records beyond that period.

Primary Education: School Meals

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to increase access to healthy school meals in primary schools in *(a)* West Lancashire constituency and *(b)* England. [196856]

Kevin Brennan: The Department is taking a number of steps to improve the quality of meals served in primary schools and to ensure all children have access to healthy food while at school.

New food-based nutritional standards were introduced in September 2006 for school lunches and from September 2007 for other school food. Nutrient-based standards will be introduced for school lunches in September 2008 for primary schools and September 2009 for secondary schools.

School lunch take-up is a priority as demonstrated by the fact that it is one of the indicators in the new Child Health PSA and is one of the indicators in the National Indicator Set.

The School Food Trust was established in 2005 to support the implementation of changes in school food in England. One of their key targets is to increase take-up of school meals and they have launched their Million Meals Campaign to encourage schools to increase school lunch take-up.

The Government are also investing around £650 million of additional funding between 2005 and 2011 to help support the drive towards improved school food. Lancashire has already received £5,322,666 of that funding between 2005 and 2008 and will receive a further £1,777,973 in 2008-09.

Pupils: Epilepsy

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children with epilepsy were educated in mainstream primary and secondary schools in England in each of the last five years; [199980]

(2) what assessment his Department has made in its planning, policy and guidance for the education sector on the effects of epilepsy on a child's learning; [199981]

(3) what assessment he has made of the merits of implementing statutory training requirements for those working with children who have epilepsy; [199983]

(4) whether his Department plans to make the collection of data regarding the number of children with epilepsy in schools mandatory at local authority level. [199984]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect data on epilepsy in schools and has no plans to make the collection of data regarding the number of children with epilepsy in schools mandatory at local authority level. It has also made no assessment of the impact of epilepsy on a child's learning or the need for statutory training requirements for those working with children who have epilepsy.

Schools and their employers have responsibilities towards the health and safety of all staff and pupils, and this may include making arrangements for individual pupils with medical needs, where it is reasonable to do so. There is, however, no legal duty on school staff to manage a pupil's medicine or support a child's medical need. However, our guidance 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' issued by this Department jointly with the Department of Health, encourages schools and local authorities to develop local policies on the management of pupils' medicines and on supporting pupils with medical needs, taking account of local resources and their various responsibilities. It specifically addresses what schools can do to help children with epilepsy and other medical conditions. We also produced sister guidance entitled 'Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings,' both were published in 2005.

An individual health care plan can help staff identify the necessary safety measures to support children with medical needs and may reveal the need for staff to have further information about a medical condition or specific training. The employer should arrange appropriate training in collaboration with local health services.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children with epilepsy who have special educational needs; and if his Department will consider recognising epilepsy as a condition that may cause special educational needs. [199982]

Kevin Brennan: Children have special educational needs (SEN) if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. Epilepsy is a medical condition which may be a cause of, or exist alongside, a learning difficulty necessitating special educational provision. In these cases, we would expect schools and local authorities to identify the need and make appropriate provision.

The Department does not collect information on the number of pupils with SEN who also have epilepsy.

Schools: Playgrounds

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department provided to the School Playgrounds Scheme in each of the last five years; and what plans he has further to fund the scheme in the next three years. [191393]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has supported Sporting Playgrounds, a primary playground development scheme, since 2001. The scheme refurbishes existing primary school playgrounds to enhance opportunities for sporting activity. Over 600 primary school playgrounds have been developed since the programme began. Funding has been in four phases, as follows:

	Funding (£)
2001 to 2004	310,000
2003 to 2005	10,000,000
2005-06	2,000,000
2007-08	75,000

There are no plans to fund the Sporting Playgrounds programme over the next three years.

As part of the biggest ever investment in play, £225 million has been made available through the Children's plan to build and improve public play areas nationally over the next three years. Investment in school playgrounds is also part of schools capital funding, where £21.9 billion has been allocated over the next three years, including to the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital programmes. Further, almost £1 billion a year goes to schools directly for them to use for their own priorities, including their grounds and playgrounds.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 23 April 2008

PRIME MINISTER

Downing Street Political Office

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 848-9W, on the Downing Street Political Office, when the post of Administrator of the Downing Street Political Office was established. [198094]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 3 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 848-9W.

History: Publications

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many Government-sponsored, official histories are in preparation; when each was commissioned; who the authors are; what the estimated date of completion is in each case; what the estimated cost in each case is; and which official histories commissioned have not been published. [199532]

The Prime Minister *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor (the right hon. Tony Blair) on 28 February 2005, *Official Report*, columns 918-19W.

Additional information is set out as follows:

The following official histories have been published:

Churchill's Man of Mystery: Desmond Morton and the World of Intelligence by Gill Bennett (published, 2006);

The Channel Tunnel by Dr. Terry Gourvish (published, 2006);

The Falkland's Campaign (Volumes 1 and 2) by Professor Lawrence Freedman (first published, 2005).

The following official histories have been commissioned:

Cabinet Secretaries by Ian Beesley in 2007;

Joint Intelligence Committee by Dr. Michael Goodman in 2007;

UK Accession to the EEC, Volume 2 by Sir Stephen Wall in 2007;

SOE in Italy, Volume 2 by, Professor David Stafford in 2005

In the financial year 2006-07, the latest year for which accounts have been published, the net cost was £176,000. This includes fees and expenses of historian and research assistants and costs associated with publication, but excludes staff costs of Cabinet Office administrative support and accommodation-related overheads. This cost is borne on the Cabinet Office vote.

Mobile Phones

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Prime Minister how many mobile telephones he has been provided with since becoming Prime Minister. [200805]

The Prime Minister: None.

SCOTLAND

Barnett Formula

7. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the use to which the Barnett formula paper will be put. [199796]

Des Browne: I meet my right hon. Friend regularly to discuss a range of issues. The aim of the Treasury's forthcoming factual Barnett Formula paper is to better inform the debate.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the use of the Barnett formula paper. [199793]

David Cairns: I meet my right hon. Friend regularly to discuss a range of issues. The aim of the Treasury's forthcoming factual Barnett formula paper is to better inform the debate.

Gas Production

8. **Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on policy to encourage new gas production in the West of Shetland area. [199797]

David Cairns: The Government are committed to providing regulatory and fiscal regimes that will deliver the best future for the UKCS including the area west of Shetland. This includes a joint Government/industry task force to determine whether there is a collective solution to the development of the resource base west of Shetland.

Nuclear Power

9. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the contribution made by nuclear power to Scotland's energy needs. [199798]

David Cairns: I have had no such discussions with the First Minister. The Government firmly believe that nuclear energy will be an essential component in a low carbon energy future and should have an important role in Scotland's future electricity mix.

Gross Domestic Product

10. **Mr. Hood** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the most recent gross domestic product growth figures for Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [199799]

Des Browne: The most recent Scottish GDP figures, covering the year to 2007 Quarter 4, show annual economic growth of 2.2 per cent. This is above the long-run trend rate of growth, which is 1.9 per cent.

International Development

11. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the First Minister on the co-ordination of international development work by the Scottish Executive and the Department for International Development. [199800]

Des Browne: No such discussion have taken place. Department for International Development officials maintain contact with their Scottish Executive counterparts, to ensure international development policies remain complementary to the UK Government's overall objectives.

We are aware that the Scottish Executive has recently consulted on the focus of their policies in this area, and we will consider the future outcome of this exercise.

Subsea Oil and Gas

12. **Mr. Doran:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the value of the sub-sea oil and gas sector in the North Sea to the Scottish economy. [199801]

David Cairns: In 2007, 42,000 people were employed in the subsea sector across the UK, generating revenues in excess of $8.5 billion—up nearly 30 per cent. from 2006. Estimates for the value of the subsea sector to the Scottish Economy are not available, but Scottish subsea companies are already world leaders in technology supply and operations and are well placed to capitalise on the massive global growth in this sector expected over the next three years.

Executive Grant

13. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the likely change to the grant to the Scottish Executive in the next Comprehensive Spending Review period. [199802]

Des Browne: In each successive year of the current spending review period the Scottish Executive will receive a record amount of money, and by 2011 will be in receipt of double the amount available to Donald Dewar in the first years of devolution. This level of public spending across the UK has been made possible by a decade of economic growth and stability delivered by this Government.

National Minimum Wage

14. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the effects on people in Scotland of the national minimum wage. [199803]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland has regular meetings with ministerial colleagues where a number of issues are discussed.

87,000 people in Scotland will benefit from the annual increase to the national minimum wage that will come into force in October. We are very proud of the national minimum wage, and that it is a vital employment right that continues to make a tangible difference to the lives of many working Scots.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Publications

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 737W, on departmental publications, if he will place in the Library a copy of section 1(c) on allowances and section 1(g) on working overseas of his Department's web-based human resources information system. [199681]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have arranged to place in the Library copies of section 1(c) on allowances and section 1(g) on working overseas of the Department for International Development's web-based human resources information system, Peoplesight.

Developing Countries: Economic Growth

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken in the last year to assist developing countries to *(a)* manage economic growth and *(b)* deal with changes as a result of growth. [199407]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The UK Government have committed £37 million over the next three years to establish an International Growth Centre. The centre will bring world-class experts to developing countries to help them put in place policies that support growth and undertake research on new challenges to growth—for example, on low carbon growth. We also work directly with partner countries to develop prioritised growth strategies that fit their own circumstances. The Department for International Development is also working to promote trade policies that help developing countries trade and will spend £409 million ($750 million) a year on aid for trade up to 2010 to build infrastructure and trade capacity in developing countries.

(b) DFID supports developing countries, as appropriate to each country, to identify and manage the consequences of growth to ensure that growth can be sustained in the long-run, the vulnerable are protected and that economic growth lifts as many people out of poverty as possible.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 734-35W, in what capacity each of the temporary staff referred to in the table was employed, broken down by hourly rate of pay. [199665]

Mr. Woodward: The following tables set out the equivalent grade of each of the temporary staff. The grades shown are NIO grades, with the equivalent civil service grades shown in brackets.

March 2007

Hourly rate of pay	*Capacity*
17.26	Grade A (Grade 7)
15.82	Grade Bl (SEO)

March 2007

Hourly rate of pay	*Capacity*
13.72	Grade B2 (HEO)
11.48	Grade B2 (HEO)
11.32	Grade C (EO)
9.38	Grade C (EO)
7.88	Grade C (EO)
5.51	Grade D2 (AA)

February 2008

Hourly rate of pay	*Capacity*
18.25	Grade A (Grade 7)
17.79	Grade A (Grade 7)
16.25	Grade B1 (SEO)
14.02	Grade B2 (HEO)
11.87	Grade B2 (HEO)
11.75	Grade C (EO)
11.60	Grade B2 (HEO)
8.23	Grade C (EO)
5.78	Grade D2 (AA)

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199050]

Mr. Woodward: The 10-Point Plan for a Diverse Civil Service, published in November 2005, by the Cabinet Office set a target that 3.2 per cent. of senior civil service (SCS) posts are to be filled by people with disabilities by April 2008. Progress against these targets is available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/diversity/monitoring.asp

Final measurements of achievement will be available by October 2008.

Departments were encouraged to set their own targets and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) Diversity Delivery Plan for 2007-08 and 2008-09 sets out the following challenging targets in this respect:

	Target (percentage)
Within the senior civil service grades	7.0
Within senior civil service feeder grades	3.2

The NIO is currently working with Cabinet Office colleagues in preparing a future diversity strategy to build on the achievements and lessons learned from the 10-Point Plan.

IRA

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will hold discussions with the leaders of Sinn Fein following the forthcoming independent monitoring commission report on the timing of an announcement by the Army Council of the Provisional IRA that it is to cease to exist. [199261]

Mr. Woodward: I will continue to have discussions with representatives of Sinn Fein about a wide range of subjects. I believe that all paramilitary structures from Northern Ireland's past have no place in the future of Northern Ireland.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether any of the Government Equalities Office's special advisers have outside appointments. [185340]

Barbara Follett: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

The special adviser to the Minister for Women and Equalities does not have any outside appointments.

WALES

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199200]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department's systems are set up to receive and respond to external correspondence electronically sent to our central email address.

Our electronic records management system provides the archive of all correspondence to and from the office, whether originally in electronic or physical form. It reports correspondence by total and category, and does not analyse the percentage received or despatched in electronic or paper form.

Our departmental report is published in physical form, through the stationery office, as have been certain other major documents such as in 2005 the Government of Wales Bill, with its explanatory notes, and the like. All publications are posted to the Wales Office website. We have mechanisms now to monitor the number of publication pages viewed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cromwell Green Entrance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the Commission's review of lessons learned from the Visitor Reception Building project will be completed; and whether it will be published. [200626]

Nick Harvey: The review of lessons learned from the Visitor Reception Building project is expected to be completed by the summer. The main findings will be published in due course.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) of 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 246-7W, who was appointed as recovery project manager. [200774]

Nick Harvey: Mr. Roy Davis of Roy Davis Associates was appointed recovery project manager for the Visitor Reception Building project.

Drinking Water

Mr. Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 456W, on drinking water, when the House of Commons Commission expects the Administration Committee to reach a conclusion on the policy of the provision of drinking water in meetings. [200796]

Nick Harvey: I am informed that the Committee considered an update on provision of water in committee rooms at its meeting on 1 April, and agreed not to recommend any change to the current arrangements.

Meat

Mr. Spellar: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the Refreshment Department purchases its *(a)* pork and *(b)* bacon from British sources. [200633]

Nick Harvey: In purchasing meat for use by its catering service, the House of Commons places high importance on animal welfare standards and requires full traceability, generally by ensuring that sources are approved under a recognised farm assurance scheme. All fresh pork, bacon and pork sausages are purchased from British sources. Currently, all fresh pork meat is supplied from free-range pigs reared and slaughtered in West Sussex; bacon is cured in East Anglia from animals reared and slaughtered in Norfolk; sausages are made from free range pork reared and slaughtered in North Yorkshire.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadcasting: Standards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his timetable is for the implementation of the transmission standard DVB-T2. [201370]

Andy Burnham: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom) as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was provided to *(a)* museums, galleries and libraries, *(b)* the arts, *(c)* sport and *(d)* heritage from (i) the public purse and (ii) lottery funding in each year since 1997, expressed in 2007-08 prices. [197047]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures requested are given in the following tables.

Museums, galleries and libraries funding at 2006-07 prices

£ million

Financial year	Museums, galleries and libraries funded through DCMS	Museums, galleries and libraries HLF
1997-98	401.4	160.5
1998-99	363.2	175.3
1999-2000	391.0	107.7
2000-01	391.5	106.3
2001-02	414.9	119.4
2002-03	431.2	118.3
2003-04	440.4	112.9
2004-05	442.4	157.4
2005-06	468.2	116.0
2006-07	489.2	83.1
2007-08[1]	526.3	[2]

[1] Plans
[2] Figures not yet available
Note:
DCMS funded data extracted from the audited, published, Appropriation Accounts and Resource Accounts

The figures in the 'Museum, galleries and libraries funded through DCMS' column represents grant in aid funding of the 22 DCMS sponsored museums, the British Library and Public Lending Right and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council; in addition to the six independent bodies receiving grants. All figures are adjusted to 2006-07 prices and include both resource and capital spending.

The information in the lottery column represents the value of awards by the Heritage Lottery Fund to museums, galleries and libraries. This information has been supplied directly by the Heritage Lottery Fund and are not comparable to lottery figures for arts and sport which are drawn down from the National Lottery Distribution Fund. The figures are for the UK as a whole and are adjusted for 2006-07 prices.

Arts funding for England in 2006-07 prices

£ million

Financial year	Arts funded through DCMS	Lottery drawdown
1997-98	244.4	393.2
1998-99	242.4	388.3
1999-2000	273.3	248.6
2000-01	280.1	256.9
2001-02	289.7	249.7
2002-03	334.8	198.8
2003-04	396.8	197.5
2004-05	418.2	231.1
2005-06	422.4	197.5
2006-07	431.2	147.0
2007-08	412.9	[1]

[1] Figures not yet available
Note:
DCMS funded data extracted from the audited, published, Appropriation Accounts and Resource Accounts

The figures in the 'Arts funded through DCMS' column represent grant in aid to the Arts Council England and central departmental expenditure on the arts, adjusted for 20067-07 prices. They include spending under the Capital Modernisation Fund which represents £78.5 million (in cash terms) between 2002-03 and 2004-05.

The lottery data represent funding drawdown by the Arts Council for England only.

Sport funding for England on 2006-07 prices

£ million

Financial year	Sport funded through DCMS	Lottery drawdown
1997-98	62.4	190.2
1998-99	59.9	433.4
1999-2000	61.4	298.2
2000-01	61.7	271.6
2001-02	73.1	340.8
2002-03	148.0	342.1
2003-04	134.8	256.3
2004-05	230.6	179.3
2005-06	280.3	207.9
2006-07	378.0	121.4
2007-08[1]	399.3	[2]

[1] To date.
[2] Figures not yet available.
Note:
DCMS funded data extracted from the audited, published, Appropriation Accounts and Resource Accounts.

The figures in the 'Sport funded through DCMS' column represent DCMS grant in aid to Sport England, UK Sport and the Football Licensing Authority, and central departmental expenditure on Sports adjusted for 2006-07 prices. They include grants for School Sport from the Department for Children, Schools and Families which represents an additional £797.1 million (in cash terms) between 2002-03 and 2007-08.

The figures in the lottery column represent the value of grants awarded in England by Sport England only. These are derived from the Department's lottery grant database which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

They do not include the value of grants by the big lottery fund and its predecessor the new opportunities fund, under various sport related funding programmes.

Heritage public expenditure for England

£ million

Financial year	Heritage funded through DCMS	Heritage lottery drawdown
1997-98	226.9	165.8
1998-99	204.9	237.6
1999-2000	203.6	329.7
2000-01	205.5	339.8
2001-02	210.2	300.2
2002-03	199.0	294.1
2003-04	202.8	349.5
2004-05	205.5	323.8
2005-06	201.7	385.0
2006-07	208.0	367.2
2007-08[1]	213.3	[2]

[1] To date.
[2] Figures not yet available.
Note:
DCMS funded data extracted from the audited, published, Appropriation Accounts and Resource Accounts

The figures in the 'Heritage funded through DCMS' column include grant in aid to English Heritage, the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, the Churches Conservation Trust and the Occupied Royal Palaces, together with central department expenditure on the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, Memorial Grant scheme, Royal Parks, Royal Household property Services, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, Greenwich Foundation, Historic Royal Palaces and Theatres Trust.

The figures in the lottery column represent the value of grants awarded in England by the Heritage Lottery Fund which is a UK wide distributor, so the figures are not for England only.

All figures are adjusted to 2006-07 prices using information in the GDP deflator tables provided by the Office for National Statistics and available from the Treasury website:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

I have been advised that updated tables to adjust figures to 2007-08 prices will be available toward the end of the summer.

Journalism: Regulation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the harmonisation of regulations affecting newspaper and broadcast reporting; and if he will make a statement. [201373]

Andy Burnham: News and current affairs regulation in broadcasting is covered by the statutory Ofcom Broadcasting Code and the BBC Editorial Guidelines.

There are no statutory regulations affecting newspaper reporting. The press is self-regulating through the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). The PCC and the broadcasting regulators do seek to work together where appropriate. An example of this is the agreement in 2004 between Ofcom and the PCC to support a voluntary ban of "media scrums", when media representatives congregate in large numbers to cover a news story.

At present the Government have no plans for the harmonisation of regulations affecting newspaper and broadcast reporting.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels: Standards

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to introduce mandatory minimum standards for biofuels used to comply with the renewable transport fuel obligations; and if she will make a statement. [200775]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government announced in June 2007 that they aimed by April 2011 to introduce mandatory sustainability standards for all biofuels used under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), provided, among other things, that this was consistent with European Union legislation.

In January 2008, the European Commission issued a draft Renewable Energy Directive which includes proposed mandatory sustainability standards for all

biofuels supported by EU member states. As currently drafted, the Directive would not allow member states to introduce any additional or different sustainability requirements on the biofuels they supported. The UK is therefore negotiating to ensure that the Directive's sustainability requirements are as robust and comprehensive as possible.

The draft Directive currently includes a proposed implementation date of 31 March 2010.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198974]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The detailed information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the following table demonstrates the number of occurrences of staff taking stress-related leave in each of the last five years:

	Number
2003	113
2004	168
2005	196
2006	190
2007	240

This table excludes DVLA and VOSA statistics as they could provide these data only at disproportionate cost.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value was of each contract awarded by her Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199642]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department was formed in May 2002. Since this date the Department has not awarded any contracts to Karian and Box.

M25: M3

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the experiment with revised lane arrangements at the junction between the M25 and the M3 is expected to end; what timetable she has for making decisions on permanent lane arrangements in the light of the experiment; when works required for permanent lane arrangements will be completed; and what plans she has to terminate the temporary speed restrictions in place at the junction. [200844]

Mr. Tom Harris: The trial has shown a significant journey time reliability improvement and an independent survey undertaken in 2007-08 shows support from those who travel through the junction. The Highways Agency has secured funding to deliver the scheme during this financial year and its current intention is for the works to take place between January and March 2009.

However, the final decision about making the trial permanent including the implementation of the 50 mph speed limit will be subject to a statutory consultation expected to take place over a 12 week period this summer. A final decision will be taken at the end of that process.

Railways: Expenditure

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on *(a)* road and *(b)* rail improvement projects in each Government region in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [192434]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Figures for departmental expenditure on national roads and railways by (Government office) region are available in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, published by HM Treasury. PESA 2007, the latest available edition, gives spend figures for 2005-06 in table 9.19. Total figures for improvement projects are not available separately.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Audio Equipment: Licensing

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to introduce a system for the licensing of new wireless microphones and in-ear monitor equipment when it is purchased; and if he will make a statement. [193913]

Malcolm Wicks: I am aware of the concerns of the Programme Making and Special Events (PMSE) community in respect of their use of spectrum and possible issues of interference. However the proposal that equipment be licensed at the point of purchase is not being considered at present. There is a strong possibility that this would impose burdens on vendors and others that are not proportionate to the scale of the problem at present. The Office of Communications (Ofcom) continue to consult on their proposals in respect of PMSE and I would encourage the PMSE community to respond to those consultations to express their concerns. I have asked my officials to discuss this matter further with Ofcom in the light of any submission made.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 328W, on departmental ICT, what categories of data were stored on each missing or stolen laptop; and what level of encryption or security was in place on each laptop. [198281]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested was not collected or recorded at the time of the loss or theft. As a result of the Government's Review of Data Handling this information will be recorded in the future.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's expenditure on *(a)* salaries for those in permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for those in permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary and agency workers was in each month since May 2005. [199458]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's expenditure on salaries for those in permanent civil service posts, salaries for those in permanent non-civil service posts and payments to temporary and agency workers in each month since May 2005 is as follows:

All figures in £000

Wages and Salaries	*April 2005*	*May 2005*	*June 2005*	*July 2005*	*August 2005*	*September 2005*
Salaries—Permanent	9,397	9,406	9,403	9,928	10,153	10,677
Salaries—Secondees	-18	28	38	16	20	20
Salaries—Casuals	40	38	34	39	50	41
Hire of Agency Staff						
Hire of Agency Staff (Professional/Management)	179	164	351	294	243	452
Hire of Agency Staff (Clerical/Secretariat/Other)	111	134	158	143	117	141
Salaries Permanent	9,397	9,406	9,403	9,928	10,153	10,677
Salaries for Secondees and Casuals	22	66	72	55	70	61
Agency staff total	290	298	509	437	360	599

Wages and Salaries	*October 2005*	*November 2005*	*December 2005*	*January 2006*	*February 2006*	*March 2006*
Salaries—Permanent	9,554	9,165	9,519	9,648	9,487	10,149
Salaries—Secondees	8	18	28	9	46	56
Salaries—Casuals	28	13	23	26	23	32
Hire of Agency Staff						
Hire of Agency Staff (Professional/Management)	282	251	229	394	595	521
Hire of Agency Staff (Clerical/Secretarial/Other)	188	128	157	56	207	282
Salaries Permanent	9,554	9,165	9,519	9,648	9,487	10,149
Salaries for Secondees and Casuals	36	31	51	35	69	88
Agency staff total	470	379	386	449	802	803

All figures in £000

Wages and Salaries	*April 2006*	*May 2006*	*June 2006*	*July 2006*	*August 2006*	*September 2006*
Salaries—Permanent	9,226	9,330	9,547	10,305	8,841	9,467
Salaries—Secondees	0	54	19	-6	14	19
Salaries—Casuals	16	34	3	39	57	12
Hire of Agency Staff						
Hire of Agency Staff (Professional/Management)	68	188	223	280	155	98
Hire of Agency Staff (Clerical/Secretarial/Other)	116	136	372	125	123	84
Salaries Permanent	9,226	9,330	9,547	10,305	8,841	9,467
Salaries for Secondees and Casuals	16	88	22	33	71	31
Agency staff total	184	324	595	405	278	182

Wages and Salaries	*October 2006*	*November 2006*	*December 2006*	*January 2007*	*February 2007*	*March 2007*
Salaries—Permanent	9,141	8,789	11,021	9,390	8,873	10,009
Salaries—Secondees	41	16	-1	54	-11	21
Salaries—Casuals	34	28	42	22	-25	17
Hire of Agency Staff						0
Hire of Agency Staff (Professional/Management)	285	170	241	167	362	86
Hire of Agency Staff (Clerical/Secretarial/Other)	45	78	87	110	53	150
Salaries Permanent	9,141	8,789	11,021	9,390	8,873	10,009
Salaries for Secondees and Casuals	75	44	41	76	-36	38
Agency staff total	330	248	328	277	415	236

All figures in £000

Wages and Salaries	*April 2007*	*May 2007*	*June 2007*	*July 2007*	*August 2007*	*September 2007*
Salaries—Permanent	8,468	8,764	8,590	8,217	8,378	8,896

All figures in £000

Wages and Salaries	*April 2007*	*May 2007*	*June 2007*	*July 2007*	*August 2007*	*September 2007*
Salaries—Secondees	0	2	20	0	2	10
Salaries—Casuals	15	13	21	21	23	42
Hire of Agency Staff						
Hire of Agency Staff (Professional/Management)	25	118	88	114	107	139
Hire of Agency Staff (Clerical/Secretariat/Other)	60	102	93	88	67	102
Salaries Permanent	8,468	8,764	8,590	8,217	8,378	8,896
Salaries for Secondees and Casuals	15	11	41	21	25	52
Agency staff total	85	220	181	202	174	241

Wages and Salaries	*October 2007*	*November 2007*	*December 2007*	*January 2008*	*February 2008*	*March 2008*
Salaries—Permanent	9,247	9,382	13,232	9,190	9,619	9,040
Salaries—Secondees	13	7	28	15	1	78
Salaries—Casuals	27	52	22	2	18	21
Hire of Agency Staff						
Hire of Agency Staff (Professional/Management)	414	182	235	224	152	310
Hire of Agency Staff (Clerical/Secretariat/Other)	124	154	150	143	133	157
Salaries Permanent	9,247	9,382	13,232	9,190	9,619	9,040
Salaries for Secondees and Casuals	40	59	50	17	19	99
Agency staff total	538	336	385	367	285	467

Energy: Finance

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 334W, on renewable energy: finance, whether his Department has received any transfer of funds from the fossil fuel levy since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [199308]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The Department has not received any transfer of funds from the Fossil Fuel Levy, or the Fossil Fuel Levy account other than that referred to in my previous answer.

Fuel Poverty

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects of the cost of *(a)* heating oil and *(b)* other fuels on levels of fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [200270]

Malcolm Wicks: Fuel poverty is caused by the interaction of a number of factors with the energy efficiency status of the property, the cost of energy and the household income are three of the most prominent. The impact of these three factors are shown within "The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy; 5th Annual Progress Report 2007" (available online at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42720.pdf).

Official fuel poverty figures take into account these factors including the cost of the main heating fuel, the type of heating system and the occupancy of the household. Comparison of the costs to heat a property used in the modelling of fuel poverty are sourced from the Sutherland Comparative Domestic Heating Cost tables, available under copyright through http://www.sutherlandtables.co.uk/. However, the effect of separate fuels' prices is not available.

Solar Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress his Department is making towards the Government's goal of catching up with solar photovoltaic programmes in Japan and Germany; and if he will make a statement. [199379]

Malcolm Wicks: Japan and Germany have significantly larger solar photovoltaic markets than the UK. This Department has spent over £35 million to support solar photovoltaic installations and field trials since 2000. Currently the solar photovoltaic market benefits, with other micro-generation technologies, from the £86 million Low Carbon Buildings programme.

More information on photovoltaic developments in the UK in comparison to Japan and Germany are available on the International Energy Agency website:

http://www.iea-pvps.org

Video Games

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* UK-owned and *(b)* non-UK owned video games development companies were based in the UK in each year since 1997. [196878]

Malcolm Wicks: Data on the video and computer games sector are not regularly collated or in fact readily available to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, particularly as the sector has not had its own separate Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code. A new SIC code for computer games has now been agreed though it will not be possible for this to deliver data until 2010 at the earliest.

However in 2002 the Department of Trade and Industry published "From Exuberant Youth to Sustainable Maturity", a full competitiveness analysis of the computer

games sector commissioned from independent consultants, Spectrum Strategy. This report showed that in 2000 there were approximately 270 games development companies in the UK, the vast majority independent (and indigenous) studios with fewer than 22 employees. Four overseas-owned companies with games studios in the UK were identified in the report.

In October 2007 UKTI published "Playing for Keeps", a report commissioned from independent consultants Games Investor which included a range of valuable new data on the competitiveness of the UK games development sector compared to key competitor territories including the US and Canada. This report showed that in 2006 there were 160 independent (indigenous) games development companies in the UK. The report also identified two UK-owned games publishers which have one or more games development studios here. However, the number of games development studios in the UK owned by overseas companies was not specified.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Working Hours

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average number of hours worked by *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees per week was in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by region. [200580]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about the average number of hours worked by *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employees per week, in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by region. (200580)

The attached table gives the average number of hours worked per week for the categories requested for the three month period ending December 2007, broken down by Government Office Region.

Each quarter ONS publishes regional estimates of the average actual weekly hours of work for all people in employment in main and second jobs. Please visit the following link:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/onlineproducts/lms_regional.asp

It should be noted that the estimates provided in the attached table are grossed using population estimates consistent with those published in 2003. We are in the process of concluding the reweighting of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) according to the latest population estimates. Reweighted data using 2007 population estimates will become publicly available on 14 May 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Average hours worked per week[1] by Government Office Region: three month period ending December 2007, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Hours per week		
	All employees[2]	*Full-time employees*	*Part-time employees*
North East	32	38	17
North West	33	38	17
Yorkshire and Humberside	32	38	17
East Midlands	33	39	18
West Midlands	33	38	17
East	33	39	17
London	34	39	17
South East	39	38	17
South West	32	38	17
Wales	32	38	17
Scotland	32	37	18
Northern Ireland	33	38	18
UK	33	38	17

[1] Average actual hours worked per week in main and second job, including paid and unpaid overtime.
[2] Includes those who did not state whether they work full or part-time. The estimates are grossed using population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196943]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no information held centrally that indicates the total number of events held by the Department at which *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are no mandatory requirements in place for the procurement/provision of Fairtrade products by Government Departments, but the Government are committed to improving market access to producers in developing countries through increased participation in fair and sustainable supply chains. Fairtrade products can be supplied to Government Departments consistent with value for money principles and the EU public procurement rules.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has given advice to staff in his Department to switch off personal computers when not in use. [200052]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA places a high importance on IT energy efficiency measures and seeks to make savings wherever possible.

(a) Instructions to staff have been provided in a number of ways. As part of our 'big switch' energy efficiency campaign at the start of 2006, we combined online and poster messaging to inform and change staff behaviour to make sure all computers and other electrical equipment is switched off. Seasonal messages are broadcast on DEFRA's intranet to ensure staff turn off equipment over holiday periods. Information and instructions on energy saving measures appear on DEFRA's intranet and stickers are placed on computer screens reminding staff to switch off their monitors. There are also

checks carried out by Security Guards on the London estate on their normal night time patrols who switch off machines if found to be powered up without explanation.

(b) DEFRA is currently undertaking trials of timer switches on power sockets for printers and copiers. It is also preparing to roll-out a Vista based desktop environment within which it will deploy Vista's inbuilt group policy options to enforce a default switch to the Vista 'hibernate' and 'sleep' modes after a pre-set elapsed time of inactivity.

We are also ensuring in the same settings that monitors are similarly switched back to their standby power saving mode.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1855W on departmental ICT, to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb), what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emissions his Department saved as a result of the "big switch" energy efficiency campaign in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [200046]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* DEFRA's Sustainable Development Unit organised the "big switch" campaign which ran from January to March 2006. The event aimed to change behaviours in staff by highlighting where we could all save energy. Although it is not possible to measure the precise behaviour change impact of the "big' switch" campaign, an estimated 392 tonnes of CO_2 was saved in the London and York buildings comparing the same period for 2005 to 2006.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessors since May 1997. [198292]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However no DEFRA sponsored primary legislation has received Royal Assent in 2007 or until now in 2008, and hence no offences have been abolished by DEFRA sponsored primary legislation during this period.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198312]

Jonathan Shaw: No DEFRA sponsored primary legislation has received Royal Assent since 1 July 2007, and hence no offences have been created by DEFRA sponsored primary legislation since that date.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were applied when making the decision in each case. [192377]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to him by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 8.

Departmental Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Angus of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1124-26W, on departmental property, from which location the 42 inch plasma screen television went missing in 2004-05; and whether it was lost or stolen. [198091]

Jonathan Shaw: The plasma screen television was taken from Nobel House, DEFRA's offices in Smith Square. It is believed to have been stolen. The matter was reported to the police.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its predecessors paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199617]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core Department's financial systems record no payments made to JP Morgan since DEFRA came into being in June 2001.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199647]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The core Department has no record of any contracts awarded to Karian and Box.

Natural England: Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the model byelaw to enable Natural England to use its powers under section 28R of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, in respect of sites of special scientific interest. [200392]

Joan Ruddock: We have no immediate plans to draw up model byelaws for use in these circumstances. The provision for SSSI byelaws was introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Since then, the SSSI regime has been further strengthened by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 which introduced an additional third party offence under section 28P. Natural England is using this mechanism, as a method of dealing with damaging third party activity in SSSIs.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2727W, on television, what the cost was of the four plasma television screens purchased. [198098]

Jonathan Shaw: The cost of the four plasma television screens purchased was £3,000.

Temporary Employment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many agency staff are currently employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Environment Agency and *(c)* his Department's other agencies. [195234]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the numbers of employment agency staff engaged by DEFRA's executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For the core Department, and from information held centrally for the period February 2007 to January 2008 inclusive, the average monthly number of employment agency staff engaged by the core Department is approximately 234.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199603]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. The core Department's financial systems record one payment to Zurich Insurance Company of £169.35 made in May 2002. The precise purpose of this small payment is unknown without further investigation given that it was made some six years ago and the cost of investigation would exceed the sum paid.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* halving relief and *(b)* changing the indexation allowance for capital gains tax in the last year for which figures are available. [200408]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for the cost of halving relief for capital gains tax are not available. Latest estimates of the cost of the indexation allowance for capital gains tax to the Exchequer are published in Table A3.1 of the 2008 Financial Statement and Budget report.

Financial Inclusion Fund: Citizens Advice

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding Citizens Advice will receive from the Financial Inclusion Fund in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [199247]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

We have indicated that we will grant CitA £17 million, £16 million and £16.5 million in each of the next three years. This will allow it to continue to provide free-face-to-face debt advice to the financially excluded. In total, this project had helped over 90,000 clients to the end of 2007.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 27 February 2008 concerning Mr B. Clarke of Walford Place, Chelmsford, sent to the Minister of State in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and transferred to his Department on 26 March. [200420]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of recent changes in the taxation regime affecting void properties on small investors with property in areas of low demand. [200620]

Angela Eagle: The reforms to empty property relief in national non-domestic rates in England and Wales, which came into effect on 1 April 2008, will provide a further incentive for small property investors with empty properties to be flexible around letting terms, to redevelop them or to sell them to someone who can make better use of the buildings or land.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the introduction of rate relief in respect of empty commercial properties where properties remain unlet in areas which have experienced regeneration. [200618]

Angela Eagle: Empty property relief applies in the same way to properties in all areas of England and Wales. Unlet properties in areas which have experienced regeneration benefit from the three and six month relief periods.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in revenue to the Exchequer arising from the higher rate of taxation affecting void properties in the next 12 months. [200619]

Angela Eagle: The Government estimate that the impact on tax revenue of reforms to empty property relief, which only applies in England and Wales, will be £950 million in 2008-09. This estimate was published in the 2007 and 2008 Budget reports.

Redundancy Pay: Taxation

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax was paid by individuals on severance payments received upon the termination of their employment in 2006-07. [200409]

Jane Kennedy: Information on tax paid on redundancy payments is not available.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated annual cost to the public purse is of the introduction of the zero-carbon homes stamp duty land tax relief for new flats. [200410]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1684W.

Taxation: Gambling

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which licensed gambling activities are subject to both value added tax and gross profits tax. [200412]

Angela Eagle: Gambling products are subject to a range of different taxes. Bingo in licensed premises is subject to bingo duty at 15 per cent. on gross profits and most participation fees for such bingo are subject to VAT at the standard rate. All gambling industries are also subject to the usual taxes imposed on business. For bingo, the effective tax rate, which measures the combined impact of VAT and duty on a comparable basis, is in line with that on casinos, machines and the lottery.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of cases in which inaccurate documents were deliberately submitted to HM Revenue and Customs by tax credit claimants in each year for which figures are available; and what the estimated cost to the public purse of such practices was. [200411]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to "Child and Working Tax Credits, Error and Fraud Statistics" available at: www.hmrc.gov.uk which include estimates of the number and costs of claims submitted fraudulently.

Estimates are not separately available for the number of these cases where inaccurate documents been provided deliberately.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Benefits Calculator

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of the armed forces benefits calculator; what the operating costs of the scheme are estimated to be; and if he will make a statement. [200231]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The contract for the armed forces benefits calculator was awarded to Methods Consulting (a registered company on the Defence Communication Services Agency's Information and Communication Services catalogue) on 10 January 2007. Throughout 2007, the calculator underwent extensive development work in close consultation with subject matter experts and the single services; this included the successful completion of a field trial involving a cross-section of ranks from each of the three services.

Methods Consulting have sub-contracted the day-to-day development and hosting of the armed forces benefits calculator to Thomsons Online Benefits, a company which specialises in the creation of employee 'reward' solutions. The total cost of the MOD's contract with Methods Consulting is estimated at £109,680, excluding VAT, which includes £20,160, less VAT, per annum for Thomsons Online Solutions to host the calculator for a two year period from 1 April 2008. Arrangements for the further development and hosting beyond April 2010 have yet to be decided.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the *(a)* objectives, *(b)* evaluation and *(c)* criteria for assessment used in the preparation of the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator; what benchmarking he plans to undertake to ensure that the performance of the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator compares accurately with assessments for non-armed forces individuals; and if he will make a statement. [200232]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Prior to the launch of the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator, there was no mechanism in place to permit Service personnel easily to identify their total worth. The Armed Forces Pay Review Body has previously commented that Service personnel lack awareness of the total value of their armed forces remuneration package, and that more should be done to assess and communicate the value of the package. In addition, the introduction of Joint Personnel Administration has inevitably placed a greater emphasis on the need for clear and easily accessible internal communication on pay and allowances matters. Her Majesty's Treasury has also, over the years, challenged the MOD about not communicating effectively to staff the value and merits of the armed forces total reward package.

Although some progress had been made in this area (a fact sheet is available on the Defence intranet) the information is very generic, non-interactive and not particularly accessible. The vast majority of personnel, while aware of their annual salary and allowances packages, continue to view each of these elements in isolation, and many other financial benefits remain 'invisible' (such as medical/dental care, and physical education opportunities). Building on the success of the existing Armed Forces Pension Calculator, the new Benefits Calculator was thus created to provide greater clarity of the 'total reward' package incorporating basic pay, specialist pay, individual allowances, pension, and other benefits where a realistic financial value can be attributed.

The range of remuneration and allowance-based benefits included in the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they remain relevant to comparable rates in civilian life and continue to be retention and recruitment positive. In addition,

the calculator includes other benefits (such as dental care and health and fitness facilities) which are not strictly remuneration or allowance-related but are included to convey the extent of the total benefits package available to Service personnel in return for military service, and to provide an indication of what replicating these benefits might cost in civilian life. The terms and conditions governing the use of the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator state that the Calculator is for guidance purposes only, and that it is not intended to provide formal financial advice.

Initial feedback on the operation and utility of the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator has been very positive, and at the time of writing over 14,000 calculations had been completed. The effectiveness of the Calculator will be reviewed over the coming months, including an assessment of the relative benefits of including links to other sites/pages providing information on a variety of related matters, currently including:

a. Discounts principally through the Forces Discount Brochure.

b. News/information on pay and allowances matters.

c. Financial information, particularly in support of MOD's ongoing work with the single Services to deliver the Government's National Strategy on Financial Capability, including links to the established Financial Service Authorities' "Money Made Clear" website.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology was used to prepare the figures underpinning the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator; and if he will make a statement. [200233]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Armed Forces Benefits Calculator was developed to provide Service personnel with a quick and convenient way of working out the indicative value of their total remuneration and benefits package. The introduction of the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator has, therefore, made it easier for personnel to make a direct comparison between their current remuneration and that being offered by civilian employers—and by doing so to demonstrate the value of their benefits package as a whole. The Armed Forces Benefits Calculator has been developed also to provide potential recruits with a means of investigating the type of remuneration and benefits that might be available should they choose to join the armed forces. The Calculator uses a combination of existing pay rates and allowances details of which can be found at: http://www.mod.uk and some new values, which have been agreed with subject matter experts and the single Services. These new values are included to provide a broad indication of what some of the other benefits personnel receive in return for military service (such as dental care, and health and fitness facilities) might cost to replicate in civilian life.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what courses are available as *(a)* standard learning credit and *(b)* advanced learning credit as part of the Armed Forces Benefits Calculator; and if he will make a statement. [200234]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD promotes lifelong learning among members of the armed forces, and this is encouraged through the Learning Credits schemes. The Standard Learning Credit (SLC) scheme supplies financial support, throughout the Service person's career, for multiple, small-scale learning activities. The Enhanced Learning Credit (ELC) scheme is designed to complement the SLC scheme by providing larger scale help to personnel who qualify to pay for higher level learning at Level 3 (GCE A level and equivalent) and above. For both schemes a wide variety of vocational and academic courses may be undertaken which lead to or facilitate the award of a nationally recognised qualification as defined by the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) (England and Wales to be superseded by the Qualifications Credits Framework (QCF)), or the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). The SLC and ELC schemes aim to motivate full time members of the armed forces to pursue their personal development during their service career to the benefit of both the Service and the individual. Any unused ELC benefit, however, may be used for up to 10 years afterwards, subject to the qualifying criteria being met.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on promoting recruitment to the armed forces overseas in each year since 2003. [193882]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The armed forces do not actively recruit overseas with the exception of Gurkhas from Nepal. However, in recent years the Royal Navy and the Army have sent selection teams to some Commonwealth countries at the specific request of the government concerned, and only then when evidence suggests that there is sufficient interest amongst the local population to merit a visit. The selection teams screen out those who are not thought capable of meeting the full entry standards, to save them the cost of an abortive trip to the UK to undergo the recruitment selection process. The costs incurred as a result of the overseas selection team visits were as follows:

Financial year	£
2003-04	127,700
2004-05	125,100
2005-06	80,000
2006-07	180,000
2007-08	[1]150,000

[1] To date.

Note:
Figures rounded to nearest 100

Gurkha recruitment policy is different to that for the regular UK armed forces. Recruitment to the Brigade of Gurkhas is conducted once a year, in Nepal. A selection team travels to Nepal from the UK to assist the in-country recruiting team with the selection process. The costs incurred by the recruiting team from outside Nepal were as follows:

Financial year	£
2003-04	33,000
2004-05	33,000
2005-06	40,000
2006-07	32,800
2007-08	42,900

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

The cost relating to the in-country recruiting team in Nepal are not readily available and I will write to the hon. Member with this information in due course.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 19 March 2008, (Official Report, columns 1168-69W) about the costs relating to the in-country recruiting team in Nepal.

The costs over the last five years were:

Financial year	£
2003-04	247,900
2004-05	216,800
2005-06	243,200
2006-07	245,700
2007-08	241,200

Note:
Figures in pounds rounded to the nearest 100.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts were awarded by his Department to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) value was of each of these contracts. [196585]

Derek Twigg: The following information reflects contracts awarded for Management and Business Consultancy, Finance and Accountancy Consultancy, Corporate Governance and Audit Consultancy, and public-private partnership and Private Finance Initiative Consultancy support that have passed through a centralised approval process. The details do not contain contracts awarded by the MOD's trading funds or agencies or for other types of consultancy which are not held centrally.

Information in relation to contracts awarded to 'other consultancy firms' in the past 12 months is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, summaries of MOD expenditure on External Assistance, which includes management and other types of consultancy since 1995-96 are available in the Library of the House.

The Ministry of Defence has limited internal consultancy resources, which it prioritises to support the Department's key business areas. The use of internal resources is always fully considered before engaging external consultancy assistance.

The Ministry of Defence recognises the benefits that can be gained from external consultancy assistance in driving forward its new management and business initiatives, but it is important that it is only commissioned when it can be demonstrated to be both appropriate, cost-effective and delivering value for money.

Details of contracts awarded in the last 12 months to the named companies are as follows:

Purpose	*Total contract value* (£)
KPMG	
MOD Streamlining (To design and help implement a programme to deliver the training, structural, behavioural, process and system changes required to Streamline the MOD Head Office and meet the required savings targets. In addition to this provide support to define and create a Corporate Services model for Defence)	4,000,000
Future Lynx Training Service Project Financial Services Support (To provide a synthetic training service for aircrew, ground crew and maintainers, and will include refresher and conversion to type training)	47,000
Corporate Financial Assistance Strategic Advice (External Assistance to provide a Strategic Advisory Service to the MOD's Maritime Industrial Strategy Team)	109,000
PricewaterhouseCoopers	
Independent Review into the Nuclear Weapons Capability Sustainment	515,000
External Assistance for Blueprint Consultancy (To set out the strategic direction for the People, Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA) ensuring a programme of change that is coherent, aligned and will achieve the desired end state by the agreed timeframe)	550,000
External Consultancy assistance for high level review of proposed new rates for MOD Employers Pension Contributions Payments	17,000
Benchmarking of Human Resources Shared Services (To measure and benchmark the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of key Human Resources processes that are delivered through Human Resources shared services in Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA). This will allow SPVA to benchmark itself against public and private sector peers, including MOD's People, Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA), highlighting best practice)	25,000
Ernst and Young	
No contracts awarded	
McKinsey	
No contracts awarded	
Deloitte	
Commercial Support for the Beyond Visual Range Air to Air Missile (BVRAAM) Project. (Provision of a short-term external commercial resource as part of the team to support a review of the BVRAAM Integrated Project Team)	46,000
External assistance Support to 16 Air Assault Brigade on Lean Transformation Programme—covering Support in applying the principles and techniques of Lean process design to the end to end support chain	113,000

Purpose	Total contract value (£)
Strategic Client Adviser (The Future Submarine Project Team requires impartial independent expert support in order to provide programme assurance to give confidence to the Team Leader and MOD stakeholders that the team's plans and activities make best use of the available resource)	2,000,000
Provide Independent financial review of the long term partnering agreement with BAE Systems	45,000
Independent Financial Review for future aircraft carrier (External Assistance to conduct an assessment of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance cost-model prior to the Future Aircraft Carrier (CVF) manufacture contract signature and to support to CVF Integrated Project Team and Commercial Project Enablement Team in analysis of the supporting Shipyard estimate)	550,000
Development of Flexible Resourcing Approach for Defence Equipment and Support External Assistance support to design and pilot a Flexible Resourcing approach within Defence Equipment and Support. Flexible Resourcing is an industry-tested approach for maximising the utilisation of people resource within an organisation	448,000
Enquiry by Design Event (External assistance advice for the provision of financial support in analysis of data with a view to testing the feasibility of a Defence Estates Project)	10,000
Defence Equipment and Support Director General Safety and Engineering (DGSE) PACE (Performance, Agility, Confidence, Efficiency) for Value Stream Analysis—requirement for Consultancy Support in applying the principles and techniques of lean process design to the end to end support chain	108,000
External assistance for the maritime industrial strategy corporate finance accountancy support	268,000

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil Service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199623]

Derek Twigg: The number of permanent civil service posts is not held centrally. The following tables show the number of permanent civilian personnel employed by the Department on a monthly basis since May 2005.

MOD permanent personnel—1 May 2005 to 1 March 2008

Date of strength	MOD less trading funds	Trading funds	Headcount Total
May 2005	80,240	10,720	90,960
June 2005	80,020	10,630	90,660
July 2005	79,720	10,570	90,280
August 2005	79,610	10,540	90,150
September 2005	79,210	10,490	89,700
October 2005	78,900	10,400	89,300
November 2005	78,790	10,350	89,140
December 2005	78,710	10,250	88,960
January 2006	77,490	10,970	88,460
February 2006	77,360	10,970	88,320
March 2006	77,210	10,950	88,160

Date of strength	MOD less trading funds	Trading funds	Headcount Total
April 2006	76,640	10,720	87,360
May 2006	76,360	10,650	87,010
June 2006	76,180	10,610	86,790
July 2006	75,870	10,560	86,430
August 2006	75,290	10,580	85,870
September 2006	74,890	10,560	85,450
October 2006	74,590	10,530	85,120
November 2006	74,280	10,500	84,780
December 2006	74,170	10,490	84,660
January 2007	73,780	10,390	84,170
February 2007	73,640	10,380	84,020
March 2007	73,250	10,380	83,640

Date of strength	MOD less trading funds	Trading funds	Headcount Total
April 2007	72,700	10,100	82,800
May 2007	72,280	10,090	82,370
Jun 2007	72,060	10,090	82,150
Jul 2007	71,800	10,060	81,860
Aug 2007	71,160	10,070	81,230
September 2007	70,800	10,070	80,870
October 2007	70,560	10,140	80,700

Date of strength	MOD less trading funds	Trading funds	Headcount Total
November 2007	70,380	10,160	80,540
December 2007	69,970	10,310	80,280
January 2008	69,450	10,280	79,730
February 2008	69,270	10,380	79,640
March 2008	69,080	10,360	79,440

1. The tables above include all non-industrial and industrial permanent staff, (casual staff are excluded).
2. Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally engaged civilians overseas are excluded because data regarding their permanent or casual status are not centrally held.
3. The figures shown are a headcount, i.e. part-time staff are counted with equal weight to full-time staff.
4. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.
5. Figures are individually rounded and may not sum precisely to the totals shown.

Data for permanent non-civil service personnel and temporary or agency workers employed over the period are not centrally held on the Department's human resources management system (HRMS) and could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* the UK's special envoy to Iraq had with representatives of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq on policy on *(a)* de-Ba'athification of Iraq and *(b)* disbandment of the Iraqi army in 2003; what representations they made to the CPA on the subjects; and what the Government's policy was on both subjects. [194407]

Des Browne: Government officials held regular discussions with coalition partners, including those in the Coalition Provisional Authority, on issues concerning the reconstruction of Iraq. As Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and I have explained previously, events moved very quickly in the aftermath of the removal of Saddam Hussein and it should be remembered that by the end of initial hostilities, the Iraqi army had effectively dissolved itself. There was at the same time overwhelming popular pressure throughout Iraq for de-Ba'athification to begin, reflecting the suffering and resentment among ordinary Iraqis arising from three decades of repression by Saddam Hussein's regime. Policy and plans therefore remained fluid in light of developments on the ground.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199618]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD made a payment of £41,000 to J P Morgan in 2003-04 for consultancy services associated with the implementation of an economic offset programme with a foreign government. No other payments were made centrally to the company in the years 1997-98 to 2007-08 inclusive.

We only hold centrally information on transactions made by our Financial Management Shared Service Centre, representing about 95 per cent. of all MOD payments. We have, therefore, not included payments which may have been made on behalf of other Government Departments, by the MOD's trading funds (which lie outside our accounting boundary), locally in the Department, or in support of joint venture/alliance or international collaborative projects.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199604]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Payments made to Zurich Financial Services by the Ministry of Defence since 1997 are shown in the following table:

Financial year	Purpose	Payment (£)
2004-05	Purchase vehicle insurance	1,092
2005-06	Purchase vehicle insurance	562

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessors since May 1997. [198296]

Mr. Lammy: Since May 1977 within the current Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, and the relevant policy areas within its predecessors, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Education and Skills, legislation was amended in 2005 relating to one are of criminal law.

The Patents Act 1977 was amended to narrow a pre-existing criminal offence. The relevant law changed on 1 January 2005.

While further analysis might reveal additional information pertinent to the DIUS predecessors, this could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of *(a)* salaries for permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department was in each month since May 2005. [199549]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was set up on 28 June 2008. The information sought is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the annual spend to 31 March 2008 for permanent civil service posts was £38.4 million, including overtime, and for temporary and agency workers it was £33,000 and £1.1 million respectively.

The Department has no permanent non-civil service posts.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department since its establishment. [198963]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was established on 28 June 2008 as part of the Machinery of Government changes. In the period since its formation, employees of the Department have taken, on average, 9.9 days sickness absence.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress since establishment, broken down by pay grade. [198972]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was set up as part of the machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2008. Electronic records for the Department are presently maintained on two data bases in the legacy Departments from which staff were transferred when DIUS was formed. It would involve disproportionate cost to obtain the level of detail required to answer this question. However, the percentage of working days lost by the Department's staff attributed to mental health related conditions during the nine months from July 2007 to March 2009 amounted to 12 per cent. of all sickness absence.

The Department is committed to providing a safe working environment and has put in place a range of measures to support all employees on health and wellbeing issues, including the provision of professional counselling and occupational health services.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full-time posts in his Department were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in each year since establishment. [200665]

Mr. Lammy: The Department was set up on 28 June 2008 as part of the machinery of government changes. The information sought is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of people from each UCAS tariff band from each socio-economic group *(a)* were applicants for and *(b)* were accepted for full-time undergraduate degree courses in the last year for which information is available; [196657]

(2) how many and what proportion of applicants from each socio-economic group for full-time undergraduate courses were in each UCAS tariff band in the last year for which figures are available. [196658]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information for the 2007 year of entry from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is shown in the table. This table covers applicants and accepted applicants to all full-time undergraduate courses that are covered by UCAS broken down by tariff band and socio-economic background.

The number and proportion of applicants from each socio-economic group to full-time undergraduate courses from each UCAS tariff band can also be found in the table.

Number and proportion of English domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to all full—time undergraduate courses[1] from each UCAS tariff band and national statistics socio—economic classification (NS—SEC) Year of entry 2007

		Applicants		*Accepted applicants*	
Tariff Band	*NS—SEC Group*	*Number*	*Percentage of known*	*Number*	*Percentage of known*
0[2]	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	11,124	13.6	8,233	14.1
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	23,376	28.7	16,764	28.8
	3. Intermediate occupations	13,322	16.3	9,345	16.0
	4. Small employers and own account workers	5,743	7.0	4,247	7.3
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	3,130	3.8	2,337	4.0
	6. Semi—routine occupations	18,120	22.2	12,462	21.4
	7. Routine occupations	6,683	8.2	4,861	8.3
	Total Known	81,498	100.0	58,249	100.0
	Unknown	61,134	—	45,837	—
	Total	142,632	—	104,086	—
	Number of known in groups 1—3	47,822	58.7	34,342	59.0
	Number of known in groups 4—7	33,676	41.3	23,907	41.0
1 - 119	1. Higher managerial and professional occupants	2,499	13.2	1,878	13.6

Number and proportion of English domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to all full—time undergraduate courses[1] from each UCAS tariff band and national statistics socio—economic classification (NS—SEC): Year of entry 2007

		Applicants		Accepted applicants	
Tariff Band	*NS—SEC Group*	*Number*	*Percentage of known*	*Number*	*Percentage of known*
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	5,258	27.8	3,837	27.9
	3. Intermediate occupations	2,599	13.8	1,919	13.9
	4. Small employers and own account workers	1,878	9.9	1,337	9.7
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1,168	6.2	832	6.0
	6. Semi—routine occupations	3,658	19.4	2,653	19.3
	7. Routine occupations	1,833	9.7	1,309	9.5
	Total Known	18,893	100.0	13,761	100.0
	Unknown	6,828	—	4,849	—
	Total	25,721	—	18,610	—
	Number of known in groups 1—3	10,356	54.8	7,630	55
	Number of known in groups 4—7	8,537	452	6,131	44.6
120-239	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	6,633	17.6	5,404	17.9
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	11,432	30.3	9,204	30.5
	3. Intermediate occupations	5,067	13.4	4,037	13.4
	4. Small employers and own account workers	3,526	9.3	2,756	9.1
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	2,275	6.0	1,795	5.9
	6. Semi—routine occupations	5,934	15.7	4,714	15.6
	7. Routine occupations	2,893	7.7	2,262	7.5
	Total Known	37,760	100.0	30,172	100.0
	Unknown	10,019	—	7,886	—
	Total	47,779	—	38,058	—
	Number of known in groups 1—3	23,132	61.3	18,645	61.8
	Number of known in groups 4—7	14,628	38.7	11,527	38.2
240-359	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	15,026	23.1	13,299	23.2
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	21,011	32.2	18,510	32.3
	3. Intermediate occupations	9,024	13.8	7,993	13.9
	4. Small employers and own account workers	5,347	8.2	4,657	8.1
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	3,384	5.2	2,955	5.2
	6. Semi—routine occupations	7,926	12.2	6,931	12.1
	7. Routine occupations	3,456	5.3	3,008	5.2
	Total Known	65,174	100.0	57,344	100.0
	Unknown	12,831	—	11,101	—
	Total	78,005		68,445	—
	Number of known in groups 1—3	45,061	69.1	39,793	69.4
	Number of known in groups 4—7	20,113	30.9	17,551	30.6
360-479	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	16,072	31.1	14,571	31.3
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	17,122	33.1	15,453	33.1
	3. Intermediate occupations	6,808	11.2	6,169	13.2
	4. Small employers and own account workers	3,438	6.6	3,084	6.6
	5. Lower supervisory and technical Occupations	2,079	4.0	1,874	4.0
	6. Semi—routine occupations	4,451	8.6	3,928	8.4
	7. Routine occupations	1337	3.4	1,532	3.3
	Total Known	51,707	100.0	46,619	100.0
	Unknown	7,759	—	6,885	—
	Total	59,466	—	53,504	—
	Number of known in groups 1—3	40,002	77.4	36,201	77.7
	Number of known in groups 4—7	11,705	22.6	10,418	22.3

Number and proportion of English domiciled applicants and accepted applicants to all full-time undergraduate courses[1] from each UCAS tariff band and national statistics socio-economic classification (NS-SEC), Year of entry 2007

		Applicants		Accepted applicants	
Tariff Band	*NS-SEC Group*	*Number*	*Percentage of known*	*Number*	*Percentage of known*
480 and over	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	9,084	38.6	8,408	38.8
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	7,509	31.9	6,962	32.2
	3. Intermediate occupations	2,950	12.5	2,721	12.6
	4. Small employers and own account Workers	1,092	4.6	984	4.5
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	699	3.0	651	3.0
	6. Semi-routine occupations	1,674	7.1	1,466	6.8
	7. Routine occupations	531	2.3	459	2.1
	Total Known	23,539	100.0	21,651	100.0
	Unknown	2,935		2,605	
	Total	26,474		24,256	
	Number of known in groups 1-3	19,543	83.0	18,091	83.6
	Number of known in groups 4-7	3,996	17.0	3,560	16.4
Total	1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	66,438	21.7	51,792	22.7
	2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	85,708	30.8	70,726	31.0
	3. Intermediate occupations	39,770	14.3	32,184	14.1
	4. Small employers and own account workers	21,024	7.5	17,065	7.5
	5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	12,735	4.6	10,444	4.6
	6. Semi-routine occupations	41,763	15.0	32,154	14.1
	7. Routine occupations	17,133	6.2	13,431	5.9
	Total Known	278,571	100.0	227,796	100.0
	Unknown	101,506		79,163	
	Total	380,077		306,959	
	Number of known in groups 1-3	185,916	66.7	154,702	67.9
	Number of known in groups 4-7	92,655	33.3	73,094	32.1

[1] Includes applicants and accepted applicants to all full-time undergraduate courses that are covered by UCAS.
[2] Applicants and accepted applicants in the tariff band of zero either had qualifications that were not covered buy the UCAS tariff or their tariff score was unknown.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2006, applicants to full-time undergraduate courses who had been accepted for entry in 2007, rose by 6.1 per cent. to 307,000 the highest ever. Latest figures for students applying for entry in 2008, show that applicants in England are up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2007.

Higher Education: Admissions

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on (*a*) the targets each member of the Russell Group of Universities has set itself for widening participation for students from poorer backgrounds in the last two years and (*b*) performance against those targets. [196284]

Bill Rammell: Information on targets for widening participation for students from poorer backgrounds for each member of the Russell Group is not available. The Department does not set targets for individual institutions and does not hold information on targets they may set themselves.

Information in the tables is taken from table T1a of the Performance Indicators in Higher Education. Figures from the academic years of 1997-98 to 2001-02 was published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), and figures from the 2002-03 academic year onwards were published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures for the 2006-07 academic year will become available in June this year.

The figures in table 1 show the proportions of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at Russell Group higher education institutions in the UK who were from lower social classes/lower socio-economic classes from 1997-98 to 2005-06, along with the benchmarks for each institution. In the 2002-03 academic year the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) was first introduced. It replaced the Social Class (SC) classification, and the two classifications cannot be directly compared.

The figures in table 2 show the proportions of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at Russell Group higher education institutions in the UK who were from low participation neighbourhoods from 1997-98 to 2005-06, along with the benchmarks for each institution.

For each institution, the performance indicator is shown against a benchmark. This is a sector average which is adjusted for each institution to take into account the following factors: subject of study,

qualifications on entry and age on entry. The benchmarks can be used to show how a university is performing compared to the sector as a whole, and also help to determine whether a meaningful comparison can be drawn between two or more universities. The benchmarks are not targets.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled young[1] entrants to full-time first degree courses at Russell Group institutions who were from lower social classes/lower socio-economic classes[2]

	Social class IIIM, IV, V[2]									
	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Russell Group HEIs	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark
The University of Birmingham	17.1	18.6	16.7	18.8	19.2	20.1	18.9	19.9	21.0	20.0
The University of Bristol	10.6	16.3	9.1	16.3	10.7	16.3	10.7	16.4	11.0	16.0
The University of Cambridge[3]	7.8	11.4	8.1	12.4	8.6	12.5	9.1	12.7	9.0	14.0
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	13.3	16.6	16.8	16.5	17.0	16.5	14.5	16.5	14.0	16.0
King's College London	18.4	20.2	17.2	19.1	18.6	19.3	19.6	19.0	17.0	20.0
The University of Leeds	15.4	19.5	15.3	19.2	15.6	19.6	16.3	19.4	16.0	20.0
The University of Liverpool	22.0	20.8	21.3	21.1	22.2	22.2	21.3	22.2	22.0	23.0
London School of Economics and Political Science	11.9	15.5	12.5	16.1	12.5	14.8	15.9	15.8	18.0	16.0
The University of Manchester	16.7	19.1	17.9	19.1	17.6	19.8	19.0	19.5	19.0	20.0
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	16.8	20.0	15.0	19.9	16.3	20.4	16.7	20.9	17.0	22.0
The University of Nottingham	13.8	17.1	13.2	17.5	14.5	17.3	14.0	17.7	15.0	18.0
The University of Oxford	7.8	12.5	9.1	13.3	8.9	12.9	9.6	13.3	9.0	13.0
The University of Sheffield	17.3	18.2	17.6	17.8	17.0	18.1	18.5	18.6	18.0	19.0
The University of Southampton	17.4	21.5	17.5	21.5	17.5	21.5	17.4	20.7	18.0	22.0
University College London	13.9	18.0	14.4	17.9	13.9	17.7	14.9	17.8	15.0	18.0
The University of Warwick	16.9	17.2	15.8	17.7	14.4	17.0	15.3	17.4	15.0	17.0
Cardiff University	11.0	18.0	13.3	19.6	14.2	19.6	12.8	18.8	19.0	21.0
The University of Edinburgh	21.0	20.7	21.0	20.9	21.0	21.8	20.9	21.5	15.0	19.0
The University of Glasgow	20.3	20.7	20.1	20.6	19.1	21.1	18.2	20.9	21.0	22.0
Queen's University Belfast	27.4	19.9	29.6	20.9	29.9	21.0	27.5	20.6	31.0	22.0

	NS-SEC[4] 4, 5, 6, 7							
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Russell Group HEIs	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark
The University of Birmingham	22.1	22.0	22.6	23.5	21.6	23.2	19.9	23.5
The University of Bristol	13.7	20.0	14.1	21.4	13.4	19.6	16.4	20.7
The University of Cambridge[3]	11.3	17.3	11.4	18.2	12.4	17.8	n/a	n/a
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	17.9	19.7	17.9	21.0	18.7	20.6	17.3	20.8
King's College London	22.7	23.0	21.0	22.2	20.5	22.4	21.3	22.8
The University of Leeds	19.9	23.7	19.6	24.1	19.2	23.1	18.9	25.7
The University of Liverpool	25.2	25.7	25.3	25.8	23.5	24.7	23.6	25.1
London School of Economics and Political Science	18.0	19.8	17.3	20.4	19.5	19.6	17.5	19.4
The University of Manchester	21.7	22.2	21.0	23.2	21.2	22.3	20.7	23.0

NS-SEC 4, 5, 6, 7

Russell Group HEIs	2002-03 %	2002-03 Benchmark	2003-04 %	2003-04 Benchmark	2004-05 %	2004-05 Benchmark	2005-06 %	2005-06 Benchmark
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	20.4	23.9	20.9	23.8	19.5	23.3	20.3	23.6
The University of Nottingham	16.9	21.0	16.1	21.6	15.7	20.7	16.9	22.3
The University of Oxford	11.0	17.2	11.5	17.8	12.3	17.3	11.4	18.3
The University of Sheffield	19.0	21.9	19.8	22.0	20.0	21.8	21.3	22.6
The University of Southampton	18.6	24.7	20.0	24.2	19.1	23.3	20.0	24.1
University College London	17.8	22.1	17.3	21.5	17.9	20.4	17.5	20.5
The University of Warwick	17.8	22.0	18.6	20.9	17.7	20.0	16.7	20.7
Cardiff University	22.5	23.7	21.8	24.5	21.7	24.0	21.1	24.9
The University of Edinburgh	17.8	21.8	15.3	21.9	17.1	20.8	17.7	21.5
The University of Glasgow	22.9	23.2	22.8	23.3	22.7	23.2	23.7	23.1
Queen's University Belfast	36.0	26.1	36.0	26.7	34.4	25.9	34.4	26.9

n/a = not available

[1] 'Young' refers to entrants who are under 21-years-old.

[2] Due to a change in classification, from social class to socio-economic class in 2001, figures prior to 2001 and figures from 2002 onwards cannot be directly compared.

[3] The University of Cambridge has taken the opportunity of a new student record system to review the recording of student data. This change prevented the submission of data suitable for presentation at an institutional level in the 2005-06 academic year. A full set of data will be included in this year's publication.

Source:

Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young[1] entrants to full-time first degree courses at Russell Group institutions who were from low participation neighbourhoods

Russell Group HEIs	1997-98 %	1997-98 Benchmark	1998-99 %	1998-99 Benchmark	1999-2000 %	1999-2000 Benchmark	2000-01 %	2000-01 Benchmark	2001-02 %	2001-02 Benchmark
The University of Birmingham	8.2	9.0	8.2	9.3	8.1	10.0	9.0	9.8	9.5	10.2
The University of Bristol	3.6	8.1	4.5	8.4	4.8	8.3	4.3	8.1	4.8	8.3
The University of Cambridge[3]	4.3	6.5	4.8	6.3	5.5	6.9	4.7	6.7	4.9	7.4
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	5.1	7.9	6.4	8.4	5.6	8.2	6.8	8.0	6.9	8.3
King's College London	8.2	9.8	7.8	9.6	7.8	9.7	6.7	9.4	6.9	10.1
The University of Leeds	7.9	9.4	8.3	9.5	7.8	9.8	8.4	9.6	9.5	10.3
The University of Liverpool	12.3	10.2	12.0	10.4	13.4	11.0	13.1	11.2	13.7	11.5
London School of Economics and Political Science	6.8	7.9	5.9	8.3	5.2	7.8	6.7	7.7	8.6	8.7
The University of Manchester	8.6	9.3	9.5	9.6	9.9	9.9	10.5	9.8	12.5	10.3
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	9.3	9.6	9.8	9.6	10.1	10.0	10.5	10.3	10.7	10.8
The University of Nottingham	7.2	8.2	6.9	8.5	6.4	8.6	7.2	8.6	6.3	9.0
The University of Oxford	4.4	6.7	4.4	7.0	5.6	7.1	5.6	7.1	4.7	7.2
The University of Sheffield	7.8	8.8	9.2	8.7	9.7	9.0	8.9	9.1	10.1	9.6
The University of Southampton	6.3	10.4	6.1	10.6	6.2	10.4	6.4	10.0	6.5	10.6
University College London	6.3	8.9	5.2	9.1	6.1	9.0	5.5	8.9	5.2	9.3
The University of Warwick	6.7	8.5	6.8	8.9	6.7	8.8	6.9	8.7	7.3	9.0
Cardiff University	7.4	8.9	11.1	10.0	9.9	10.2	9.6	10.3	9.2	10.3
The University of Edinburgh	15.1	10.2	8.8	9.8	8.1	9.9	7.3	9.4	8.1	10.1
The University of Glasgow	9.9	10.0	14.5	10.4	15.6	11.0	17.1	10.8	17.1	11.3
Queen's University Belfast	9.0	9.8	8.9	10.1	8.4	10.2	7.9	10.0	9.6	10.7

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Russell Group HEIs	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark	%	Benchmark
The University of Birmingham	11.1	10.9	10.1	11.4	9.5	11.0	8.9	11.0
The University of Bristol	5.7	9.7	5.7	10.0	5.2	9.1	5.5	9.3
The University of Cambridge[2]	5.4	8.9	6.1	8.9	5.3	8.7	n/a	n/a
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	6.5	9.6	7.5	10.1	8.4	9.2	7.1	8.9
King's College London	7.9	10.8	8.6	10.6	6.4	10.3	8.2	10.6
The University of Leeds	9.9	11.3	9.4	11.9	9.4	10.8	8.9	10.9
The University of Liverpool	14.9	12.0	14.1	12.2	13.6	11.6	12.6	11.7
London School of Economics and Political Science	6.3	9.9	6.7	10.2	4.3	9.0	7.8	9.1
The University of Manchester	10.5	10.7	11.8	11.0	10.3	10.5	10.8	10.4
The University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	10.2	11.1	9.7	11.0	10.3	10.8	10.6	10.7
The University of Nottingham	6.7	10.3	6.6	10.2	6.7	9.6	5.9	10.0
The University of Oxford	5.8	9.2	5.8	8.8	4.6	8.4	5.0	8.5
The University of Sheffield	9.5	10.5	9.1	10.5	11.1	10.2	9.9	10.4
The University of Southampton	5.5	11.5	7.0	11.6	5.6	10.8	6.4	11.0
University College London	6.4	11.1	6.5	10.3	6.4	9.6	6.3	9.4
The University of Warwick	7.6	11.3	8.1	10.1	6.9	9.4	7.0	9.5
Cardiff University	9.7	11.1	10.4	11.7	9.2	11.4	10.2	11.6
The University of Edinburgh	8.9	10.9	8.7	10.8	8.2	10.1	9.0	10.1
The University of Glasgow	16.8	11.2	15.8	11.5	16.7	11.3	15.8	11.1
Queen's University Belfast	9.1	11.7	8.2	13.0	8.2	12.2	10.61	12.4

n/a = not available
[1] 'Young' refers to entrants who are under 21-years-old
[2] The University of Cambridge has taken the opportunity of a new student record system to review the recording of student data. This change prevented the submission of data suitable for presentation at an institutional level in the 2005-06 academic year. A full set of data will be included in this year's publication.

Higher Education: Scholarships

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of levels of awareness of the availability of bursaries and scholarships for higher education; and if he will make a statement. [190838]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* As part of the evaluation of the recent Student Finance communications campaign, we have assessed the level of awareness of bursaries among both students aged 16 to 19 and their parents.

The research data show that 38 per cent. of parents and 32 per cent. of students are aware of the availability of bursaries as a result of the campaign.

The responsibility for promoting bursaries and scholarships rests primarily with the universities and colleges who offer higher education courses.

We continue to support the work of universities and colleges through the Department's own communications activity and make efforts to raise awareness of bursaries alongside all other elements of the higher education student finance package.

More broadly, post campaign research shows that currently 81 per cent. of students and 80 per cent. of parents are now aware that there is financial support available for students.

The most recent campaign has shown a marked increase in the awareness of the specific messages relating to non-repayable maintenance grants.

The latest tracking research shows that 93 per cent. of parents and 88 per cent. of students had watched the campaign on TV. And that 99 per cent. of parents and 94 per cent. of students had seen the campaign on any of the media used. Although the campaign has non repayable grants as its focus it uses messages on all elements of the student finance package and therefore works to promote bursaries.

One of the main calls to action by the campaign is to visit the campaign website which contains the bursary map. Visitors can use this tool, which is actively updated by DIUS, to find out what bursaries are available from the HEIs they are interested in attending.

Midwifery Students

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many midwifery students there were in each year since 1997; [183633]

(2) when he plans to answer Question 183633, tabled on 28 January 2008, on midwifery students. [198340]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

The number of students entering training to become a midwife is shown in the following table.

National health service midwifery training places commissioned each year

	1996-7	1999-2000	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]
Degree	161	395	621	709	753	895	1,042	788	1,059
Diploma	498	620	525	724	716	744	517	648	651
Other	993	757	732	677	757	735	661	554	398
Total	1,562	1,772	1,878	2,110	2,226	2,374	2,220	1,990	2,100

[1] Actual figure will not be confirmed until May 2008 *Source:* Quarterly monitoring returns.

Students: Identity Cards

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether international and overseas students will have to be in possession of or use an identity card in order to access study at English higher education institutions in 2009-10 or in any subsequent years. [195306]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The rollout strategy for issuing identity cards to foreign nationals is set out in "Introducing compulsory identity cards for foreign nationals", which was published on 6 March 2008. This means, that from November 2008, foreign national students, subject to immigration control, and who apply for leave to remain in the United Kingdom, will be required to apply for an identity card issued under the UK Borders Act 2007. Eventually, all foreign nationals, subject to immigration control, including students with existing leave, will be required to apply for an identity card.

The identity card will provide evidence that the holder has leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom as a student. Foreign nationals issued with an identity card will be required to produce it when asked to provide evidence that they are entitled to study at an educational institution.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reports by each *(a)* Government Department and *(b)* Executive agency of incidents were made under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 according to records held by the (i) Incident Contact Centre and (ii) Health and Safety Executive. [198074]

Mrs. McGuire: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Leaflets

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are made for customer testing of the public information leaflets issued by his Department; and what proposals there are for the *(a)* recording and *(b)* evaluation of such tests. [195769]

Mrs. McGuire: All 66 public information leaflets that are being produced by the Department have been tested with customers prior to publication and general release.

The results of this testing have been used to further develop the leaflets' content and, where necessary, leaflets have been rewritten and tested again in order to ensure that issues identified by customers have been addressed. The central team that has produced the leaflets maintains a record of the testing that has taken place for each leaflet and the Department has undertaken to test all its leaflets with customers in the future.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [199035]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions spends money on a wide range of marketing and publicity goods and services which include advertising. Spend on advertising includes the development of advertising campaigns and the purchase of advertising space in regional and national newspapers, television and radio.

From April 2007 to December 2007, DWP spent £5,221,000 on all its advertising from development through to publication. This figure includes the cost of HR recruitment advertising which totalled £1,228,000.

DWP also purchases a range of marketing and publicity services which include but are not limited to: design, conferences, translation services, British Sign Language, research, digital media and PR. The overall spend for marketing and publicity services from April 2007 to December 2007 was £20,384,000.

Departmental Sustainable Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to publish its sustainable operations policy statement. [195882]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department's Sustainable Development Policy Statement includes our approach to both environmental and social sustainability for DWP and is available on our internet site. Additionally, the second DWP Sustainable Development Action Plan, published in October 2007, contains future plans for the delivery of all our operational targets and is also on our internet site.

Health and Safety Executive: Pay

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people employed by the Health and Safety Executive had salaries between *(a)* £20,000 to £30,000, *(b)* £30,000 to £40,000, *(c)* £40,000 to £50,000, *(d)* £50,000 to £60,000, *(e)* £60,000 to £70,000, *(f)* £70,000 to £80,000, *(g)* £80,000 to £90,000,

(h) £90,000 to £100,000, *(i)* £100,000 to £110,000, *(j)* £110,000 to £120,000, *(k)* £120,000 to £130,000, *(l)* £130,000 to £140,000, *(m)* £140,000 to £150,000, *(n)* £150,000 to £160,000, *(o)* £160,000 to £170,000, *(p)* £170,000 to £180,000, *(q)* £180,000 to £190,000, *(r)* £190,000 to £200,000 and *(s)* over £200,000 in each of the last 30 years; and what the (i) mean and (ii) median salary of employees was in each of those years. [198498]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table shows the salaries ranges, the median and the mean information requested for HSE staff from 1999 to 2007. Information before 1999 could only be extracted at disproportionate cost.

Number

Lower-range	*Higher range*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
£10,000	£20,000	1804	1652	1684	1552	1283	1192	1058	939	851
£20,000	£30,000	1029	1006	1122	1199	1060	1120	1164	974	687
£30,000	£40,000	655	693	703	744	843	855	855	973	1139
£40,000	£50,000	403	464	463	492	477	522	516	416	370
£50,000	£60,000	197	216	236	254	278	296	270	431	341
£60,000	£70,000	20	24	34	66	73	85	87	104	194
£70,000	£80,000	9	9	9	12	12	12	23	25	52
£80,000	£90,000	2	4	6	7	5	4	11	12	7
£90,000	£100,000	1	1	1	5	8	6	2	2	6
£100,000	£110,000	2	1	1	0	0	1	3	3	3
£110,000	£120,000	0	2	2	4	1	1	1	2	2
£120,000	£130,000	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0
£130,000	£140,000	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	2
£140,000	£150,000	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
£150,000	£160,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
£160,000	£170,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
£170,000	£180,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£180,000	£190,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
£190,000	£200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total[1]		4,122	4,072	4,262	4,336	4,043	4,096	3,993	3,883	3,655
Median[2]		22,620	23,910	23,925	25,058	27,259	27,381	28,021	30,058	31,037
Mean[2]		25,475	26,752	27,128	28,307	29,534	30,155	31,038	32,472	34,221

[1] The total figures are based on headcount. Comparison of these figures and those presented in HSC/E Annual Report are different due to the basis of collection and calculation.
[2] The median and mean calculations are based on actual salary figures.

Health and Safety Executive: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pension of the Chief Executive of the Health and Safety Executive.[1] [198499]

Mrs. McGuire: The total value of the remuneration package, including the value of the public sector pension, for the chief executive of the Health and Safety Executive is published each year, in June, in the annual accounts. In the latest published information available for 2006-07 accounting year the cash equivalent transfer value is £1,806,000.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what pension scheme is offered to staff joining the Health and Safety Executive; what the rate of employer contributions to the scheme is; and if he will place in the Library a copy of terms and benefits of the scheme. [198500]

Mrs. McGuire: Staff joining HSE after 30 July 2007 are offered the opportunity to join the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). Within the PCSPS there is a choice of two schemes, either the civil service nuvos pension scheme or a partnership pension where they choose a pension provider from an approved panel.

The majority of people choose to join the nuvos scheme and the employer contributions from 1 April 2008 are:

Band	*Salary (£)*	*Rates from 1 April 2008 (percentage)*
1	19,500 and under	17.1
2	19,501 to 40,500	19.5
3	40,501 to 69,000	23.2
4	69,001 and over	25.5

If they choose a partnership pension the employer contributions are:

A percentage of pensionable earnings which varies according to the employee's age as at the beginning of the tax year (that is, as at the last 6 April) and so it may increase in the future.

Employer contributions

Age at the last 6 April	*Percentage of pensionable earnings*
Under 21	3
21 to 25	4.5
26 to 30	6.5

1. *[Official Report, 17 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 9MC.]*

Employer contributions

Age at the last 6 April	*Percentage of pensionable earnings*
31 to 35	8
36 to 40	10
41 to 45	11.5
46 or over	12.5

On top of this HSE match any regular contributions made up to an additional 3 per cent. of pensionable earnings.

Full details of the terms and benefits of the PCSPS are available on the civil service pensions website

www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

including the current scheme rules and publications.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a mesothelioma compensation claim made under the provisions of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill will be required to be submitted within 12 months of the diagnosis of the disease being made; what exceptions to a time limit for submission of claims will apply; and whether an award of compensation for mesothelioma will be required to be paid within six weeks of a claim being lodged.[1] [198747]

Mrs. McGuire: There will be a 12 month time limit for claiming a lump sum payment under the new mesothelioma scheme proposed in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, but the time limit can be extended if there are good reasons for a delayed claim.

The intention of the scheme is to make payments as quickly as possible and the 12 month time limit is designed to encourage claims to be made as quickly as possible after diagnosis to enable claimants to receive money in life; it is not intended to exclude people from receiving a payment at all.

For this reason, we intend that the 12 month time limit to claims to the new mesothelioma scheme from sufferers during the scheme's first year of operation.

We expect lump sum payments under the new mesothelioma scheme to be made within six weeks of a claim, although this is not a legal requirement.

Industrial Health and Safety: Construction

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people employed in the construction industry in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK have died in the workplace in each year since 1997. [198838]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table shows the numbers of reportable fatal injuries to workers in the construction industry. This does not include deaths in the workplace that are unrelated to work activities. The available geographic data do not allow the constituency of Jarrow to be identified.

Fatal injuries to workers in the construction industry[1] as reported to all enforcing authorities 1997-98 to 2006-07[2]

	South Tyneside[3]		*North East[4]*		*Great Britain[5]*	
	Employees	*Self-employed*	*Employees*	*Self-employed*	*Employees*	*Self-employed*
1997-98	—	—	2	1	58	22
1998-99	—	—	—	—	47	18
1999-2000	—	—	—	—	61	20
2000-01	—	—	1	—	73	32
2001-02	—	—	8	—	60	20
2002-03	—	—	1	—	56	14
2003-04	—	1	3	1	52	19
2004-05	—	—	—	1	55	14
2005-06	—	—	2	1	43	17
2006-07	—	—	—	1	50	27

[1] Identified by Standard Industrial Classification 1992 (SIC92) Section F-Construction.
[2] Provisional.
[3] Identified by local authority code 4520 'South Tyneside'.
[4] Identified by Government Office Region and includes South Tyneside LA.
[5] Includes North East Government Office Region.

Industrial Health and Safety: Fines

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average fine was imposed in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* the UK on employers for breaches of health and safety regulations in each year since 1997. [199093]

Mrs. McGuire: The average fines per conviction imposed in the North East and Great Britain for breaches of Health and Safety regulations in each year since 1997 were:

Average fine per conviction

	In the North East	*In Great Britain*
	£	£
1997-98	12,493	4,064
1998-99	3,483	4,722
1999-2000	3,139	6,450
2000-01	4,155	5,782
2001-02	2,498	7,378
2002-03	5,458	5,858
2003-04	8,257	8,519
2004-05	6,027	11,099
2005-06	3,197	224,681
2006-07	5,188	13,103

1. *[Official Report, 17 June 2008, Vol. 477, c. 10MC.]*

The majority of these fines are against employers but the figures also include other convictions against individuals such as landlords who have been fined for breaches of Health and Safety regulations.

The national figures presented are for Great Britain, and do not include figures for heath and safety in Northern Ireland. They are based on both prosecutions initiated by HSE and local authorities.

The average Great Britain fine in 2005-06 is much greater than other years as it included a large fine of £15,000,000.

The North East regional figure is based on prosecutions initiated by HSE's Field Operations Directorate and local authorities, apart from 1997-98—2000-01, where regional figures are not available for local authority prosecutions.

The average fine per conviction is based on the results where fines were imposed by the courts for individual charges laid before the courts. Prosecution cases can contain one or more charges. Only one offence may be charged in any one information laid before the courts. There may be one or more hearings of the charge in court before the court delivers a verdict on each particular offence. Each conviction is a single breach of a specific piece of health and safety legislation.

The 2006-07 value is the provisional published figure, all other figures are final.

Industrial Health and Safety: Sentencing

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employer representatives were given custodial sentences for offences for failing to comply with health and safety legislation in each year since 1997. [199092]

Mrs. McGuire: Health and safety legislation does not recognise the term 'employer representative' but does place legal duties on employers and the self-employed. The following table provides the number of custodial sentences for employers and the self-employed in Great Britain from 1999-2000 to 2006-07:

	Custodial sentences		
	Total	*Suspended prison sentence*	*Prison sentence*
1999-2000	1	1	0
2000-01	1	1	0
2001-02	0	0	0
2002-03	1	1	0
2003-04	2	2	0
2004-05	4	4	0
2005-06	3	1	2
2006-07	6	3	3

The information requested prior to 1999 is not available.

Remploy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* disabled and *(b)* non-disabled people Remploy employed in its factories on 31 March. [198244]

Mrs. McGuire: As at 31 March 2008, 3,101 disabled people and 348 non-disabled people were employed by Remploy in its factories.

Remploy: Company Cars

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what regulations cover the provision of company cars for senior management in Remploy. [199703]

Mrs. McGuire: The provision of company cars for senior managers in Remploy is an operational matter for the company. There are no specific regulations covering this.

Social Security Benefits: Inverness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed benefits in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each year since 1997, broken down by benefit claimed. [200082]

Mr. Plaskitt: Constituency information is not available prior to 2005. The available information is in the following table.

Working age and pensioner client groups, by statistical group in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, as at May each year

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
All	25,660	25,800	25,990
Job seekers	1,060	1,000	820
Incapacity benefits	4,320	4,320	4,330
Lone parent	890	870	800
Carers	900	1,000	1,030
Other income related benefits	3,680	3,790	3,770
Disabled	2,790	2,880	2,940
Bereaved	330	290	250
State pension only	11,690	11,670	12,050

Notes

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures for Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance, and Disability Living Allowance include those cases with entitlement but where payment is currently suspended (for example because of an extended stay in hospital or being in receipt of an overlapping benefit).
4. Statistical group is a hierarchical variable. A person who fits into more than one category will only appear in the top-most one for which they are eligible. Job Seeker: claimant on Jobseekers Allowance; Incapacity benefits: claimant on Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance; Lone Parent: claimant on Income Support with child under 16 and no partner; Carer: claimant entitled to Carer's Allowance; Other Income Related Benefit: claimant on Income Support or Pension Credit; Disabled: claimant on Attendance Allowance or Disability Living Allowance; Bereaved: claimant on Bereavement Benefit or Widow's Benefit; State Pension only: claimant in receipt of State Pension only. For example a claimant of Disability Living Allowance and Jobseekers Allowance would appear in "Job Seeker", not in "Disabled".

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the take-up rate of each benefit in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency was in each year since 1997; [200085]

(2) what the value of unclaimed income-related benefits in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency was in each year since 1997, broken down by benefit type. [200086]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up and the value of unclaimed benefits are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is therefore not possible to say what the take-up rate, or amount of unclaimed benefit was in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Language

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children attending *(a)* daycare and *(b)* sessions with a childminder spoke English as a second language in each year since 1997. [200554]

Beverley Hughes: Data are not collected centrally on the number or proportion of children attending full day care or childminders for whom English was a foreign language.

Departmental Flexible Working

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in his Department and its predecessors had flexible working arrangements in each year since 1997. [200578]

Kevin Brennan: Since 1997, all staff in the Department and its predecessors have had the opportunity to work flexibly. A very high proportion of staff have made use of the opportunity, including the 15 per cent. who work part-time and the over 50 per cent. who have occasionally or regularly worked at home over the last 12 months.

We do not keep records of exact figures centrally and they could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Higher Civil Servants

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of his Department's and its predecessors' senior civil service staff were women in each year since 1997. [200581]

Kevin Brennan: In December 2007 the Department had a total of 106 staff in the senior civil service, of these 48 (45.28 per cent.) were women.

The Department was formed as part of the machinery of government changes announced on 28 June 2007. Although not directly comparable due to staff changes, its predecessor was the Department for Education and Skills which had 131 staff in the senior civil service, of which 53 (40.46 per cent.) were women at December 2006. Figures for earlier years can be found in the civil service statistics archive:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessors since May 1997. [198288]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198308]

Kevin Brennan: No new offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families since July 2007.

Departmental Part-Time Employment

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of staff in his Department and its predecessors worked part-time in each year since 1997. [200582]

Kevin Brennan: The latest figures available (December 2007) record a total of 2,914 staff in the Department, of which 453 (15.59 per cent.) worked part-time.

The Department was formed as part of the Machinery of Government changes of 28 June 2007. It is therefore not exactly comparable to its predecessor, the Department for Education and Skills, but it does build on a wide range of flexible working patterns that were developed in the previous Department. As a guideline, the Department for Education and Skills had a total of 3,547 staff in December 2006, of which 521 (14.69 per cent.) worked part-time. Figures for earlier years can be found in the civil service statistics archive:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp

Departmental Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1269W, on departmental redundancy, what the cost was of redundancies in the predecessors to his Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [193357]

Kevin Brennan: Further to my previous reply (PQ 175333) that the Department for Children, Schools and Families has had no redundancies since it was formed, I can also confirm that there were no redundancies in the predecessor Department for Education and Skills in the periods described, and therefore no redundancy costs.

Departmental Vetting

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to ensure that *(a)* paid staff and *(b)* volunteers

are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check before starting work in the last 12 months. [200579]

Kevin Brennan: All individuals recruited to a regulated post or to a post where they have access to personal or sensitive data about children or vulnerable adults, have been subject to, or are currently undergoing, enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, as a matter of course.

We do not currently have any volunteers in the Department.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress his Department has made on its Parliamentary Question tracking system to record whether named day questions are provided with a substantive answer on the due day since November 2007. [199994]

Kevin Brennan: Although parts of the Department's PQ tracking system have been upgraded there is still some outstanding work to be completed on the parts of the system that provide management information reports. In the interim, the parliamentary team are maintaining a manual check on all named day questions to monitor the timeliness of replies.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the pilot Stage Not Age tests; and if he will make a statement. [201062]

Jim Knight: Single level tests are being trialled as one element of the Making Good Progress pilot, which runs from September 2007 to July 2009. One round of tests has taken place as part of the pilot, with three other test windows to follow. Making Good Progress is being independently evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers, whose final report is due in 2009.

Education: Research

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on educational research in each of the last five years. [200332]

Jim Knight: Details of the Department's expenditure on educational research for each year since 2003 are noted as follows.

	£
2003	16,523,705
2004	23,322,938
2005	20,280,123
2006	24,466,756
2007	26,770,579

Home Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children under the age of 16 years who were home educated in each year since 1997. [200323]

Jim Knight: We have made no estimate of the numbers of children under the age of 16 who were home educated in each of the years since 1997.

Languages: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many non-selective mainstream maintained schools entered 90 per cent. or more of their eligible pupils for a modern language GCSE in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; [200529]

(2) how many non-selective mainstream maintained schools entered 10 per cent. or less of their eligible pupils for a modern language GCSE in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; [200530]

(3) how many non-selective mainstream maintained schools entered no pupils for a modern language GCSE in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; [200531]

(4) how many non-selective mainstream maintained schools did not have any pupils awarded a modern language GCSE at grades A* to C in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007; [200532]

(5) how many non-selective mainstream maintained schools did not have any pupils awarded a *(a)* French and *(b)* German GCSE at (i) grades A* to C and (ii) any grade in (A) 2004, (B) 2005, (C) 2006 and (D) 2007. [200533]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Parents: Advisory Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of parenting advisers in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; what their function will be; and if he will make a statement. [200991]

Beverley Hughes: The Children's Plan announced funding for up to two 'parenting experts' in every local authority. These experts will deliver one to one and group-based support to parents as well as supporting local parenting commissioners in the implementation of their Parenting Strategy. In 2008-09, over £8 million has been allocated to fund these posts and we expect to spend around £12 million each year over 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Pre-School Education: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of childcare staff in nurseries had an appropriate level 3 or higher qualification in *(a)* Basingstoke

constituency, *(b)* Hampshire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [200563]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers survey collects information on staff qualifications that are relevant to working with children and young people. The percentage of paid staff in England holding at least a level 3 qualification for each year available is shown in the following table.

Table: Percentage of paid staff holding at least a Level 3 qualification

	2003	2005	2006
Full day care	57	63	73
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	n/a	80
Sessional	44	55	58
After school clubs	37	n/a	51
Holiday clubs	30	n/a	53
Childminders	n/a	n/a	38
Nursery schools	78	n/a	80
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	72	n/a	77
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	64	n/a	71

Notes:
1. Children's centres were included in the survey for the first time in 2006; therefore data is not available for previous years.
2. After school and holiday clubs were sampled differently in 2005 and comparable figures for this year are not available.
3. In 2006 childminders who said they held a level 3 qualification were asked whether they had a childminding certificate and if so whether they held all of the modules. Those who only held some of the modules were not classed as holding a level 3 qualification. Comparable data for previous years are not available.
4. Early years settings in maintained schools were not included in the 2005 survey.
Data are not available at a local authority level.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189657]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established in June 2007 and currently employs the full time equivalent of 20.5 press officers. It is not possible except at disproportionate cost to identify the number of press officers previously employed by the Department for Education and Skills. The Department does not hold information on non-departmental public bodies.

Primary Education: Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the minimum qualifications to *(a)* enter training to become and *(b)* take up employment as a teacher in a primary school are; and if he will make a statement. [201132]

Jim Knight: In order to enter an initial teacher training programme, trainee primary teachers must have at least a grade 'C' or equivalent in GGSE maths, English and a science subject. Initial teacher training providers will typically also set additional requirements for entry to initial teacher training courses such as A-levels, NVQs or work experience. In order to enter a postgraduate course, trainee teachers must also have a degree. This also applies to the employment-based routes into teaching; with the exception of the Registered Teacher Programme which requires that trainees have completed two years (240 CATS) of higher education.

In order to take up employment as a teacher in a primary school, a primary teacher should have successfully completed a course of initial teacher training and been awarded qualified teacher status, having met the standards required of a skilled teacher. Regardless of the route, a first degree or an equivalent and passing the professional skills tests in numeracy, literacy and information communication technology are also requirements for the award of qualified teacher status (QTS).

These requirements reflect a belief that all teachers should have a good standard of knowledge in the core subjects and that teaching is a job towards which our best and brightest young people should aspire. They also give parents confidence in the knowledge and competence of the teachers educating their children.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools gave fixed-period exclusions to *(a)* more than five per cent. and *(b)* more than 10 per cent. of their pupils in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [200097]

(2) how many *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary school pupils were excluded for a fixed period on (i) five or more occasions and (ii) 10 or more occasions in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [200098]

Kevin Brennan: Information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time in 2003-04.

The number of schools excluding more than 5 and more than 10 per cent. of their school population for a fixed period is not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The available information showing the number of times pupils have been excluded for a fixed period is published annually by the Department. These figures can be found in the Statistical First Release 'DCSF: Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools and Exclusion Appeals in England', the latest of which refer to the 2005-06 school year and can be accessed at (table 17):

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

Due to underlying changes in the data collection, information on fixed period exclusions was only collected from secondary schools in 2005-06. This coverage will extend to also include primary schools in 2006-07. Equivalent publications are available, relating to fixed period exclusions during 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Exclusions data relating to the 2006-07 school year are expected to be published in June 2008.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what evidence his Department holds on the effect of fixed period exclusions on pupil behaviour; and if he will make a statement. [200100]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not hold research on the specific effect of fixed period exclusions on behaviour. However, the report on School Behaviour and Discipline, published in 2006, noted that fixed period exclusion can be an extremely effective form of sanction as part of a well thought out strategy for tackling poor behaviour. Ofsted inspection evidence suggests that one to three days is often long enough to secure the benefits of exclusion without adverse educational consequences.

The Government recognise the challenge that managing pupils behaviour can present and the hard work involved in achieving standards of behaviour. That is why this is the first Government to implement a comprehensive national programme to strengthen schools' capacity to manage behaviour.

The Ofsted report can be downloaded at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/portal/site/Internet/menuitem.eace3f09a603f6d9c3172a8a08c08a0c/?vgnextoid=ee1a4500b58ae010VgnVCM1000003507640aRCRD

The Steer report can be downloaded at:

http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/learningmentors/downloads/steer.pdf

Reading: Teaching Methods

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his policy is on *(a)* systematic and *(b)* synthetic phonics; and if he will make a statement; [200319]

(2) what research his Department has conducted into the effects of teaching reading through the use of *(a)* synthetic and *(b)* systematic phonics. [200322]

Jim Knight: The Department's policy on phonics is to implement the recommendations of Sir Jim Rose's Independent Review of the Teaching of Early Reading which advocates that high quality, systematic phonic work should be the prime approach in teaching children to read.

The Review took account of extensive evidence from a range of sources including oral and written evidence from individuals and associations; and visits to settings, schools and training events. A copy of the Review which outlines this evidence is available in the House Libraries.

Sir Jim has provided an update on how well his recommendations are being implemented. A copy of his letter has been placed in the House Libraries. More detail will be available in the autumn when Sir Jim's interim report on the Primary Curriculum is published.

Schools: Catering

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have applied for exceptional capital funding for new kitchens in schools as announced in December 2007; which local authorities will receive such funding; and if he will make a statement. [201083]

Jim Knight: We have received applications for exceptional capital funding for new kitchens in schools from 14 local authorities. These are: Bournemouth; Buckinghamshire; Dorset; Gloucestershire; Harrow; Hillingdon; Lincolnshire; Northamptonshire; North East Lincolnshire; North Somerset; Plymouth; Swindon; West Sussex; and Wigan. My officials are currently considering those bids and we plan to make an announcement in May.

New nutritional food-based standards for school lunch were introduced in September 2006 and nutrient-based standards, stipulating the nutrients required for school lunches, will be introduced for primary schools by 2008 and for secondary schools by 2009. These new standards need to be underpinned by good kitchen and dining facilities in schools. This is why we have placed a greater priority on the building and refurbishment of school kitchens within the Government's capital programme for school buildings and made available this specific grant to build new kitchens in areas that have large concentrations of schools without kitchens.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he intends to announce the results of the recent applications for funding from the basic needs allocation safety valve Fund. [200768]

Jim Knight: My officials have now assessed all applications to the basic needs safety valve. However, it was necessary for the Department to seek clarification from a number of authorities on the information provided. I expect to be in a position to take final decisions on the applications shortly, and to make the results known shortly thereafter.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to reduce the size of school governing bodies; and if he will make a statement. [201071]

Jim Knight: We believe that smaller, more highly skilled governing bodies, alongside improved governor training will provide more effective governance for schools. As we indicated in the Children's Plan, we will be consulting stakeholders on reducing the size of governing bodies. As a first step, a stakeholder working group has been established to consider reforming governance in this way. Good governance and leadership is essential if we are to achieve better outcomes for all children and young people.

Schools: Recycling

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of waste from schools was recycled in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006 and *(g)* 2007. [200312]

Jim Knight: The Department does not gather statistics on the amounts of waste collected from schools. The Department for Environment, Food and

Rural Affairs collects statistics on the amount of municipal waste and what happens to it, but where it is collected from is not recorded.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what average time was spent by school children on physical education, broken down by year group, in each year for which figures are available. [200785]

Kevin Brennan: Data on PE and sport is collected from the annual School Sport Survey, which began in 2003/04. Total curriculum time that all pupils in each year group spend taking part in PE in a typical week, is as follows:

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Year 1	89	96	107	115
Year 2	89	96	107	116
Year 3	96	103	111	118
Year 4	97	103	112	119
Year 5	97	104	113	119
Year 6	97	104	112	118
Year 7	123	124	125	126
Year 8	120	123	124	124
Year 9	116	118	120	120
Year 10	94	101	97	97
Year 11	91	98	94	94
All	101	107	111	115

Schools: Sustainable Development

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of schools that use *(a)* occupancy/daylight saving light sensors, *(b)* infra-red operated faucets, *(c)* fully condensing boilers, *(d)* underfloor heating and *(e)* rainwater harvesting systems. [200308]

Jim Knight: We do not hold information on the numbers of schools that have installed *(a)* occupancy/daylight saving light sensors, *(b)* infra-red operated faucets, *(c)* fully condensing boilers, *(d)* underfloor heating and *(e)* rainwater harvesting systems.

Investment in measures of this nature would typically be funded from budgets delegated to schools and local authorities. This information may be held at a local authority or school level.

Schools: Water

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent by schools on water services in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006 and *(g)* 2007. [200309]

Jim Knight: The information about expenditure by local authority maintained schools in England on water and sewage for 2002-03 to 2006-07 is contained within the following table:

Expenditure by local authority maintained schools on water and sewerage (E15)

	£
2002-03	61,717,000
2003-04	65,815,000
2004-05	68,549,000
2005-06	78,139,000
2006-07	83,846,000

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much waste water was produced by schools in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006 and *(g)* 2007. [200311]

Jim Knight: Waste water produced by schools cannot be accurately quantified because it is not metered. It is normally assumed that all water supplied to a school is retuned to sewers as waste water, although the actual volume of waste water is slightly less than that supplied, the difference being due to small volumes of water used for irrigation on school sites and/or evaporation from swimming pools.

The Department does not have information on the total water supplied to all schools in England. However, we have gathered benchmarking information on water use for the years 2001 to 2006 for a sample of schools. This has been analysed to determine average water use per pupil as summarised in the following table.

Average annual water consumption (cu.m/pupil)

		Primary		Secondary	
	Nursery	With pool	Without pool	With pool	Without pool
2000/01	3.41	4.31	3.80	5.08	3.86
2001/02	4.28	4.35	4.03	5.06	3.96
2002/03	4.21	4.48	4.02	5.08	3.82
2003/04	3.50	5.16	3.99	5.08	3.70
2004/05	3.52	4.95	4.08	4.89	3.75
2005/06	3.71	4.91	4.11	5.39	3.75

Secondary Education: Assessments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools more than 50 per cent. of pupils did not gain level 5 or above in a combination of reading, writing and mathematics tests at key stage three in the last year for which figures are available. [200330]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what date he expects every secondary school child to have a personal tutor; and if he will make a statement. [201061]

Jim Knight: Our expectation, as described in the Children's Plan, is that all secondary school pupils will have access to a personal tutor from 2010.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people employed as teachers in Milton Keynes Local Education Authority area have only qualifications obtained abroad. [200766]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Textbooks

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on allowing pupils to take school textbooks home. [200314]

Jim Knight: It is for schools to decide whether or not pupils should take textbooks home from school.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments: Finance

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the funding provided for allotments; what mechanisms are in place to assess the effectiveness of allotment funding against its objectives; and if she will make a statement. [200393]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding for allotments is available through the financial support that all local authorities receive from central Government. It is up to local authorities to ensure that adequate funding is in place for allotments according to their local needs, and to assess the effectiveness of their funding. As this should be a local responsibility, based on specific local circumstances the Secretary of State has not made any assessment of the effectiveness of funding provided for allotments.

Building Regulations: Public Participation

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to launch a public consultation on amendments to the Building Regulations; and whether such consultations will include proposed revisions to regulations regarding hot water and safety. [200394]

Mr. Iain Wright: We anticipate that public consultation on possible amendments to Part G of the Building Regulations will be published in the next few weeks. This consultation will consider the issue of hot water safety alongside other issues.

Conference Centres: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department provides any *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue support to any conference or exhibition centre; and if she will make a statement. [199435]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department sponsors the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (QEIICC) in Westminster, an Executive agency with Trading Fund status. The QEIICC trading fund is required to cover all its expenditure from income from room hire and other activities and pay the Department an annual dividend to cover the cost of capital charge incurred by the Department. In 2006-07, the QEIICC trading fund generated income of £10.4 million on its operating activities. The Department retains landlord responsibility for the QEIICC building, and undertakes capital expenditure on the building as and when it is deemed to be necessary. In 2006-07, the Department incurred capital expenditure of £0.985 million mainly in respect of replacement air-handling units.

Council Tax: Students

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether doctoral postgraduate students during their six month thesis write up stage are classed as full-time students and eligible for a council tax exemption. [198921]

John Healey: The definition of a student for council tax purposes is set out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Council Tax (Discounts Disregards) Order 1992. It is for each individual local authority to decide who is classed as a student and in doing so to satisfy itself that the legislative requirements have been met before granting a student exemption from council tax.

Council Tax: Tax Yields

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2498W, on council tax: tax yields, when the data for 2007-08 will be available. [199267]

John Healey: The data will be available in June 2008 following the publication of the Statistical Release "Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England—2007-08".

Departmental ICT

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* start date, *(b)* original planned completion date, *(c)* current expected completion date, *(d)* planned cost and *(e)* current estimated cost is for each information technology project being undertaken by her Department and its agencies; and if she will make a statement. [180580]

Mr. Dhanda: IT projects[1] undertaken by Communities and Local Government (CLG) and its Agencies are as shown in the table.

[1] Two of CLG's major change projects, Firelink and FireControl, do not feature in the table as in both cases the IT component represents only one part of the overall project activity. FireLink is a radio communications system project for the Fire and Rescue Service across Great Britain, which started in mid 2002 and was originally due to complete at the end of 2007. It is now expected to complete in mid 2009. Estimated costs have remained the same

at £400 million for Great Britain. FireControl is principally a business change project, which started in 2004 with an expected completion date in 2009. It is now expected to complete in 2011. Estimated costs have risen from £120 million to £190 million.

Communities and Local Government (including regional co-ordination unit and Government offices in the regions)

	Start date	*Original planned completion date*	*Expected completion date*	*Originally planned costs (£000)*	*Estimated planned costs (£000)*
Website Rationalisation (incorporating Info4local rebuild project)[1]	December 2005	June 2008	December 2008	3,200	3,600[2]
Fire Incident Recording System	January 2006	December 2006	March 2008	1,300	2,990
LINK (New corporate desktop system)	February 2005	October 2006	February 2008	2,064	2,064
EDRMS	October 2006	December 2006	June 2008	699	699
Replacement Infrastructure for Peoplesoft HR System	November 2006	May 2007	March 2008	5.7	537
CLG Payroll Replacement System	May 2007	March 2008	March 2008	382	382
SAP Implementing Benefits	January 2008	February 2009	February 2009	364	364
Smarter Business Process (SAP Enhancement)	September 2007	April 2008	August 2008	350	350
Blackberry Service	July 2007	April 2008	April 2008	239	249
Government Offices Human Resources Database, further development	April 2007	March 2008	March 2008	150	176
Government Offices Online Performance Management System, further development	April 2007	March 2008	March 2008	150	150
(b) Agencies of the Department					
Planning Inspectorate					
Fast-track Householder Appeal Service – Stage 1 (Validation and Planning)	September 2007	December 2007	February 2008	130	130
Server Virtualisation Project	October 2007	March 2008	March 2008	105	105
Programme and Project Management Tool (Hydra)	March 2007	October 2007	February 2008	95	95
Fire Service College					
Fire Service College Managed Learning System[3]	January 2006	April 2007	May 2008	5,500	5,500
QEII Conference Centre					
Meeting Matrix	June 2007	September 2007	February 2008	65	65

[1] A project to rebuild the Info4local website was approved in November 2004 at a cost of £244,000. The project was deferred for later incorporation into the Department's Website Rationalisation Project.
[2] Plus £400 for Info4local.
[3] The FRS Managed Learning Environment referred to in the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1645-6W is the same project. The longer delivery timetable is the outcome of a college review of the business case for the project. It was decided the range of benefits from the project should be extended, resulting in more deliverables, and that more time should be allowed to implement the extended package. The costs figures given in that answer refer to the whole life costs for the project including operations costs following the transition into live operation.

Eco-Towns: Leicestershire

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of the area within Harborough District that is proposed to be occupied by the eco-town promoted by the Co-operative Wholesale Society and English Partnerships is currently used for *(a)* agricultural and *(b)* airport transport purposes; and how much of that area is covered by (i) in use and (ii) redundant permanent structures. [200414]

Caroline Flint: Like all the shortlisted locations for eco-towns the one promoted by the Co-operative Wholesale Society and English Partnerships is subject to consultation and at this stage final decisions on the size and location are still to be determined. In the consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future" that was published on 3 April we have provided a description of the location for this eco-town and copies of this document are available in the House Library. Also as part of the Co-operative Estates local consultation they have set up a website that provides further information about their proposal including land use.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been built since the zero rate of stamp duty for zero-carbon homes was introduced. [199972]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The zero rate of stamp duty for zero-carbon homes was introduced on the 1 October 2007. In England there

were 48,467 dwellings completed in the quarter 1 October to 31 December 2007.

Source:

P2 house building returns from local authorities and the National House Building Council (NHBC)

Housing: Immigration

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the impact on housing prices of the level of immigration projected by the Government Actuary's Department. [199707]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* An estimate of the migration impact on housing has not been made by the Government.

The national housing and planning advice unit (NHPAU) which provides independent advice to Government on housing affordability, has produced estimates of the ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings up to 2026. These results use the 2004-based levels of population (including migration) projected by the Government Actuary's Department. The results can be found in their publication "Developing a target range for the supply of new homes in England" at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/nhpau/publications/supplynewhomes/

Housing: Inspections

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what qualifications domestic energy assessors are required to have before administering the home information pack scheme; and whether the required qualifications have changed since the scheme was first introduced. [200334]

Caroline Flint: To qualify as a domestic energy assessor (DEA), an individual must demonstrate that they satisfy the requirements of the National Occupational Standards for DEAs. These standards have not changed since their introduction in January 2007.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive scheme for 2008-09 will include incentive payment for additional business rate revenue collected due to *(a)* empty property business rates and *(b)* an increase in the number on frequency of empty dwellings. [199012]

John Healey: Under the original three-year LABGI scheme, the Chancellor allocated up to £1 billion to local authorities in England and Wales for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. The Government intend to make payments under a reformed scheme from 2009-10, and are considering these plans. This will allow us to look carefully at the lessons learned from the original scheme and to consult widely on how to get the best possible outcomes from a reformed scheme.

Parish Councils: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many submissions to the consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy referred to the potential access of parish councils to this fund. [200407]

Caroline Flint: Our publication on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), published on 24 January, sets out the background to the CIL and more detail on the provisions in the Planning Bill. It also explains how the Government are continuing to develop the detail of the CIL in consultation with stakeholders.

The question of Parish councils' potential access to CIL funds is not an issue which has been raised in correspondence received so far.

The 24 January CIL publication 'The Community Infrastructure Levy' is available in the House library.

Property: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 315W, on the Valuation Office, how domestic dwellings in England are recorded by the Valuation Office Agency as having the property attribute of having *(a)* one bathroom and *(b)* more than one bathroom. [199150]

John Healey: As at 2 April 2008, of the 22,507,086 dwellings in England the Valuation Office Agency has recorded *(a)* 19,566,590 with one bathroom and *(b)* 2,508,704 with two or more bathrooms. In the answer given on 31 January 2007 the number of dwellings stated as 21,849,763 was the number of dwellings with data recorded against the "number of bathrooms" field. The figure as at 31 January 2007 for the total number of dwellings in England was 22,240,777.

Recreation Spaces: Databases

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the green space database will be *(a)* completed and *(b)* available for use by local authorities in relation to allotments. [200416]

Mr. Iain Wright: The first phase of the green space database is currently being developed and will be completed and available for use by local authorities in June 2008. This will incorporate current green space datasets, including information about allotments. This will enable local authorities to map available data, including commenting on information.

The second phase will be ongoing from June 2008. This will consider what further activities are required to ensure the existing database is of most use to stakeholders.

Regional Planning and Development: Fines

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson)

of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1378W, on regional planning and development: fines, what the monetary value was of the financial correction levied. [199158]

John Healey: The financial correction levied by the European Commission in respect of the Objective 2 and Urban II ERDF programmes in the North West of England was €24,790,591: I wrote to the chair of the CLG Select Committee on 18 March 2008 with details and placed a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Regional Planning and Development: Greenwich Peninsula

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the revenue which will accrue to the public purse from the redevelopment of the Greenwich Peninsula. [198672]

Caroline Flint: A re-assessment is currently under way. It is expected that a new financial model for forecasting returns from the development will be completed by summer 2008. Once this is in place, English Partnerships will be able to make a revised assessment of the latest forecast return.

The National Audit Office (NAO) have recently looked into progress on the delivery of the Greenwich Peninsula regeneration project. The NAO report is still being prepared but will include an updated assessment by both NAO and EP of the latest forecast financial return to the taxpayer. However as the new model is not yet finalised these assessments of necessity will derive from the existing financial model developed in 2004 which was not designed for monitoring profits and which is out of date in terms of phasing of the development. NAO's report is likely to be published before summer recess.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to answer Question 197946 on flood damage, tabled on 26 March 2008. [200505]

Mr. Dhanda: The hon. Member's question was answered on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1405W.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice: Inspections

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times the contract of the Chief Inspector of *(a)* prisons, *(b)* probation and *(c)* court administration has been extended without a competitive process or since the inception of the post, as appropriate. [199395]

Maria Eagle: Anne Owers CBE was appointed HM Chief Inspector of Prisons in August 2001 following a competitive recruitment exercise. Ms Owers' appointment has since been extended on two occasions.

Andrew Bridges CBE was appointed HM Chief Inspector of Probation in April 2004, having served as Deputy to the previous Chief Inspector, Professor Rod Morgan. Mr. Bridges' appointment has been extended on two occasions. Mr. Morgan was appointed in August 2001 following a competitive recruitment exercise.

Eddie Bloomfield was appointed HM Chief Inspector of Court Administration in June 2005 following a competitive recruitment exercise. Mr. Bloomfield was reappointed from January 2008, also on the basis of a competitive exercise.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of service of chief inspectors of *(a)* court administration, *(b)* probation and *(c)* prisons have been since the inception of the posts. [199396]

Maria Eagle: There has been only one holder of the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Court Administration since it was established in its current statutory form. Eddie Bloomfield has served as Chief Inspector since his appointment in June 2005 and reappointment in January 2008.

Since the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons was first established in its current statutory form by the Criminal Justice Act 1982, the average (mean) length of service by post-holders has been approximately 6.5 years. This figure includes the tenure to date of the current post-holder, Anne Owers CBE, but does not include the tenure of William Pearce, who died after approximately one year's service.

Since the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Probation was first established in its current statutory form by the Criminal Justice Act 1991, the average (mean) length of service by post-holders has been approximately five years. This figure includes the tenure to date of the current post-holder, Andrew Bridges CBE.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme or plans to do so in the next 12 months. [198033]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is currently working with the Carbon Trust to identify how it can adopt the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme and what benefits would result from this. A decision will be taken on whether we can adopt the Management Programme once this work has been completed.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department met the target in the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [198034]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007, therefore this answer covers former Department for Constitutional Affairs and parts of the Home Office, listed in the Sustainable Development

Commission's Sustainable Development in Government report, did not meet the target.

Work is ongoing within the Ministry of Justice to drive down the amount of carbon emissions released from the estate and between 2005-06 and 2006-07 the carbon emissions from MoJ headquarters decreased by approximately 4 per cent. Although this target applies to offices only, the Prison Service, which became part of the new Ministry on 9 May 2007, has been working for some years towards reducing energy consumption (and, consequently, carbon emissions) across the prison estate. The service has achieved reduction of 4 per cent. in energy use as against the 1999 baseline, a decrease in the consumption of fossil fuels by about 7 per cent. (both against a rising prison population) and currently obtains 18 per cent. of electricity from renewable resources. It will continue this work in 2008 by introducing a Carbon Management Programme working with the Carbon Trust.

The Ministry of Justice has now established its own Sustainable Development Action Plan that sets out how it will work towards meeting the remaining SOGE energy targets.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his Departmental website. [199955]

Bridget Prentice: The cost of the most recent redesign and implementation of the Ministry of Justice corporate website www.justice.gov.uk was as follows:

	£
Site design	14,250
Imagery	889
Additional web developer resource recruited for two weeks	1,500
Total	16,639

These costs do not include ongoing software licenses, domain name rental, hosting, telecoms and in-house staff costs.

Most of the work was completed in house, by the existing Ministry of Justice web team.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198942]

Maria Eagle: Detailed monthly information on sickness absence for the whole of the Ministry of Justice is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The only Department that holds this information is the public sector Prison Service and is included in table 1 as follows. Information for NOMS and OCJR and for the former DCA for 2006-07 is derived from a Cabinet Office report on sickness absence in the civil service published on 7 February 2008 and is set out in table 2. Earlier data are not available. The Cabinet Office report for 2005 did not provide a detailed breakdown of reasons for sickness absence by individual Department. The tables include data on days lost that were classified as mental and behavioural disorders, a high proportion of which will be stress related.

Table 1: Working days lost due to mental and behavioural disorders in the public sector Prison Service

	Working days lost attributed to mental and behavioural disorders
January 2006	10,642
February 2006	9,420
March 2006	9,913
April 2006	9,684
May 2006	10,350
June 2006	10,752
July 2006	11,427
August 2006	11,548
September 2006	10,714
October 2006	11,735
November 2006	12,019
December 2006	12,710
January 2007	11,698
February 2007	10,412
March 2007	11,426
April 2007	10,445
May 2007	11,191
June 2007	10,831
July 2007	12,103
August 2007	12,409
September 2007	11,614
October 2007	11,961
November 2007	11,055
December 2007	11,004

Table 2: Total working days lost and proportion attributed to mental and behavioural disorders in former Department for Constitutional Affairs, the National Offender Management Service and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform—2006-07

	Total days lost	*Proportion lost to mental disorders (percentage)*
Magistrates Court Committee	106,438	19
HM Courts Service	60,911	17
Former Department for Constitutional Affairs	9,689	14
Tribunal Service	7,681	13
Office of the Public Guardian	1,066	38
Scotland Office	121	0
Wales Office	95	6
National Offender Management Service	11,135	20
Office of Criminal Justice Reform	1,347	29

Note:
The Cabinet Office published a report on sickness absence in the civil service on 7 February 2008. The report included an analysis of the days lost due to sickness absence for each Department by reasons for absence. The table sets out the figures for 2006-07 for the constituent parts of this Department, which were in place prior to the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007. Information on the reasons for sickness absence prior to 2006-07 is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of his Department's staff took more than

(a) five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198966]

Maria Eagle: Detailed information on sickness absence for the whole of the Ministry of Justice is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The only Department that holds this information is the public sector Prison Service which is set out for each year in tables 1 to 5 as follows. The tables include data on days lost that were classified as mental and behavioural disorders, a high proportion of which will be stress related.

Table 1: Public sector Prison Service staff taking more than five days of sick leave for mental and behavioural problems by broad grade group—2003

	Working days lost due to mental and behavioural problems							
Grade at 31 December 2003	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 15*	*More than 20*	*More than 25*	*More than 30*	*More than 35*	*More than 40*
Senior Managers	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Managers	11	3	4	5	2	4	1	43
Principal Officer	4	5	1	5	4	1	1	24
Senior Officer	28	18	17	14	5	4	6	97
Prison Officer	137	116	85	94	56	50	44	627
Support Grades	49	46	29	26	19	24	11	157
Healthcare	14	12	17	8	8	5	2	48
Administration	39	39	26	22	16	10	9	92
Industrials	19	19	8	8	11	3	5	57
Specialists	2	3	3	0	2	1	2	18
Unknown	12	9	3	4	8	3	3	25
Total	307	270	193	186	131	105	85	1,192

Table 2: Public sector Prison Service staff taking more than five days of sick leave for mental and behavioural problems by broad grade group—2004

	Working days lost due to mental and behavioural problems							
Grade at 31 December 2004	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 15*	*More than 20*	*More than 25*	*More than 30*	*More than 35*	*More than 40*
Senior Managers	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Managers	7	5	3	7	1	4	3	32
Principal Officer	5	3	3	3	1	2	2	17
Senior Officer	17	16	18	8	6	8	7	81
Prison Officer	101	123	102	83	45	64	52	528
Support Grades	43	48	34	35	22	20	16	173
Healthcare	22	17	9	10	4	3	5	50
Administration	37	30	39	21	13	14	11	104
Industrials	19	14	8	6	2	7	7	56
Specialists	6	1	3	1	1	1	3	14
Unknown	5	11	4	8	3	5	2	34
Total	262	269	224	182	99	129	108	1,089

Table 3: Public sector Prison Service staff taking more than five days of sick leave for mental and behavioural problems by broad grade group—2005

	Working days lost due to mental and behavioural problems							
Grade at 31 December 2005	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 15*	*More than 20*	*More than 25*	*More than 30*	*More than 35*	*More than 40*
Senior Managers	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	5
Managers	3	6	6	9	3	1	4	30
Principal Officer	4	4	3	5	2	2	2	18
Senior Officer	15	21	9	10	9	6	5	75
Prison Officer	105	132	85	80	59	51	56	512
Support Grades	43	48	33	25	25	16	19	168
Healthcare	14	11	9	8	8	5	4	56
Administration	35	37	27	16	16	8	11	112
Industrials	19	8	15	4	8	4	6	50
Specialists	2	6	2	2	0	0	0	15
Unknown	11	10	8	1	1	4	0	29
Total	252	284	197	161	131	97	108	1,070

Table 4: Public sector Prison Service staff taking more than five days of sick leave for mental and behavioural problems by broad grade group—2006

	Working days lost due to mental and behavioural problems							
Grade at 31 December 2006	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 15*	*More than 20*	*More than 25*	*More than 30*	*More than 35*	*More than 40*
Senior Managers	3	2	1	2	0	2	0	2
Managers	10	10	8	4	7	2	3	40
Principal Officer	4	1	2	2	3	4	3	18
Senior Officer	17	14	16	16	10	5	9	69

Table 4: Public sector Prison Service staff taking more than five days of sick leave for mental and behavioural problems by broad grade group—2006

	Working days lost due to mental and behavioural problems							
Grade at 31 December 2006	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 15*	*More than 20*	*More than 25*	*More than 30*	*More than 35*	*More than 40*
Prison Officer	125	113	74	94	65	65	46	500
Support Grades	48	47	37	30	22	15	16	166
Healthcare	11	12	8	7	4	7	3	51
Administration	43	51	21	12	18	11	7	89
Industrials	19	13	12	10	4	11	3	41
Specialists	8	6	9	3	3	1	1	14
Unknown	5	8	7	9	8	3	5	30
Total	293	277	195	189	144	126	96	1,020

Table 5: Public sector Prison Service staff taking more than five days of sick leave for mental and behavioural problems by broad grade group—2007

	Working days lost due to mental and behavioural problems							
Grade at 31 December 2007	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 15*	*More than 20*	*More than 25*	*More than 30*	*More than 35*	*More than 40*
Senior Managers	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Managers	4	8	5	6	2	5	4	39
Principal Officer	4	4	2	3	3	4	0	29
Senior Officer	20	15	11	10	9	8	7	90
Prison Officer	113	109	102	94	58	54	46	496
Support Grades	62	41	39	26	26	19	15	172
Healthcare	8	10	6	8	4	6	1	31
Administration	35	29	36	29	16	18	16	120
Industrials	24	12	11	15	7	6	3	46
Specialists	2	5	5	2	3	2	4	22
Unknown	11	13	10	4	2	1	3	33
Total	286	246	227	197	131	123	99	1,084

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department is on course to meet the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [198032]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has met its target of sourcing at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008.

A waste management strategy is currently being implemented across the estate that will enable the Ministry to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. Good progress has already been made with MoJ HQ estate increasing its recycling by approximately 39 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system *(a)* for its whole estate and *(b)* in some of its buildings. [198035]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is working towards implementing environmental management systems across its estate. We are in the process of implementing an EMS for ISO 14001 accreditation in the Tribunals Service, MoJ Headquarters estate and the Royal Courts of Justice. In addition, a bespoke environmental management system is being implemented across the Prison Service estate. We will be looking to extend these systems across the rest of the estate in due course, and as set out in the Ministry's Sustainable Development Action Plan.

Prisoners: Databases

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people detained in prison who are not recorded on the detentions database; and what information is held by his Department on non-UK nationals released from prison without notification to the Home Office, as referred to by the National Audit Office report on asylum and migration (HC(2003-04)625) of 25 May 2004. [180515]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The section of the National Audit Office report on Asylum and Migration statistics published on 25 May 2004 to which is referred relates to the accuracy of statistics held by IND (now known as the UK Border Agency) governing the number of individuals held in detention for immigration reasons.

Since the report was published, the DELMIS system, to which it referred, has been superseded by a different system known as the case information database (CID). This is designed for use within all areas of the Agency as opposed to just the detention service directorate. It is through CID that the Agency is able to ensure that it keeps accurate records on all individuals' immigration cases as well as ensuring that caseworkers are aware of where an individual resided or whether they were detained.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has written to the Home Affairs Committee on several occasions over the past 18 months and explained that we have reviewed and strengthened our processes in identifying those foreign nationals serving custodial sentences who should be considered for deportation following the events of April 2006.

Prisoners: Health Services

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many in-patient beds in prisons were occupied by prisoners for non-medical reasons in each month of each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the reasons were in each case. [199690]

Maria Eagle: This information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In-patient beds can only be used for non-medical reasons where they are included in the prison's CNA; however, even where this is the case, the practice is avoided wherever possible.

The decision whether to include in-patient beds in an establishment's Certified Normal Accommodation (CNA) is taken by the relevant Area Manager as part of the local cell certification process. As a general rule, in-patient beds are included in the CNA in local prisons but excluded in training prisons. This reflects the extent to which newly received prisoners require medical care.

Prisons: Cells

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were *(a)* doubling up in cells designed for one and *(b)* trebling up in cells designed for two in each prison in England and Wales at the end of March 2008. [199678]

Maria Eagle: Figures for the end of March 2008 are not available at present. The following table shows the provisional number of prisoners reported as being doubled in cells certified to hold one person and trebled in cells certified to hold two persons at the end of February 2008.

Prison	*Number of prisoners doubling up in cells designed for one*	*Number of prisoners trebling up in cells designed for two*
Altcourse	856	139
Ashwell	12	—
Bedford	302	6
Belmarsh	—	393
Birmingham	658	—
Blakenhurst	490	—
Blundeston	36	—
Brinsford	22	—
Bristol	150	—
Brixton	234	—
Buckley Hall	58	—
Bullingdon	400	—
Camp Hill	128	—
Canterbury	190	—
Cardiff	510	—
Channings Wood	32	—
Chelmsford	292	—
Coldingley	46	—
Dartmoor	44	—
Doncaster	708	27
Dorchester	164	—
Dovegate	66	—
Durham	678	—
Eastwood Park	48	—
Elmley	184	318
Everthorpe	140	—
Exeter	352	—
Featherstone	20	—
Forest Bank	656	—
Garth	12	—
Glen Parva	324	—
Gloucester	160	—
Guys Marsh	92	—
Haverigg	10	—
High Down	—	297
Highpoint	42	—
Holme House	286	—
Hull	550	—
Kennet	312	—
Lancaster	114	—
Lancaster Farms	58	—
Leeds	736	—
Leicester	292	—
Lewes	152	—
Lincoln	574	—
Lindholme	120	—
Littlehey	86	—
Liverpool	440	—
Low Newton	54	—
Lowdham Grange	88	—
Maidstone	56	—
Manchester	596	—
Moorland	64	—
Mount	28	—
New Hall	68	—
Northallerton	184	—
Norwich	182	6
Nottingham	332	—
Parc	346	—
Parkhurst	70	—
Pentonville	796	—
Preston	680	—
Ranby	236	—
Reading	148	—
Risley	92	—
Shepton Mallet	48	—
Shrewsbury	308	—
Stocken	54	—
Stoke Heath	196	—
Styal	18	—
Swaleside	28	—
Swansea	350	15
Swinfen Hall	34	—
Usk\Prescoed	208	6
Verne	68	—
Wandsworth	1084	—
Wayland	90	—
Wealstun	34	—
Wellingborough	8	—
Whatton	60	—
Winchester	330	—
Wolds	88	—
Woodhill	306	—
Wormwood Scrubs	124	—
Wymott	90	—

Prisons: Employment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure the reliability of figures on prisoners' hours of purposeful activity provided by prisons. [199684]

Maria Eagle: In 2007-08 the Prison Service issued new guidance for its establishments for recording purposeful activity. This guidance included a refined set of activities and definitions. Additionally, a more effective method of capturing purposeful activity data has been introduced through the use of electronic forms. The data reported also continue to be validated by management controls and by both a self-audit process and independent audit.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average number of hours of purposeful activity per week for each *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoner over the age of retirement was in each of the last five years. [199674]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service does not centrally collate purposeful activity data at prisoner level and cannot therefore express the answer in the precise format requested.

The following table shows the average number of hours of purposeful activity per week in prisons which predominately hold male prisoners and prisons which predominately hold female prisoners in each of the last five full financial years:

Average number of hours of purposeful activity per week

Financial year	*Male prisons*	*Female prisons*
2002-03	22.5	25.0
2003-04	23.3	25.3
2004-05	24.2	26.7
2005-06	25.1	27.3
2006-07	25.1	27.6

Prisons: Video Equipment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of using the video-link equipment available in prisons to record interviews between police and imprisoned witnesses. [199330]

Maria Eagle: No assessment has been made within the Ministry of Justice on the benefits of using video-link equipment to record interviews between the police and imprisoned witnesses. Police forces consider the use of video links for this purpose on an individual case basis.

Prisons: Wrexham

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1188-9W, on prisons: Wales, on how many occasions representatives of NOMS custodial estates have met representatives of Wrexham county borough council to discuss the siting of a prison in Wrexham in the last 12 months. [200770]

Maria Eagle: There have been no meetings between representatives of NOMS estates and Wrexham county borough council to discuss the siting of a prison in Wrexham in the last 12 months. Representatives from NOMS estates attended meetings in August and November 2007 with the North Wales Criminal Justice Board to discuss potential sites for a prison in North Wales. These meetings included representatives from Wrexham county borough council and other councils in North Wales. In November 2007 a visit to a site put forward by the Board was also made at which a representative of the council was present. This site was not in Wrexham.

Weare Prison

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the mooring fees were for HMP Weare prison ship in the latest period for which figures are available. [199286]

Mr. Hanson: Following the publication of the Lord Carter Report a search is under way for a prison floating facility involving the need to make inquiries of port authorities to identify suitable berths which includes consideration of mooring fees. In these circumstances for reasons of "commercial confidentiality", I do not at this particular time intend to publish the previous fees paid to the Portland port authority.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice from which heading of his Department's budget the mooring fees for HMP Weare prison ship are paid. [199336]

Maria Eagle: Weare prison opened in 1997 and closed in 2005. During this period the mooring fees formed part of the running costs of the ship which came from the programme element of the resource funding voted to the Prison Service. From 2005 until the facility's eventual sale in July 2006 the mooring fees were paid for by the National Offender Management Service.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BBC External Services: Manpower

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the headcount of the BBC World Service and the Russian language service was in each of the last five years. [197670]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is as follows.

Headcount (equivalent full-time) for the BBC World Service in each of the last five years:

Financial years	*UK*	*Overseas*	*Year end total*
2003-04	1,363	358	1,721
2004-05	1,420	457	1,877
2005-06	1,368	491	1,859

Financial years	UK	Overseas	Year end total
2006-07	1,255	456	1,711
2007-08	1,395	490	1,885

Headcount (equivalent full-time) for the BBC Russian Service in each of the last five years:

Financial years	UK	Locally engaged	Year end total
2003-04	55	41	96
2004-05	51	44	95
2005-06	57	40	97
2006-07	62	41	103
2007-08	63	47	110

Cameroon: Overseas Aid

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for International Development on aid to Cameroon. [200590]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not held recent discussions on aid to Cameroon with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development. Government officials, however, are in regular contact on such issues.

The majority of the UK's bilateral aid to Cameroon is focused on the forestry sector, as many of the poorest Cameroonians depend on the forests for food and shelter, as well as employment. The Department for International Development is contributing roughly £11,000,000 to Cameroon's Forest and Environment Sector Programme. An additional £50,000,000 will be available under the Congo Basin Forest Fund, with Cameroon one of the countries eligible for project bids.

Cameroon: Politics and Government

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Cameroonian President on presidential term limits. [200591]

Meg Munn: The Government supported an EU public statement on 27 March 2008, which noted that any changes to the constitution must be decided by the people and institutions of Cameroon. The statement emphasised the importance of a broad, free and open debate, involving all elements of Cameroonian society, on the proposals for constitutional revision. The statement also said

> "...the European Union remains convinced that the possibility of a changeover of power, the freedom of the press and the guaranteeing of public freedoms are fundamental to the consolidation of democracy, and draws attention to the urgent need to improve the electoral system and the standard of voter turnout, these being guarantors of the stability that the country needs."

The amendment to the Cameroonian constitution to remove presidential term limits was passed in the Cameroonian National Assembly on 10 April. We will continue to work with EU partners to encourage greater political dialogue in Cameroon.

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which organisations were consulted by his Department prior to decisions to *(a)* terminate support for the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme and *(b)* reduce funding for the Chevening Scholarship Scheme. [198815]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) had broad consultations with a range of stakeholders during the 2006 review of FCO Scholarships, including the Association of Commonwealth Universities, the British Council, overseas posts and alumni. This fed into decisions to end our support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan and to reduce our funding for the Chevening Scholarship Scheme. Officials maintain regular contact with those stakeholders.

Commonwealth: Scholarships

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what arrangements he has made to continue opportunities for collaboration between Commonwealth countries in hosting students following the termination of funding for Commonwealth Scholarships in the UK. [198713]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK, together with agencies in each participating Commonwealth state, will continue their work to facilitate hosting of Commonwealth scholarship students in different Commonwealth countries. The Government are withdrawing funding for Commonwealth scholarships only for developed Commonwealth countries, most of which are eligible for Chevening scholarships. Overall Government funding for Commonwealth scholarships will be higher in each of the next three years than it has been in 2007-08.

Ethiopia: Human Rights

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his counterparts in the Government of Ethiopia on security and observance of human rights in the Somali region of Ethiopia. [200399]

Meg Munn: The Government are concerned at reports of human rights abuses in the Somali region of Ethiopia and raise the issue with the Government of Ethiopia at every suitable opportunity. Recently, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown raised the issue of human rights in the Somali region when he met Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in late January. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the Somali region with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Seyoum Mesfin, when they met in November 2007. Our ambassador in Addis Ababa continues to raise these issues with the Government of Ethiopia at regular intervals.

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent of observance of human rights in the Somali region of Ethiopia. [200400]

Meg Munn: We are concerned at reports of human rights abuses in the Somali region of Ethiopia. If breaches of human rights law are proved, then we will condemn them unreservedly and expect those responsible to be held to account. The UK supports the UN's lead in working with the Government of Ethiopia to improve the situation in the Somali region, including to help ensure human rights are respected fully. We recognise Ethiopia's legitimate security concerns in the region and call on Ethiopia to ensure its security response is proportionate and implemented carefully to ensure there is no suffering in the civilian population.

The Government raise their concerns with the Ethiopian Government at regular opportunities. Most recently, our ambassador in Addis Ababa discussed ways to improve the situation in the Somali region with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Seyoum Mesfin, in March. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the Somali region with the Ethiopian Foreign Minister when they met in November 2007. My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown raised the issue of human rights when he met Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in late January.

Indonesia: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the treatment by the Government of Indonesia of *(a)* West Papuan protesters and *(b)* those raising flags of independence in Timika and Manokwari. [198688]

Meg Munn: Following events in Kwamki Baru, near Timika, on 1 December 2007, we understand that six people have been charged with subversion under the Indonesian criminal code. In March 2008 nine individuals were arrested in Manokwari and four in Jayapura following student protests where the 'Morning Star' flag was displayed. Flying the Papuan national 'Morning Star' flag is currently illegal under Indonesian law. Special autonomy legislation allows for the use of Papuan symbols and anthems, but the local legislation that is required to confirm the chosen symbols and anthems has yet to be passed.

Officials from our embassy in Jakarta continue to monitor the situation closely and understand that representatives from Church organisations have been allowed access to those detained.

Dr. Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, visited Indonesia in November 2007, at the invitation of the Indonesian Government. Dr. Nowak presented his report to the UN Human Rights Council on 10 March. As part of his wider report on Indonesia, Dr. Nowak made references to prison conditions in Papua. We are continuing to study Dr. Nowak's report and are consulting with EU partners on how we might engage with the Indonesian Government on its findings.

Iraq: Oil

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the probity of the procedures for the passage of the oil and gas law in Iraq. [198790]

Dr. Howells: The draft hydrocarbons law is under discussion by the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi Parliament, in accordance with Iraq's legislative processes. It is for the Iraqi Government and Parliament to decide how best to manage Iraq's oil and gas sectors.

The draft hydrocarbons law is a result of negotiations between representatives of all of Iraq's main political parties. One of the drafting committee's members, Dr. Ashti Hawrami, Minister for Natural Resources in the Kurdistan Regional Government, was explicit on this point:

"no one has told us Iraqis what to put in the law. Iraqis alone have been deciding it. The only pressure put on us has been to move it forward and complete it".

The UK has an interest in promoting the effective management of this sector because of its importance to Iraq's reconciliation process and future prosperity, and has encouraged a balanced, technically unambiguous piece of legislation, acceptable to Iraq's main political parties.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the criteria are under the UN Charter under which the Government recognised the independence of Kosovo. [198447]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are no criteria on recognition of states in the UN Charter. Recognition is a decision for individual states to make. UN Security Council Resolution 1244 provided for a political process to determine Kosovo's final status. The outcome of that process was the UN Special Envoy's Comprehensive Proposal which recommended that Kosovo should be independent, supervised by the international community.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the United Nations have not recognised the independence of Kosovo. [198448]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Of the 192 UN member states, many have yet to take a formal decision. We are aware of 18 who have publicly stated that they have decided not to recognise Kosovo. 38 UN member states, including 20 EU member states, have recognised Kosovo or signalled their intention to do so.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response he plans to make to the proposal tabled at the United Nations by the Government of Serbia that the part of Kosovo which has a Serb majority should be transferred to Serbia. [198515]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No such proposal from the Serbian Government has been tabled at the UN. A proposal was handed to a senior representative of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo by the Serbian Minister for Kosovo. Other members of the Serbian Government have publicly distanced themselves from the proposal.

We do not believe that partition of Kosovo would be a sustainable solution or contribute to regional stability. Partition has been ruled out by the Contact Group and the EU. Both Belgrade and Pristina rejected this option during the status negotiations.

Malta: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 140W, on Malta: health services, if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech given by UK officials defending the language on sexual and reproductive rights; whether the term sexual and reproductive rights includes abortion and a right to abortion; and if he will make a statement. [198746]

Meg Munn: During the Commission on the Status of Women in February and March 2008, the UK aligned itself with the EU speech which did refer to sexual and reproductive health rights. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

UK officials did not give a national speech but spoke during informal negotiations at the Commission on the Status of Women to defend language already agreed by the EU on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The position of the Government is consistent with international agreements such as the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and Beijing where there was agreement among delegations that the prevention of unwanted pregnancies should be given priority through expanded family planning services. ICPD also affirmed that in no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning. These agreements also recognise the health impact of abortion complications—unsafe abortion is a major cause of maternal death and injury—and agree that, where permitted by national law, abortion should be safe and that in all cases women should have access to quality services for the management of complications following abortion.

The Government consider that sexual and reproductive rights are key to improving the status of women and advancing their human rights globally and therefore should not be seen solely in the context of abortion.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials have had with the President of the Palestinian Authority on future armed conflict against Israel; and if he will make a statement. [198744]

Dr. Howells: We have not raised the matter with Palestinian President Abbas, but we welcome his statement distancing himself from this alleged comment, quoted in a Jordanian newspaper. It is essential that all Palestinians and Israelis recognise that their goals of mutual recognition, peace and security can only be achieved through peaceful negotiation. The Annapolis process is a crucial window of opportunity and the UK will continue to support both sides and encourage them to make the necessary concessions.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other countries through the UN (i) have organised and (ii) plan to organise medical aid to assist Israeli casualties following rocket attacks from (A) Gaza and (B) the Lebanon; and if he will make a statement. [198745]

Dr. Howells: We are deeply concerned about the recent escalation of violence in Gaza and Southern Israel. The UK and the UN have no plans to organise medical aid to assist Israeli casualties following rocket attacks in Gaza and Lebanon. Israel has an effective medical aid system in place.

Syria: Foreign Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent contact the Government has had with the Government of Syria; and if he will make a statement. [198516]

Dr. Howells: The UK has full diplomatic relations with Syria. Officials from our embassy in Damascus maintain regular contact with the Syrian Government.

UK Ministers have occasional contact with Syrian Ministers when we judge that such meetings would advance the UK's interests. On 8 November 2007 my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I met the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Dardari and Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Miqdad at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. On 28 September 2007 my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem at the UN in New York.

We continue to call on the Syrian Government to play a constructive role in the Middle East: to cease its support for Palestinian rejectionist groups; support the Government of Iraq; and work to support the election of a consensus President in Lebanon.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 23 April 2008

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate for breast cancer re-screening within 36 months was in (*a*) England, (*b*) West Yorkshire and (*c*) the Leeds/Wakefield screening area in each of the last six months; and what proportion of eligible women in the Leeds/Wakefield breast screening area received scans within 36 months in the most recent period for which figures are available. [199518]

Ann Keen: Data on the 36 month interval for breast cancer screening are collected quarterly by the national health service cancer screening programmes. Data for England and each breast screening unit are shown in the following table. Monthly interval rates of 38 months are also given as an indicator of how close intervals are to the national standard of 36 months.

Breast screening unit	*Percentage 36 month breast cancer screening interval rate interval rate October to December 2007*	*Percentage 38 month breast cancer screening interval rate interval rate October to December 2007*
England	70	88
Bolton	80	99
Chester	90	99
Crewe	97	99
East Lancashire	28	99
Greater Manchester	29	61
Liverpool	62	99
Macclesfield	79	99
North Cumbria	86	100
North Lancashire	9	11
Warrington	96	99
Wigan	40	99
Wirral	99	99
North Tees	71	90
Newcastle	90	96
Gateshead	74	99
Pennine	37	97
North Yorkshire	96	99
Leeds Wakefield	58	66
Humberside	34	43
Sheffield	77	97
Doncaster	97	99
Barnsley	100	100
Rotherham	96	100
North London	17	26
West of London	96	97
Barking and Havering	95	97
Central and East London	55	76
South East London	76	99
South West London	80	96
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	63	95
Chelmsford and Colchester	96	98
Cambridge and Huntingdon	61	98
Epping	2	2
East Suffolk	97	99
James Paget	62	94
King's Lynn	39	84
Norfolk and Norwich	63	97
Peterborough	67	97
South Essex	57	86
West Suffolk	95	98
City Hospital (Birmingham)	96	97
Dudley and Wolverhampton	98	99
Hereford and Worcester	94	98
North Staffordshire	96	99
Shropshire	57	93
South Birmingham	99	99
South Staffordshire	97	97
Walsall and Sandwell	99	100
Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry	99	100
Avon	80	98
Cornwall	98	99
Dorset	97	98
East Devon	96	98
Gloucestershire	97	99
Somerset	84	99
South Devon	90	98
West Devon	99	99
Wiltshire	95	99
Northampton	93	99
South Derbyshire	93	99
North Derbyshire	98	98
North Nottinghamshire	99	99
Kettering	98	99
Leicester	94	96
Lincolnshire	28	41
Nottingham	98	99
Jarvis Centre (Guildford)	98	99
West Sussex	61	95
Brighton	16	61
Canterbury	92	98
Maidstone	41	98
Medway	70	99
Aylesbury	100	100
Wycombe	100	100
Milton Keynes	98	99
Reading	98	99
Windsor	100	100
Oxford	45	99
North and Mid Hampshire	44	96
Southampton and Salisbury	21	84

Breast screening unit	Percentage 36 month breast cancer screening interval rate interval rate October to December 2007	Percentage 38 month breast cancer screening interval rate interval rate October to December 2007
Portsmouth	99	99
Isle of Wight	97	98

Information on breast screening coverage in the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority (SNA) area is shown in the following table. Coverage is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years.

Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 53-64 by specified organisations, at 31 March 2007

		Eligible population[1]	Number of women screened (less than three years since last test)	Coverage (less than three years since last test) (percentage)
	England	3,690,074	2,805,717	76.0
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	373,320	282,165	75.6
	Of which			
5NY	Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	30,921	23,481	75.9
5J6	Calderdale PCT	14,873	11,059	74.4
5N2	Kirklees PCT	27,772	21,795	78.5
5N1	Leeds PCT	48,067	34,507	71.8
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	25,500	17,218	67.5

Notes:
1. This is the number of women in the registered population less those recorded as ineligible.
2. The coverage of the breast screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible that have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years.
3. Coverage of the screening programme is currently best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays.
4. The breast screening programme covers women aged 50-64 but it was extended to invite women aged 65-70 in April 2001. The last unit began inviting women aged 65-70 in April 2006 and full coverage should be achieved by 2008-09.

Source:
KC63

Cardiovascular System: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged between 40 and 74 years of age received a vascular risk assessment in 2007. [199443]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged between 40 and 74 years have access to vascular risk assessments. [199885]

Ann Keen: There is no standardised format for a vascular risk assessment currently in use within the primary care system. However, we do know that many of the elements of the vascular check proposed in "Putting Prevention First" are offered to patients. Copies of this publication are available in the Library. These are not recorded under the heading of vascular risk assessment, but it is possible to make some estimates on the basis of samples of primary care data sets. For example, using a sample of 1.14 million general practice records for adults aged 40 to 74 provided by Q Research, relating to 2007, we can estimate numbers in that age group in England who have records of the four measures we are proposing should form part of a vascular risk assessment. These measures are cholesterol, smoking status, body mass index and blood pressure.

We estimate that in the five years between 2002 and 2007 an average of 620,000 adults per annum will have undergone all four measures. This excludes people who already have one or more vascular diseases because they would not be eligible for primary prevention, which is what the vascular risk assessments are intended for. In addition, from the same data we estimate that 1.2 million people are being prescribed statins for primary prevention of disease and we can assume that each of these is likely to have undergone at least some of the elements of the proposed vascular risk assessment when the initial decision to prescribe statins was made.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has recently issued on the diagnosing of myalgic encephalomyelitis. [200599]

Ann Keen: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published, in August 2007, a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis.

Commission for Social Care Inspection: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pension of the Chief Inspector of the Commission for Social Care Inspection; [198445]

(2) what pensions scheme is offered to staff joining the Commission for Social Care Inspection; what the rate of employer contributions to the scheme is; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms and benefits of the scheme. [198446]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have been informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the cash equivalent transfer value of the public sector pension of the Chief Inspector of CSCI equals £925,134.39p as at 31 March 2008.

We have also been informed by CSCI that the pensions scheme offered to staff joining CSCI is the Teesside Local Government Pension Scheme. For 2008-09, the employer contribution rate is 13.7 per cent. The scheme applies to the great majority of existing CSCI staff and to all new starters who opt for pension fund membership. In addition, when CSCI was created, it inherited some employees who were members of various other pension schemes. The employer contribution rate of these schemes ranges from 6.2 per cent. to 33 per cent.

The details of the terms and benefits of the scheme have been placed in the Library.

Continuing Care: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to ensure that those in the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust area entitled to continuing NHS healthcare are receiving it; [200592]

(2) what steps he has taken in the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust area to ensure that Government guidelines on the equitable entitlement to continuing NHS healthcare achieve their objectives. [200593]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The "National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care in England", implemented from 1 October 2007, sets out the process for determining eligibility for national health service continuing healthcare. To minimise variation in interpretation of the principles outlined in the Framework and to inform consistent decision-making, the Department has developed the national decision support tool in conjunction with stakeholders. The decision support tool supports practitioners in obtaining a full picture of needs and indicates a level of need that could constitute a primary health need as set out in the Framework. The decision support tool, combined with practitioners' own experience and professional judgment, will enable them to apply the primary health need test in practice, in a way that is consistent with the limits on what can be lawfully provided by local authorities. It is too soon to gauge the Framework's impact. We will review the Framework and the decision support tool in September 2008.

We have been informed that Mid Essex Primary Care Trust is committed to the principles of continuing healthcare and to working with its partners to provide funding and support to any individual who meets the national criteria.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost *(a)* per patient and *(b)* per visit for emergency dental treatment at a dental access centre in Milton Keynes has been since their inception. [200767]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts (PCTs) set funding and service requirements for individual dental access centres, locally. The hon. Member may therefore wish to raise this with the chief executive of Milton Keynes PCT.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997; [198294]

(2) what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198314]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested on what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation since May 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

No new criminal offences have been created by primary legislation since July 2007. However, Regulations 27 and 185 of the European Qualifications (Health and Social Care Professions) Regulations 2007 (S.I. 2007/3101), which amended the Medical Act 1983 and the Opticians Act 1983 respectively, expand the scope of existing offences in primary legislation. The Mental Health Act 2007, which was given Royal Assent on 19 July 2007 increases the maximum penalty for ill-treatment or wilful neglect (s.42).

Developing Patient Partnerships Programme: Finance

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason his Department decided to cease funding for the Developing Patient Partnerships programme; and what arrangements have been made for the continuity of the provision of its services to patients. [199338]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has supported Developing Patient Partnerships through two section 64 specific grants since April 2003. The latest grant covering 2006-08 was agreed with Developing Patient Partnerships on the basis they would no longer require central funding as they would be self-sufficient from April 2008 through increasing their subscriber base. Developing Patient Partnerships are currently in discussions with several organisations to make their material available to patients in the future.

Eyesight: Testing

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of people aged 60 and over had an NHS sight test in the last year for which figures are available. [199500]

Ann Keen: The number of general ophthalmic services (GOS) sight tests paid for by the national health service, for persons aged 60 and over, in England, in the year ending 31 March 2007 was 4,518,672. Based on Office for National Statistics population estimates for mid-2006 the sight tests number is 41.9 per cent. of the population aged over 60.

This information is available in Table B4 of the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales, Year Ending 31 March 2007" report. This table also includes the number of tests for persons aged 60 and over as a proportion of the total number of sight tests.

This report, published by The Information Centre for health and social care on 31 July 2007, is available in the Library and is also available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity310307

Numbers of GOS sight tests paid for by the NHS, for persons aged 60 and over and as a proportion of the 60 and over population for the year ending 31 March 2008 are due to be published in the "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales—Year Ending 31 March 2008" report. This report is due to be published, by The Information Centre for health and social care, in July 2008. This report will also include the number of sight tests for persons aged 60 and over as a proportion of the total number of sight tests.

Forced Marriage

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monitoring and evaluation his Department carries out on the implementation of its guidance on forced marriages; and if he will make a statement. [198786]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not monitor the FCO-led guidance on recognising forced marriages. It is for NHS trusts and primary care trusts to monitor the performance of their own staff in recognising domestic violence, including cases of forced marriage.

Health Professions: Training

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are under consideration by his Department to ensure that strategic health authorities meet their service level agreement commitments regarding multi-professional education and training. [200175]

Ann Keen: In 2007-08 a service level agreement (SLA) and accountability framework has been issued to ensure that strategic health authorities (SHAs) are held to account for the training they support. The SLA also sets out that there should be a learning and development agreement in place with service providers to underpin the education and training funds passed to national health service trusts. The role of the Department should be to focus on outputs and accountability rather than on ensuring a fixed amount of money is spent for a particular purpose regardless of local priorities. Strategic health authorities (SHAs) provide relevant financial and activity data four times per year to the Department. SHAs also published an annual investment plan by 30 June 2007 setting out their planned investment in education and training for the year. We will be asking SHAs for an end of year report on the SLA shortly. They also provide relevant financial and activity data up to four times per year to the Department.

Health Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bids he has received for designation as an Academic Health Services Centre; and what criteria will apply to determining the outcome of such bids. [198388]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 2 April 2008]*: The Department is currently in the process of developing proposals for the roll-out of Academic Health and Science Centres.

Medical Records: Disclosure of Information

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has published guidance on the duty of foundation trusts to release medical records to the next of kin of a patient who has died in their care; [198899]

(2) whether his Department has powers to require foundation trusts to release medical records to the next of kin of a patient who has died in their care. [198900]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 21 April 2008]*: Access to deceased patients' health records is permitted under the Access to Health Records Act 1990 (AHR) though this does not automatically provide a right of access for next of kin. Applications for access under the AHR may be made by the deceased's personal representative and any person who may have a claim arising from the patient's death. This may be the next of kin in some cases.

The Department has provided the national health service with guidance on access to the records of deceased but is currently reviewing this guidance in light of recent legal cases. Essentially, the decision whether or not to disclose records of the deceased is the responsibility of the organisations holding the record, taking into account obligations of confidentiality and any directions provided by the deceased individual.

The Department does not have the authority to require foundation trusts to release health records of deceased patients, but foundation trusts must comply with the AHR in the same way as other NHS trusts.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether changes to the unsocial hours payment were agreed in the 2004 agenda for change. [199952]

Ann Keen: The agenda for change agreement included an interim regime for unsocial hours that had some early implementer and some Whitley provisions. It included an agreement that the NHS Staff Council would work toward developing a new harmonised unsocial hours arrangement. These arrangements were agreed in February 2008, with an effective date of 1 April 2008.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has informed NHS staff of the changes to unsocial hours payment. [199953]

Ann Keen: Responsibility for communication to individual members of staff rests with the employing organisation. However, changes to the unsocial hours arrangements were discussed, developed and agreed in partnership with the unions and NHS Employers represented on the NHS Staff Council. NHS Employers have written to employing organisations to ensure they are aware of the changes and have provided information on their website, which may be used by managers to support local briefing.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings he has had with *(a)* Unison, *(b)* the Royal College of Nursing and *(c)* other representative bodies on the changes to the unsocial hours payment; and if he will place in the Library the minutes of those meetings. [199989]

Ann Keen: NHS Employers lead the negotiating machinery for changes to the terms and conditions for staff covered by the agenda for change terms and conditions. Any meetings to discuss unsocial hours with the 14 unions that represent these staff, including Unison and the Royal College of Nursing, were held by NHS Employers.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent changes he has made to the unsocial hours payment; and if he will break down the percentage change by *(a)* pay band and *(b)* staff role. [199990]

Ann Keen: The old arrangements were related to Whitley staff groups and pay scales, and there is no easy read-across to agenda for change pay bands. The changes to the unsocial hours payments have an effective date from 1 April 2008, the impacts will vary but in headline terms:

any time on Saturday (midnight to midnight) and any week day after 8 pm and before 6 am is time plus 50 per cent. for band 1, time plus 44 per cent. for band 2, time plus 37 per cent. for band 3 and time plus 30 per cent. for bands 4 to 9; and

all time on Sundays and public holidays (midnight to midnight) is double time for band 1, time plus 88 per cent. for band 2, time plus 74 per cent. for band 3, time plus 60 per cent. for bands 4 to 9.

It is not possible to identify what this means by role; payment depends on their band. However, it is important to note that all staff employed in ambulance organisations will remain on the original prospective agenda for change system, as it has worked well in early implementers and for national roll-out.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what quantitative public opinion research has been commissioned as part of the NHS next stage review. [198467]

Ann Keen: The national health service next stage review, 'Our NHS, our future', has commissioned two national public opinion surveys. These surveys are being used as a source of evidence to inform the findings of the review. The results of these surveys will be released in the summer.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the formula is for funding local involvement networks; and what the *(a)* unweighted funding per council and *(b)* unweighted funding per 100 people is for each local authority in 2008-09. [200169]

Ann Keen: The Department received an allocation of £84 million over three years from HM Treasury to fund the establishment and costs incurred by local involvement networks (LINks). The allocations to local authorities (LAs) were based on two elements used in many similar cases to take account of key geographical factors such as deprivation, sparsity, area costs, etc. The first was a general baseline payment of £60,000 awarded to each LA. The second was calculated according to the relative needs formula (RNF), which is used to allocate funds to LAs in other areas of work.

The RNF relates to three population groups: children, younger adults (aged 18-64) and older people (aged 65 and over). The RNF includes needs components and costs components that are specific to the three age groups. The children's formula consists of a basic amount per resident child aged 0 to 17, and top-ups for deprivation, fostering cost and area costs. The older people's formula consists of a basic amount per person aged 65 and over and top-ups for age, deprivation, sparsity, low income from fees and charges, and area costs. The younger adults' formula consists of a basic amount per person aged 18-64 and tops-ups for deprivation and area costs.

The formula is therefore defined in terms of need and costs. There is not a weighting component that could be extracted from the calculations because the calculations use local values ('weights') for 'needs' and for 'costs', and removing them would make it impossible to calculate the funding allocations. Extracting weights from the calculation would have the effect of each local authority receiving an equal funding allocation.

Using the allocations for LINks for 2008-09, we have been able to calculate the amount of local funding per 100 people (£) for 2008-09 and this is shown in the following table.

LA	*Grant per 100 people (£)*
Cornwall	48.02
Cumbria	46.75
Gloucestershire	39.85
Hertfordshire	34.11
Lincolnshire	41.56
Norfolk	41.08
Northamptonshire	37.80
Northumberland	53.23
Oxfordshire	35.13
Somerset	43.60
Suffolk	39.89
Surrey	30.67
Warwickshire	40.62
West Sussex	36.49
North Yorkshire	37.46
Bedfordshire	42.25
Buckinghamshire	37.29
Derbyshire	41.67
Dorset	45.47
Durham	51.08
East Sussex	46.68
Hampshire	29.89
Leicestershire	34.52
Staffordshire	36.58
Wiltshire	40.39
Cambridgeshire	37.11
Cheshire	37.41
Devon	40.23
Essex	35.28
Kent	35.57
Lancashire	38.98
Nottinghamshire	39.53
Shropshire	51.74
Worcestershire	40.13
Isles of Scilly	2,856.58
Barking and Dagenham	88.88
Barnet	55.38
Bexley	59.27
Brent	68.26
Bromley	50.46
Croydon	55.82
Ealing	59.84
Enfield	62.80
Haringey	76.30
Harrow	64.44
Havering	58.42
Hillingdon	58.86
Hounslow	64.82
Kingston upon Thames	65.22
Merton	62.28
Newham	86.22

LA	Grant per 100 people (£)
Redbridge	61.81
Richmond upon Thames	59.44
Sutton	63.73
Waltham Forest	73.75
Camden	77.36
Greenwich	84.34
Hackney	99.50
Hammersmith and Fulham	83.68
Islington	91.86
Kensington and Chelsea	78.81
Lambeth	76.17
Lewisham	76.98
Southwark	78.32
Tower Hamlets	97.68
Wandsworth	60.58
Westminster	74.95
City of London	817.07
Bolton	63.09
Bury	66.64
Manchester	63.67
Oldham	68.97
Rochdale	70.99
Salford	73.03
Stockport	53.23
Tameside	68.29
Trafford	61.30
Wigan	57.15
Knowsley	92.51
Liverpool	66.74
St. Helens	74.40
Sefton	61.94
Wirral	64.27
Barnsley	67.90
Doncaster	59.27
Rotherham	63.20
Sheffield	50.11
Gateshead	73.26
Newcastle upon Tyne	63.15
North Tyneside	68.83
South Tyneside	84.23
Sunderland	62.66
Birmingham	55.39
Coventry	58.10
Dudley	56.56
Sandwell	70.42
Solihull	58.55
Walsall	66.60
Wolverhampton	71.32
Bradford	52.50
Calderdale	65.43
Kirklees	50.68
Leeds	41.10
Wakefield	56.74
Isle of Wight Council	83.04
Bath and North East Somerset	62.20
Bristol	51.06
South Gloucestershire	48.67
North Somerset	60.31
Hartlepool	108.96
Middlesbrough	88.09
Redcar and Cleveland	83.13
Stockton-on-Tees	66.53
East Riding of Yorkshire	47.64
Kingston upon Hull	67.42
North East Lincolnshire	75.82
North Lincolnshire	71.57
York	56.46
Luton	70.14
Milton Keynes	57.59
Derby	63.31
Bournemouth	73.63
Poole	74.95
Darlington	96.69
Brighton and Hove	58.87
Portsmouth	63.62
Southampton	61.78
Leicester	64.06
Rutland	179.13
Stoke-on-Trent	67.90
Swindon	60.26
Bracknell Forest	76.80
West Berkshire	63.82
Reading	72.81
Slough	86.64
Windsor and Maidenhead	66.86
Wokingham	56.81
Peterborough	74.87
Halton	92.57
Warrington	60.41
Plymouth	60.98
Torbay	89.69
Southend-on-Sea	77.23
Thurrock	74.86
Herefordshire	66.64
Medway	54.10
Blackburn with Darwen	87.04
Blackpool	88.25
Nottingham	64.28
Telford and the Wrekin	73.73

NHS: Reorganisation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for Lord Darzi's assessment in his interim report that the NHS is perhaps two-thirds of the way through its reform programme set out in 2000 and 2002. [199431]

Ann Keen: As stated on pages 14-15 of the NHS chief executive's annual report, published on 21 June 2007, there are three stages in the journey to reform the national health service. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/AnnualReports/DH_076170

The aim of the NHS Next Stage Review, "Our NHS, our future", is to identify the way forward for a 21st century NHS which is clinically-driven, patient-centred and responsive to local communities.

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2392W, on nurses: schools, (1) if he will break down the number of full-time equivalent fully-qualified school nurses by *(a)* region, *(b)* primary care trust and *(c)* local authority; [194727]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of schools in England that are visited by a fully qualified school nurse; [194728]

(3) on nurses: schools, how many children were seen by a fully qualified school nurse in each year since 2004. [194729]

Ann Keen: No estimate has been made centrally of the percentage of schools in England that are visited by a fully-qualified school nurse or of the number of children who were seen by a fully-qualified school nurse in each year since 2004. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local authorities (LAs), strategic health authorities (SHAs) and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of school nursing services.

The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent fully-qualified school nurses in England broken down by SHA and PCT.

The information showing the breakdown by LA is not collected centrally.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work as at 30 September 2007

Full-time equivalent

	Total qualified nursing staff	*Of which: Qualified school nurses*[1]
England	2,232	893
North East SHA area	127	42
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	13	13
County Durham PCT	26	21
Darlington PCT	8	2
Gateshead PCT	16	2
Hartlepool PCT	6	—
Middlesbrough PCT	19	—
Newcastle PCT	1	1
North Tees PCT	11	—
Northumberland Care Trust	3	3
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	13	—
South Tyneside PCT	12	—
North West SHA area	495	188
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	21	5
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	19	—
Blackpool PCT	16	7
Bolton PCT	27	26
Bury PCT	16	16
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	29	5
Central Lancashire PCT	22	2
Cumbria PCT	17	9
East Lancashire PCT	38	5
Halton and St. Helens PCT	35	13
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	16	13
Knowsley PCT	20	1
Liverpool PCT	13	—
Manchester PCT	52	34
North Lancashire PCT	17	6
Oldham PCT	27	9
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust	13	—
Sefton PCT	23	—
Stockport PCT	10	3
Tameside and Glossop PCT	18	18
The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	24	9
Warrington PCT	13	10
West Cheshire PCT	10	—
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA area	268	130
Barnsley PCT	15	15
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	21	17
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	1	—
Calderdale PCT	14	9
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	4	2
Hull Teaching PCT	13	5
Kirklees PCT	25	25
Leeds PCT	47	33
North East Lincolnshire PCT	12	—
North Lincolnshire PCT	9	1
North Yorkshire and York PCT	19	6
Rotherham PCT	27	6
Sheffield PCT	30	11
Wakefield District PCT	21	—
York Hospitals NHS Trust	8	—
East Midlands SHA area	183	45
Bassetlaw PCT	2	—
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	24	1
Derby City PCT	22	15
Derbyshire County PCT	14	1
Leicester City Teaching PCT	14	2
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	38	1
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	26	6
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	23	19
Nottingham City PCT	5	—
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	8	1
The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	6	—
West Midlands SHA area	272	138
Birmingham East and North PCT	15	14
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS trust	1	—
Coventry Teaching PCT	12	—
Dudley PCT	13	1
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	22	—
North Staffordshire PCT	15	10
Sandwell PCT	18	1
Shropshire County PCT	9	1
Solihull Care Trust	10	—
South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Trust	6	1
South Staffordshire PCT	36	36
Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT	25	24
Telford and Wrekin PCT	8	—
Walsall Teaching PCT	17	4
Warwickshire PCT	27	17
Wolverhampton City PCT	17	17
Worcestershire PCT	20	14

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing staff in the school nursing area of work as at 30 September 2007

Full-time equivalent

	Total qualified nursing staff	*Of which: Qualified school nurses*[1]
East of England SHA area	162	51
Bedfordshire PCT	22	4
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	1	1
Cambridgeshire PCT	9	5
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	16	13
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	4	1
Luton PCT	13	5
Mid Essex PCT	13	9
Norfolk PCT	1	—
North East Essex PCT	17	6
Peterborough PCT	8	1
South East Essex PCT	16	2
South West Essex Teaching PCT	21	
West Essex PCT	1	0
West Hertfordshire PCT	19	5
London SHA area	327	132
Barking and Dagenham PCT	10	2
Barnet PCT	5	1
Brent Teaching PCT	19	15
Bromley PCT	1	—
Camden PCT	6	1
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	2	2
City and Hackney PCT	16	9
Croydon PCT	11	—
Ealing PCT	13	2
Enfield PCT	16	—
Greenwich Teaching PCT	17	16
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	7	7
Haringey Teaching PCT	11	2
Havering PCT	9	9
Hillingdon PCT	13	4
Hounslow PCT	8	—
Islington PCT	19	4
Kingston PCT	5	1
Lambeth PCT	15	15
Lewisham PCT	16	11
Newham PCT	8	6
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	2	—
Redbridge PCT	19	13
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	13	2
Southwark PCT	6	6
Sutton and Merton PCT	17	—
Tower Hamlets PCT	10	2
Waltham Forest PCT	8	—
Wandsworth PCT	15	4
Westminster PCT	10	1
South East Coast SHA area	136	61
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	14	10
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching PCT	12	11
Hastings and Rother PCT	14	14
Medway NHS Trust	10	—
South Downs Health NHS Trust	18	—
Surrey PCT	28	2
West Kent PCT	13	2
West Sussex Teaching PCT	27	22
South Central SHA area	108	46
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	14	10
Berkshire West PCT	22	13
Hampshire PCT	30	4
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	5	
Milton Keynes PCT	4	4
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	11	
Oxfordshire PCT	13	13
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	6	1
Southampton City PCT	2	
South West SHA area	156	60
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1	
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	6	
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	15	15
Devon PCT	20	18
Dorset PCT	9	6
Gloucestershire PCT	20	1
North Bristol NHS Trust	11	
North Somerset PCT	6	1
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	1	
Plymouth Teaching PCT	11	
Somerset PCT	9	5
Swindon PCT	10	3
Torbay Care Trust	8	6
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	11	4
Wiltshire PCT	17	2

[1] Qualified school nurse: Qualified school nurses hold the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Specialist Practice Qualification with an outcome in school nursing—which is a recordable qualification on the NMC register.
Figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce census.

The 2007 census showed there were 2,232 qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work, an increase of 613 or 37.86 pr cent. since 2004. Of these there were 893 school nurses with a post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 286 or 47.12 per cent. since 2004.

Nurses: Training

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake to restore the underspend by strategic health authorities on multi-professional education and training, with particular reference to nurse training for each of the last five years for which there has been an underspend. [199947]

Ann Keen: The multi professional education and training budget forms part of the national health service bundle of budgets issued to strategic health authorities (SHAs) and as such is not ring fenced. It is up to the SHAs to determine how much they spend on education and training and whether underspends should be restored to the following year's budgets in the light of their own local priorities.

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that strategic health authorities spend their full budget allocation on nurse training. [199948]

Ann Keen: The Department is not taking any steps to ensure that strategic health authorities spend their full budget allocation on nurse training. The role of the Department should be to focus on outputs and accountability rather than on ensuring a fixed amount of money is spent for a particular purpose regardless of local priorities.

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the aggregated underspend on nurse training over the last five years. [200176]

Ann Keen: We do not allocate funding specifically to nurse training. We therefore cannot provide figures on the level of underspending for the last five years. However figures on the total underspend from the multi-professional education and training (MPET) budget are shown in the following table.

	MPET underspend (£ million)
2003-04	58.7
2004-05	86.3
2005-06	135.7
2006-07	357.0
2007-08[1]	99.0

[1] Forecast based on quarter three quarterly monitoring returns.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: Perinatal Mortality

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of perinatal mortality there were in Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [199930]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of perinatal deaths and the perinatal mortality rate for Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[1] from 2001 to 2005, which are the latest data available.

[1] The trust was founded in April 2004. The data are taken from the following hospitals that are now part of the trust: Peterborough district hospital; Edith Cavell hospital; Stamford and Rutland hospital; and the district maternity unit.

	Perinatal deaths[1]	*Perinatal mortality rate*[2]
2001	31	9.4
2002	28	8.4
2003	36	10.4
2004	20	5.6
2005	24	6.9

[1] Stillbirths plus early neonatal deaths (deaths under seven days of age).
[2] Stillbirths and early neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births and stillbirths.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for buying or attempting to buy alcohol under age in each of the last three years for which information is available. [191306]

Mr. Coaker: The number of young persons under 18 years of age issued with a reprimand or final warning, penalty notice for disorder, or proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to buying or attempting to buy alcohol under age in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following tables 1 and 2. From June 2000, cautions for offenders under 18 years old were replaced by reprimands and final warnings.

Number of young persons aged under 18 years issued with a reprimand/final warning, and proceeded against at magistrates courts for certain alcohol offences in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5]

	Offence description			
	Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor ,Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor		*Purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18*	
	14316		*14383*	
	Proceeded against	*Reprimanded/Final warning*[1]	*Proceeded against*	*Reprimanded/Final warning*[1]
2004	10	32	—	—
2005	14	19	—	3
2006	6	3	2	4

- Nil
[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Offence Code 14316
Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor.
Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises.
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(2). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(2).
Offence Code 14382
Purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 S. 149(1)(7a)
[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings.
Reprimands and final warnings are included in the above data.
[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our Ref: IOS 205-08 (Table 1) [Contribution for PQ 191306]

Number of young persons aged 16 to 17 years issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence - Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18 in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18
2004	-
2005	21
2006	73

- Nil

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statute:
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18
Section 149(1)of the Licensing Act 2003 (c.17)

[3] New legislative reference with effect from, 24 November 2005 on implementation of Licensing Act 2003.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform Ministry of Justice

Our Ref: IOS 205-08 (Table 2) [Contribution for PQ 191306]

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances there were of alcohol found in the possession of children being seized in accordance with section 1 of the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 in each of the last three years; and how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder, having failed to comply with such a request in each of the last 10 years. [191316]

Mr. Coaker: Offences recorded under this legislation are summary offences and as such do not form part of the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

The number of persons issued with a caution, and proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under section 1 of the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

The offence is not one for which a PND (penalty notice for disorder) can be issued; as it is not part of the scheme.

Number of persons issued with a caution, and proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under section 1 of the Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 in England and Wales for the years 2004-06[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against	*Caution*
2004	12	2
2005	14	10
2006	19	5

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. The total figure of reprimands and final warnings makes up cautions.

[4] Data include the following statute and corresponding offence description:
Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 Sec.1. Police Reform Act 2002 Sch.4 para.6 (Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 S.1).
Failure to surrender intoxicating liquor and/or to state name and address.
Contravening a community support officer's requirement to surrender liquor.

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for buying or attempting to buy alcohol on behalf of a person under 18 years old in each of the last three years for which information is available. [191307]

Mr. Coaker: The number of persons issued with a caution, penalty notice for disorder or proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to buying or attempting to buy alcohol on behalf of a person aged under 18 years in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2006 can be viewed in the following tables 1 and 2.

Number of persons issued with a caution, and proceeded against at magistrates courts for certain alcohol offences in England and Wales for the years 2004-06[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	Offence description			
	Buying or attempting to buy intoxicating liquor for consumption by a person under 18. Purchasing intoxicating liquor for consumption by person under 18 in bar		*Person who buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of an individual under 18*	
	Proceeded against	*Cautions*[3]	*Proceeded against*	*Cautions*[3]
2004	38	14	[6]—	[6]—
2005	29	12	[6]—	2
2006	14	11	18	13

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Buying or attempting to buy intoxicating liquor for consumption by a person under 18.
Purchasing intoxicating liquor for consumption by person under 18 in bar.
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(3).
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(3).
Person who buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of an individual under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 S149(3,4,7b)

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. Reprimands and final warnings are included in the abovementioned data.

[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[6] Nil

Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offences purchasing alcohol for under 18 and purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises in England and Wales for the years 2004-06[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Purchase alcohol for person under 18	*Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises*
2004	18	66
2005	170	83
2006	407	60

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statute:
Buys or attempts to buy alcohol on behalf of person under 18 s149(3) of the Licensing Act 2003
Buys or attempts to buy alcohol for consumption on relevant premises by person under 18 s149(4) of the Licensing Act 2003
[3] New legislative reference with effect from, 24 November 2005 on implementation of Licensing Act 2003
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached since 31 December 2005, broken down by criminal justice system area. [200365]

Mr. Coaker: Data on how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued and breached since 31 December 2005 are not yet available. Data from 1 January to 31 December for 2006 are due to be published shortly.

Asylum

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library copies of information provided about the Case Resolution Directorate to the legal representatives of individuals whose cases are to be considered by the Case Resolution Directorate; and if she will make a statement. [196103]

Mr. Byrne: No such guidance has been provided to legal representatives of individuals whose cases are being considered by the Case Resolution Directorate. Information about the Case Resolution Directorate can be found on the UK Border Agency website.

Crimes of Violence: Dorset

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in West Dorset constituency in each of the last five years. [200926]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Hertfordshire

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in *(a)* South West Hertfordshire and *(b)* Watford constituency in each of the last five years. [200398]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Libraries of the House.

Crimes of Violence: Market Harborough

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Harborough constituency in each of the last five years. [200415]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Criminal Records: Young People

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under the age of 18 years gained a criminal record in each year since 1997. [188571]

Mr. Coaker: Although annual figures for each year since 1997 are not available, the Statistical Bulletins on juvenile re-offending published by the Ministry of Justice show quarterly figures for the number of offenders aged 10-17, who at the time of receiving a reprimand, final warning or conviction had no previous offences.

Figures are available for cohorts of offenders from the first quarters of 2000, 2004 and 2005. The cohorts are constructed in order to measure re-offending and therefore exclude juveniles receiving custodial sentences but include juveniles discharged from custody during each quarter.

The numbers of juveniles with no previous offences in each of the quarterly cohorts were as follows:

	Number
2000	21,546
2004	23,379
2005	24,739

These figures have been derived from the police's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at how many events held by her Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment her Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196951]

Mr. Byrne: Figures for the number of events held by my Department at which wine was served are not available. Fairtrade wine is not currently offered at the Home Office HQ at 2 Marsham Street but the facilities provider will be invited to make an assessment of the merits of doing so at future events.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has adopted the Carbon Trust's Carbon Management Programme or plans to do so in the next 12 months. [198046]

Mr. Byrne: My Department has committed to working with the Carbon Trust to address its carbon emissions.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department met the target in the sustainable operations on the Government estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. [198047]

Mr. Byrne: My Department did not meet the sustainable operations target on the Government office estate to reverse the then upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007. The target related to the Department's offices which increased substantially in number through the inclusion in the figures of the national probation service estate. After allowing for this, an increase in emissions of 12 per cent. occurred. There are a range of other factors that need to be taken into account, including density of occupation, IT provision and use of air-conditioning across the estate.

Departmental Fixed Penalties

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of her Department in the last five years; and what the total cost was. [200487]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many external contracts her Department held with public relations companies in each of the last 10 years; and what the total cost of those contracts was. [183165]

Mr. Byrne: Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people, and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. The Home Office communicates directly to the public through individual campaigns that provide advice, information and reassurance. These campaigns are often supported by paid-for PR activity which is essential to ensure broader reach of our target audiences.

The following information details the number, nature and cost of PR contracts for the last five years (not including the current financial year). The costs include resources required to generate PR and any necessary supporting materials. Collating information for the last 10 years would incur disproportionate costs in terms of staff time.

Nature of PR contract	*Cost £*
2002-03	
Contracts (Number)	4
Total cost	257,484
Drugs Misuse	79,219
Criminal Justice	36,900
Mobile Phone Safety	44,190
Child Protection on the Internet	97,175
2003-04	
Contracts (Number)	5
Total cost	975,909
Holocaust Memorial Day	44,142
Security Industry Authority	150,573
Domestic Violence	75,000
Sexual Offences Act	56,465
Citizenship	650,729
2004-05	
Contracts (Number)	13
Total cost	3,037,320
Mobile Phone Safety	44,190
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	260,373.99
Antisocial Behaviour	646,570
Sexual Offences Act	128,359
Criminal Justice	982,410
Domestic Violence	75,000
Year of the Volunteer	210,769.95
Police—High Potential Development	62,760
Alcohol and Violent Crime	501,692
Drugs	71,239

Nature of PR contract	Cost (£)
Communities	18,412
Familial Homicide	4,940
Holocaust Memorial Day	30,586
2005-06	
Contracts - Number	-
Total cost	1,377,633
Antisocial Behaviour	363,040
Criminal Justice	265,780
Year of the Volunteer	74,027
Police - High Potential Development	41,400
Community Support Officers Recruitment	2,380
Tackling Violent Crime	156,620
Drugs	474,386
2006-07	
Contracts - Number	-
Total cost	975,301
Criminal Justice	174,473
Community Sentences	193,181
Drugs	374,666
Single Non Emergency Number Pilots	29,186
Community Support Officers Recruitment	113,511
Police - High Potential Development	28,716
Respect	61,568

Departmental Publications

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to members of her Department on the authorship and publication on the internet of material relating to their official duties; and if she will make a statement. [196751]

Mr. Byrne: The Civil Service Code, the Civil Service Management Code and Propriety Guidance on Government Communications, all provide guidance to staff on the publication of material relating to their official duties. Copies of each of these are in the Libraries of the House. They are also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/

Departmental Sustainable Development

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department is on course to meet the sustainable operations on the Government estate targets *(a)* to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewables by 31 March 2008 and *(b)* to increase recycling figures to 40 per cent. of waste by 2010. [198045]

Mr. Byrne: I direct the right hon. Member to the 2007 Sustainable Development in Government report, a copy of which is held in the House of Commons Library.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department is working towards an accredited certified environmental management system *(a)* for its whole estate and *(b)* in some of its buildings. [198048]

Mr. Byrne: My Department's facilities supplier has implemented an accredited ISO 14001 environmental management system in our 2 Marsham Street headquarters building. My Department is also working toward accredited certified environmental management systems in some of its other buildings within the framework of a corporate environmental management system.

Deportation: EU Countries

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will raise in the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council the procedures for notifying other member states when a member state deports an EU national from another state following conviction for a serious criminal offence; and if she will make a statement. [197671]

Mr. Byrne: The UK Border Agency may disclose information to a foreign Government regarding an individual's criminal conviction provided the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and Human Rights Act 1998 are met.

Domestic Violence

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications have been made under the domestic violence rule; and how many have included children in the last three years. [199963]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 April 2008]*: The number of applications received under the domestic violence rule in the last three years is 3,505. Of these 3,505 applications, 570 included one or more children as part of the application.

Entry Clearance: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1048W, on entry clearances: employment, if she will give a breakdown by nationality of those receiving leave to *(a)* enter and *(b)* remain under the International Graduate Scheme. [181145]

Mr. Byrne: The information is provided in the following tables:

(a) Leave to enter in Table A

The difference in total from that previously indicated is that the figures provided are up to 31 December 2007.

(b) Leave to remain in Table B

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Table A: Leave to enter

Nationality	Number of people
Albania	[illegible]
Australia	[illegible]
Bahrain	[illegible]
Bangladesh	5
Brazil	5
British national overseas	25

Table A. Leave to enter

Nationality	*Number of people*
Brunei	[illegible]
Burma (Myanmar)	[illegible]
Canada	15
Chile	[illegible]
China	80
Egypt	5
Ethiopia	[illegible]
Ghana	[illegible]
Hong Kong	20
India	150
Indonesia	[illegible]
Iran	5
Israel	5
Jamaica	[illegible]
Japan	50
Jordan	5
Kazakhstan	[illegible]
Kenya	5
Lebanon	[illegible]
Malawi	[illegible]
Malaysia	110
Mauritius	10
Mexico	5
Moldova	[illegible]
Nepal	[illegible]
Niger	[illegible]
Nigeria	5
Oman	[illegible]
Pakistan	10
Palestinian authority	[illegible]
Peru	[illegible]
Philippines	[illegible]
Russia	5
Seychelles	[illegible]
Sierra Leone	[illegible]
Singapore	10
South Africa	[illegible]
South Korea	10
Sri Lanka	5
St. Lucia	[illegible]
Sudan	5
Taiwan	35
Tanzania	[illegible]
Thailand	15
Trinidad and Tobago	[illegible]
Turkey	5
Uganda	[illegible]
United States	35
Uzbekistan	[illegible]
Vietnam	5
Yugoslavia	[illegible]
Zambia	[illegible]
Zimbabwe	[illegible]
Total	690

[illegible] Indicates one or two

Table B. Leave to remain

Nationality	*Number of people*
Afghanistan	[illegible]
Albania	10
Algeria	10
Angola	5
Antigua and Barbuda	[illegible]
Argentina	5
Armenia	5

Table B. Leave to remain

Nationality	*Number of people*
Australia	30
Azerbaijan	5
Bahamas	[illegible]
Bahrain	[illegible]
Bangladesh	215
Barbados	10
Belarus	10
Belize	[illegible]
Benin	[illegible]
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5
Botswana	10
Brazil	40
British National (Overseas)	85
British Overseas Citizen	[illegible]
Brunei Darussalam	[illegible]
Burkina Faso	[illegible]
Burundi	[illegible]
Cameroon	15
Canada	65
Cape Verde	[illegible]
Chile	5
China (Peoples Republic of China)	1,405
Colombia	40
Congo	[illegible]
Costa Rica	[illegible]
Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	[illegible]
Croatia	5
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	[illegible]
Dominican Republic	5
Ecuador	5
Egypt	15
Ethiopia	5
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	[illegible]
Gambia	25
Georgia	10
Ghana	195
Grenada	[illegible]
Guatemala	[illegible]
Guinea	[illegible]
Guyana	[illegible]
Honduras	[illegible]
Hong Kong SAR of China (holder of certificate of identity or document of identity)	[illegible]
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China	40
India	1,395
Indonesia	35
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	75
Iraq	5
Israel	20
Jamaica	45
Japan	130
Jordan	25
Kampuchea	[illegible]
Kazakhstan	20
Kenya	150
Kuwait	5
Kyrgyzstan	5
Latvia	[illegible]
Lebanon	20
Libya	20
Macao Special Administrative Region of China	5
Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of)	5
Madagascar	[illegible]
Malawi	25
Malaysia	415

Table B. Leave to remain

Nationality	Number of people
Maldives	5
Mauritius	140
Mexico	30
Moldova, Republic of	5
Mongolia	10
Morocco	5
Mozambique	5
Myanmar	30
Namibia	5
Nepal	45
New Zealand	10
Nigeria	835
Pakistan	700
Palestinian Authority	*
Panama	*
Paraguay	*
Peru	15
Philippines	15
Refugee - Other	*
Republic of Montenegro	*
Republic of Serbia	5
Romania	*
Russian Federation	115
Rwanda	*
Saudi Arabia	*
Senegal	5
Seychelles	5
Sierra Leone	15
Singapore	25
South Africa	35
South Korea (Rep of Korea)	135
Sri Lanka	330
St Kitts and Nevis	*
St Vincent and the Grenadines	10
St Lucia	10
Sudan	10
Swaziland	5
Syria Arab Republic	15
Taiwan (Republic of China)	65
Tajikistan	*
Thailand	55
Togo	*
Trinidad and Tobago	25
Tunisia	*
Turkey	95
Turkmenistan	*
Uganda	55
Ukraine	35
United Arab Emirates	*
United Rep of Tanzania	45
United States of America	225
Uzbekistan	15
Venezuela	15
Vietnam	30
Yemen	5
Zambia	25
Zimbabwe	110
Total	8,200

* Indicates one or two

Notes:

1. The data in this publication are based on management information, are provisional and may be subject to change. The data are not National Statistics.

2. Figures rounded to nearest five. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Genetics: Databases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people living in Romford were registered on the national DNA database at the most recent date for which figures are available. [186911]

Meg Hillier: It is not possible to provide figures for the number of people registered on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) who are resident in a particular area, as the NDNAD does not hold address details.

Heathrow Airport: Security

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason it was decided to take fingerprint impressions from domestic transfer passengers at Heathrow airport; and what use was to be made of the information gathered. [199173]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 April 2008]*: In the building of Terminal 5 at Heathrow, the British Airports Authority (BAA) took the decision to introduce a Common Departure Lounge (CDL). BAA was required to ensure that any immigration risks arising from the mixing of domestic and international passengers were mitigated.

It is the intention that the admission of domestic passengers into the lounge will be controlled by means of biometric fingerprint enrolment together with a digital photograph, the details of which will then be validated at boarding. This system will ensure that only those individuals entitled to travel within the UK as a domestic passenger can do so. However, to ensure that the proposed system is fully validated by the Information Commissioner, it has been agreed that the system will operate using only digital photography until such validation is given.

BAA has undertaken that all data obtained will immediately be encrypted and destroyed within 24 hours in accordance with the Data Protection Act. They have confirmed that data stored do not include any personal details and are not cross referenced with any other database or organisation.

Illegal Immigrants: China

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Chinese people have been arrested during raids carried out under the stop illegal working campaign; how many of those were found to be *(a)* illegal workers and *(b)* employers of illegal workers; and, of those found to be illegal workers, how many have been (i) deported, (ii) detained and (iii) released on bail. [198529]

Mr. Byrne: From 14 January 2008 to 31 March 122 Chinese nationals were arrested following illegal working operations, all of whom were found to be working illegally. We do not record the nationality of employers of illegal workers arrested. This information is derived from provisional local management information which may be subject to change.

Information relating to questions (i) (ii) (iii) could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many of the raids conducted under the stop illegal working campaign were the illegal workers discovered of predominantly *(a)* Chinese, *(b)* Indian, *(c)* Pakistani and *(d)* Malaysian nationality. [198531]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not recorded.

Immigrants: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data her Department collects from landing cards completed by migrants arriving in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [199714]

Mr. Byrne: All passengers who are citizens of countries outside of the European Economic Area and who arrive in the United Kingdom from outside of the Common Travel Area are required to complete their name, date of birth, nationality, gender, address in the United Kingdom and signature on a landing card.

In cases where a passenger has been granted leave to enter, immigration officers will place any conditions of entry and an admission category on the landing card. In certain circumstances immigration officers will make notes on the reverse of the landing card about a passenger's intentions and duration of stay and will record details of their travel document. In cases such as these, landing cards are copied and retained on microfiche.

Immigration: Detainees

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued to police forces on the holding of immigration detainees in police cells; and if she will place in the Library a copy of such guidance. [198501]

Mr. Byrne: The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) applies to all persons detained in police custody, including those detained under immigration legislation. Copies of PACE are available in the Library.

No additional guidance specifically for immigration detainees has been issued.

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will amend the Fees Regulations for applications for indefinite leave to remain to allow for payment by instalments in exceptional circumstances. [199939]

Mr. Byrne: We do not have any plans to make changes to the fee regulations to allow payment by instalments.

Immigration: Forced Marriage

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data her Department collects in respect of immigration applications arising from forced marriage. [198798]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Home Office Forced Marriage Unit records a variety of data on cases they handle where the sponsor of an immigration application informs the unit that they have been forced into marriage and are reluctantly sponsoring the application. Since 2006 the Forced Marriage Unit has handled the following numbers of reluctant sponsor cases:

2006: 92 cases (69 Pakistan, 12 India, 10 Bangladesh, 1 Sudan);

2007: 95 cases (63 Pakistan, 15 Bangladesh, 11 India, 1 United Arab Emirates, 1 Albania, 2 Yemen, 1 Jordan, 1 Turkey); and

2008 (to date) - 67 cases (63 Pakistan, 3 Bangladesh, 1 India).

Immigration: Forms

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what forms individuals seeking *(a)* indefinite leave to remain, *(b)* asylum, *(c)* visa entry to the UK and *(d)* UK citizenship are required by her Department to complete. [198993]

Mr. Byrne: The forms to be completed for each of the purposes requested are set out in the following table:

Further information as to which form should be used for a particular purpose can be found on the UK Border Agency website or, in the case of visa entry to the UK, is available from British Diplomatic posts abroad.

Purpose sought	*Forms to be completed*	*Comment*
Indefinite leave to remain	One of the following:	The form to be used is dependent on the grounds for seeking indefinite leave to remain
	SET(M)	
	SET(F)	
	SET(O)	
	SET(DV)	
	BUS	
	ELR	
Asylum	No form required	Asylum seekers are required to claim in person. They are required to sign a form completed at interview
Visa Entry to the UK	One of the following:	The form to be used is dependent on the purpose of visa sought
	VAF1	
	VAF2	
	VAF3	
	VAF4	
UK Citizenship	One of the following:	The form to be used is dependent on the grounds for seeking UK Citizenship
	AN	
	B(OS)	
	B(OTA)	
	EM	
	MN1	
	RSI	

Purpose sought	Forms to be completed	Comment
	T	
	UKM	
	Or one of these forms, now rarely used	
	G	
	51	
	52	
	53	
	WW	

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of each contract awarded by her Department to Karian and Box since 1997. [199634]

Mr. Byrne: From best available records the Home Department inclusive of its executive agencies has not awarded contracts to Karian and Box.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Aylesbury of 27th October 2007 about the case of Mr J K of Aylesbury (reference B30208/7; \\\\\k1031482/3) about which the hon. Member wrote to the Border and Immigration Agency on 24th January. [198901]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member in relation to this matter on 27 February 2008. A further letter was sent on 4 April 2008.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences involving use of a knife there were in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* England and Wales, broken down by type of offence, in the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [200370]

Mr. Coaker: It is not possible to identify those offences which are knife-related from the data centrally collected on recorded crime. However, since April 2007, police forces have been providing separate aggregate data on serious violence involving knives. Home Office statisticians will assess the quality of these data and it is planned that figures for 2007-08 will be published in the main crime bulletin in July 2008.

Available data from the Homicide Index relate to offences currently recorded as homicide where the apparent method of killing is 'sharp instrument'. Between 1997-98 and 2006-07 police in England and Wales recorded 2,333 such homicides, 635 of which were recorded by the City of London or Metropolitan police forces. These data cannot be broken down to a more local level than police force area.

The Government fully recognise the importance of tackling knife crime. This is a complex issue and we are using a variety of measures, encompassing legislation, enforcement, education and prevention, to address it. On 18 February we published a new Tackling Violence Action Plan, outlining plans to tackle serious violence, including knife crime.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189649]

Mr. Byrne: Media relations for the whole Department and agencies are handled by the Home Office Communication Directorate based press office. Press office staff who deal with the media are employed at the information and senior information officer grades.

The following table provides information on the numbers of staff employed or managed by the Communication Directorate during the past 10 years. Data on staff numbers in earlier years and non-departmental bodies are not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

	Press officers
1999	13
2000[1]	16
2001[1]	31
2002	35
2003	39
2004	43
2005	38
2006[2]	34
2007	35
March 2008[3]	32

[1] Prison Service and core Home Office press office merged.
[2] The total number of press officers for 2006 onwards includes two part timers, who are employed as a job share.
[3] Machinery of Government changes May 2007, 11 press officer posts transferred to the Ministry of Justice. The total also includes five Border and Immigration Agency regional press officers, whose posts were created in 2007.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data are held by her Department on non-UK national detainees released from prison without notification to the Department at the time; and what estimate she has made of the number of non-UK national detainees not included in data at all, as referred to by the National Audit Office report Asylum and Migration: a review of Home Office statistics (HC (2003-04) 625) of 25 May 2004. [180514]

Mr. Byrne: The section of the National Audit Office report on Asylum and Migration statistics published on 25 May 2004 to which is referred relates to the accuracy of statistics held by IND (now known as the UK Border Agency) governing the number of individuals held in detention for immigration reasons.

Since the report was published, the DELMIS system, to which it referred, has been superseded by a different system known as the Case Information Database (CID).

This is designed for use within all areas of the agency as opposed to just the Detention Service Directorate. It is through CID that the agency is able to ensure that it keeps accurate records on all individuals' immigration cases as well as ensuring that caseworkers are aware of where an individual resided or whether they were detained.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has written to the Home Affairs Committee on several occasions over the past 18 months and explained that we have reviewed and strengthened our processes in identifying those foreign nationals serving custodial sentences and should be considered for deportation following the events of April 2006.

Rape

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of rape were reported to the police by *(a)* women and *(b)* men in each of the last 10 years; how many reports of rape resulted in prosecutions; and how many such prosecutions were successful in each year. [198461]

Mr. Coaker: Details on the number of allegations of rape are not collected centrally.

The Home Office collects crime statistics on the numbers of rape offences recorded by the police in England and Wales and data for 1997 to 2006-07 are given in table 1.

Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of rape, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006 are shown in table 2.

The figures given in table 2 relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Police recorded crime (notifiable) data and court proceedings data are not directly comparable. Recorded crime data, published on a financial year basis, concentrate on the numbers of offences and detections, whereas court proceedings data are published on a calendar year basis and concentrate on defendants.

Table 1: number of recorded offences of female and male rape, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006-07

	Offences recorded
1997	6,628
1997-98[1]	6,898
1998-99[2,3]	7,636
1999-2000[2,3]	8,409
2000-01[2,3]	8,593
2001-02[2,3]	9,734
2002-03[4,5]	12,295
2003-04[4,5]	13,272
2004-05[4,5,6]	14,013
2005-06[4,5,6]	14,443
2006-07[4,5,6,7]	13,780

[1] The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the coverage and is in use until 31 March 1998.
[2] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[3] These data are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.
[4] These data take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures[3]are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[5] Includes British Transport Police from 2002-03.
[6] The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Table 2: number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for rape[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2,3]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
1997	1,961	618
1998	2,185	675
1999	2,169	659
2000[4]	2,046	598
2001	2,651	572
2002	2,945	655
2003	2,790	673
2004	2,689	751
2005	2,826	796
2006	2,567	863

[1] Includes rape of a female, rape of a male, attempted rape of a female and attempted rape of a male.
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures.

Vandalism: Bus Services

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of criminal damage to bus shelters were recorded in *(a)* Wiltshire and *(b)* Swindon in 2007; how many (i) prosecutions and (ii) convictions resulted; and if she will estimate the number of unrecorded offences of criminal damage to bus shelters in (A) Wiltshire and (B) Swindon in 2007. [200905]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. Offences of criminal damage to bus shelters would be recorded under the Home Office classification 'Other criminal damage' and such offences cannot be separately identified from other offences recorded within that classification. For the same reason, statistics for prosecutions and convictions are not available from the court proceedings database held by the Ministry of Justice.

It is not possible to estimate the number of unrecorded offences of criminal damage to bus shelters.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199610]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office's accounting systems hold the following records of payments to Zurich Financial Services.

Purpose	2005-06[1]	2006-07	£ 2007-08
Rent and service charge for accommodation	6,962.50	—	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	6,962.50	—	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	6,962.50	—	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	14,828.21	—	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	10,417.19	—	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	6,962.50	—	—
Vehicle insurance	225.71	—	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	—	6,962.50	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	—	6,962.50	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	—	6,962.50	—
Building insurance	—	9,622.93	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	—	6,918.00	—
Rent and service charge for accommodation	—	—	8,426.37
Rent and service charge for accommodation	—	—	8,292.91
Annual total	53,321.11	37,428.43	16,719.28

[1] 2005-06 covers payments for 2003-04 and 2004-05 as well as 2005-06.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 24 April 2008

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe on the Government's bluetongue vaccination strategy. [198119]

Jonathan Shaw: We have no plans to hold discussions with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe to discuss DEFRA's vaccination plan.

Coastal Areas: Access

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the extension of the right to roam to encompass the foreshore; and if he will make a statement. [201271]

Jonathan Shaw: Part 9 of the draft Marine Bill which we published on 3 April 2008 contains provisions for improving access to the English coast. The draft Bill includes provisions to provide a coastal margin, within which people will be able to walk along a long-distance route for the length of the English coast (with certain exceptions, including, for example, developed land). In addition people will have access to coastal land including the foreshore, beaches, cliffs, rocks and dunes, for the purposes of open-air recreation on foot. It is unlikely that the route itself will be established over the foreshore, but the coastal margin (to which the public will have access for open-air recreation) will be.

The right of access under the draft Marine Bill will be established by means of an Order under section 3A of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and the approval of a proposal for a long-distance route on a particular stretch of coast will be made under the procedures in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* permanent Civil Service posts, *(b)* permanent non-Civil Service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers in employment there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [199621]

Jonathan Shaw: The Office for National Statistics publishes Civil Service employment statistics every quarter in the Public Sector Employment First Release. The latest statistics published are for Q4 (December) 2007. These can be viewed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0308.pdf.

Table 6 of the publication provides a breakdown of employment by Government Department. This has been available since Q1 2006, and since Q4 2006 it has included a breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees. Links to the on-line publications can be viewed at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ReleaseCalendar/findreleases.asp?releasetitle=Public+Sector+Employment&releaseorganisation=42&releasetheme=&daterange=3&sday=18&smonth=03&syear=2008&ShowHits=10&SortOrder=0&ShowYear=2008.

Prior to 2006 Civil Service employment numbers were available on only an annual basis. A link is provided to the Civil Service statistics on the Cabinet Office website:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/archive/index.asp.

Civil Service statistics collected are the number of employees and not the number of posts. An employee covering multiple posts is counted only once and no information on vacancies is held.

The ONS does not publish statistics for non-Civil Service posts broken down by Government Department.

Information on employment agency workers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Flood Control: West Sussex

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the value of assets at risk from flooding in Selsey over the next 20 years; and what probability assessment is attached to the estimate. [200158]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 April 2008]*: There are currently 1,028 residential properties at risk of flooding between Pagham and East Head, which have an estimated total asset value (based upon work completed to date) of around £250 million. Due to sea level rise, this figure is expected to increase to 1,230 properties by 2028. This equates to an estimated value of £300 million in 2028 at today's prices.

The existing defences at Selsey East Beach currently provide protection against a one in 200 year storm and it is expected that these will remain in place for at least the next 20 years.

Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 126W, on geographical information systems, which Government Departments and agencies other than his own have been given access to the Shared Spatial Information Service. [199509]

Jonathan Shaw: The following organisations outside of DEFRA and its executive agencies have registered users who have access to the Shared Spatial Information Service (SPIRE):

British Waterways
Energy Saving Trust
English Heritage
Environment Agency
Government Office for the English Regions

Joint Nature Conservatory Council
Meat Hygiene Service
Natural England
Ordnance Survey
Pesticide Safety Directorate
Forest Research
Forestry Commission

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200228]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not currently provide health and social care services paid for out of public funds.

Natural England: Early Retirement

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees of Natural England have *(a)* been offered and *(b)* accepted early retirement in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [197076]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* We do not hold this information as Natural England is a non-departmental public body (NDPB).

I have asked Dr. Helen Phillips the chief executive of Natural England to write to you with the information requested.

Rabies: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to prevent incidents of rabies in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [201258]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended) all dogs, cats and many other mammals must be licensed into quarantine for six months on arrival in the United Kingdom.

The only exception to those that would normally require quarantine is for dogs, cats and ferrets that enter under the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) rules, or when animals enter the UK as commercially traded animals where they have to comply with other strict requirements.

HEALTH

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation he has made of research on the effects of genetics on people with myalgic encephalomyelitis. [200265]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* None.

Dental Services: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase access to NHS dentistry in Stroud constituency. [201460]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission health services, including dentistry, to meet the needs of their local populations. My hon. Friend may therefore wish to raise this with the chief executive of Gloucestershire PCT.

Increasing the number of patients seen within national health service dental services is now a formal priority in the "NHS Operating Framework" for 2008-09, and we have supported this with a substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008.

Disabled: Children

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the provision of short breaks for disabled children; [201345]

(2) what recent guidance has been issued to primary care trusts on support for short care breaks for disabled children. [201346]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I jointly chair the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) Ministerial Implementation Group with my noble Friend Lord Adonis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. We wrote to primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities (LAs) on 19 December 2007, setting out the investment and growth funding put in place to support our commitments and priorities for disabled children set out in the "Children's Plan" and the "National Health Service Operating Framework". This includes substantial investment to increase the range and number of short breaks. Copies of the letter have been placed in the Library.

We will shortly be issuing guidance to PCTs and LAs to inform their delivery of the AHDC Short Break Transformation programme. The Government are also commissioning a national support body to assist PCTs and LAs in their implementation of the improved provision of short breaks.

Doctors

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to fund the work of specialised pre-hospital doctors outside London. [199405]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The Department acknowledges the valuable support that these doctors offer to the national health service locally, recognising that the availability of medical advice and assistance can bring added advantages to some seriously injured patients. However, it is a matter for the NHS locally to both fund and decide how they use British Association of Immediate Care doctors.

Drugs: Fees and Charges

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the costs associated with running a further consultation on Part IX of the Drug Tariff; [201227]

(2) when his Department plans to publish its further consultation on Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [201228]

Dawn Primarolo: The costs associated with running a further consultation have been estimated at £393,000. These costs will be for the services of professional advisors. The Department's costs are part of its ongoing operational budget.

The Department intends to publish a further consultation regarding the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—in primary care towards the end of May 2008. An impact assessment and equality impact assessment will be published alongside this.

Eyes: Diseases

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had a diagnosis of keratoconus at the latest date for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust. [200438]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data on the total number of people with a diagnosis of keratoconus. The majority will receive contact lenses or glasses from their optometrist or ophthalmic medical practitioner, and will have their condition managed in the community.

Patients with more advanced keratoconus may be seen by the hospital eye service on an outpatient basis. The Information Centre for health and social care collects data on outpatient attendances but these data cannot be broken down by diagnosis.

A very small proportion of those with keratoconus, mainly those requiring corneal grafting, will be seen as inpatients. The following table shows the count of hospital admissions for those with a primary diagnosis of keratoconus[1] broken by strategic health authority (SHA) area. The data could not be broken down by primary care trust given the small numbers involved.

[1] A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission with the year.

Current SHA of residence	*Total hospital admissions*
North East SHA	23
North West SHA	83
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	142
East Midlands SHA	67
West Midlands SHA	86
East of England SHA	60
London SHA	168
South East Coast SHA	36
South Central SHA	45
South West SHA	54
Non England and unknown	19
Total	783

HIV Infection

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 21, (ii) 22 to 35, (iii) 36 to 50 and (iv) over 50 years were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust. [201287]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested, which has been provided by the Health Protection Agency, is only available in the age ranges 15 to 24, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54 and 55 and above and has been placed in the Library.

Macular Degeneration

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports his Department has received on the efficacy of essential fatty acids and lutein in slowing the progress of age-related macular degeneration. [200776]

Ann Keen: The Department has received no reports on the efficacy of essential fatty acids and lutein in slowing the progress of age-related macular degeneration.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated to each mental health trust in London by his Department in each year since 1997. [200272]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), but not to national health service trusts or mental health trusts. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations.

Commissioners, mainly PCTs, pay NHS trusts to provide services, and the trusts recognise this as income and not as funding.

Multiple Sclerosis

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will appoint a national director for multiple sclerosis; [201285]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions on the provision of services and staffing for people with multiple sclerosis. [201286]

Ann Keen: We have not assessed the effect of the "National Service Framework (NSF) for long term conditions" on service provision for people with multiple sclerosis. The NSF has a 10-year implementation programme from its publication in March 2005, with flexibility for organisations to set the pace of change locally to take account of differences in local priorities and needs.

We have no plans to appoint a national director for multiple sclerosis. National directors oversee the implementation of specific NSFs or major clinical or

service strategies. In line with devolving responsibility to local organisations, we believe that it is more appropriate for local health and social care communities and the third sector to take responsibility for driving forward the service changes and improvements envisaged by the NSF for long- term conditions.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to paragraph 5.33 of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, how much growth funding has been included in each primary care trust's baseline allocations for 2008-09 to enable them to work with local authorities to significantly increase the range and number of short breaks for disabled children; whether this money is ring-fenced; and if he will make a statement. [201347]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2008-09 primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations were announced on 13 December 2007. These represent £74.2 billion investment in the national health service, nearly £4 billion more than in 2007-08. All PCTs will receive an above inflation cash increase of 5.5 per cent., a total cash increase of £3.8 billion. The funding for services to support disabled children forms part of this allocation.

It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations. The Department deliberately does not break down PCT allocations into funding for individual policy programmes, as this would constrain local innovation and decision taking. Instead, the approach the Department takes is to be clear about the priorities for the NHS through the Operating Framework. It is then for the NHS to decide how best to achieve those outcomes in the light of local needs and circumstances, including the level of resources to invest.

NHS: Leaflets

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on producing NHS leaflets in languages other than English in 2006-07. [197870]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not recorded in the format requested by financial years. National health service publications are produced by the Department as well as by NHS agencies and local organisations and records are not held centrally.

The Department commissioned translation services at a total cost of £180,319.29 in the calendar year 2006 and £141,352.03 in the calendar year 2007. These costs were for publications branded either NHS or Departmental or jointly branded, as well as for the translation of correspondence and guidance. Printing or recording and production costs are not included in these figures.

Nurses: Uniforms

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to nurses and other medical staff on wearing uniforms beyond hospital premises; and what assessment his Department has made of the risk of infection arising from nurses and medical staff wearing uniform outside hospitals. [200349]

Ann Keen: The Department has published, 'Uniforms and Workwear: An evidence base for developing local policy' (September 2007), which sets out the evidence[1] relating to good and poor practice relating to the wearing of uniforms. The publication states that "there is no conclusive evidence that uniforms pose a significant hazard in terms of spreading infection". It acknowledges, however, that patient confidence may be undermined if staff are seen travelling in uniform and states that; "it is good practice to change into and out of uniform at work" or "to cover uniform when travelling to and from work". The publication is intended for use by individual trusts in determining their own policies on the wearing of uniforms in and around the workplace.

[1] An evidence-base developed by Thames Valley University, (authors: JA Wilson, H.P. Loveday, P.N. Hoffman and R.J. Pratt)

Patient Choice Schemes: Costs

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Choose and Book IT project has cost to date. [200105]

Mr. Bradshaw: Choose and Book is one of the new, linked, IT systems and services which are being delivered by NHS Connecting for Health to help modernise the NHS and to ensure that patients have a clear choice of time, date and place when booking into first outpatient appointments.

Total payments to date relating to the development, delivery and maintenance of the Choose and Book IT system total £98.9 million. This includes £45.1 million for the development and deployment of the core system by the supplier under the original core contract worth £64.5 million over five years. It also includes a further £53.8 million for approved additional services and functionality identified in the contract, the costs of which are within the budget for the original Choose and Book business case.

Patients: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people in the Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust area were receiving continuing care using Q4 2006-07 and Q3 2007-08 figures to compare the start and the end of the year; and what percentage change the figures represented; [201151]

(2) for what reasons the number of people in the Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust area receiving continuing care fell using the Q4 2006-07 and Q3 2007-08 figures to compare the start and the end of the year. [201163]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Number of people receiving continuing care, Mid-Essex PCT

Period	*Number of people receiving continuing care*
Q4 2006-07	76
Q3 2007-08	94
Percentage change	24

Source:
Department of Health Local Delivery Plan Return Commissioner (Revised 23 April 2008)

Prescriptions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether medication reviews undertaken in respect of residents of care homes count towards the general medical services contract quality and outcomes framework performance indicator; [200361]

(2) what the performance of each primary care trust was against the general medical services contract indicator for the undertaking of medication reviews for patients being prescribed four or more repeat medicines in each year for which figures are available. [200362]

Mr. Bradshaw: Medicine review indicators within the quality and outcomes framework include all patients prescribed repeat prescriptions regardless of their living arrangements.

The percentage achievement for the undertaking of medication reviews for patients being prescribed four or more repeat medicines has been placed in the Library.

Psychiatry: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable has been set for the consultation on defining national occupational standards for the regulation of counsellors and psychotherapists under the Health Professionals Council; and when he expects to be able to introduce those standards. [201461]

Mr. Bradshaw: Discussions on the scope of practice and the national occupational standards for psychotherapists and counsellors are continuing. Once agreement has been reached we will publish proposals on statutory regulation for public consultation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on the Prime Minister's response of 11th March to the petition on the national occupational standards for counselling and psychotherapy. [201462]

Mr. Bradshaw: No discussions have taken place. The response to the petition represents the Government's position on the regulation of counsellors and psychotherapists.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the equality impact assessment relating to the proposed reduction in backdating facilities for housing benefit; and what account the assessment will take of vulnerable groups. [200103]

Mr. Plaskitt: The equality impact assessment was published on 21 April 2008; a copy has been placed in the Library. It is also available on the Department for Work and Pensions website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/PC-HB-CTB-EIA-Apr08.pdf

The assessment considers the potential impact on a range of groups, including the most vulnerable, and proposes steps to mitigate any adverse effects. A publicity campaign will be launched, to raise awareness of the change and to advise tenants to apply for benefit in good time. We will also be working with landlords to encourage them to tackle rent arrears at the earliest possible time as this is often a trigger for a backdating claim.

Mortgages

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to amend the income support for mortgage interest regime. [201300]

Mr. Plaskitt: Although we have no current plans to reform support for mortgage interest, we keep the scheme under review.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent on the refurbishment of the Leader of the House's office in 26 Whitehall following the departure of the former Deputy Prime Minister. [199513]

Helen Goodman: The rooms referred to have been redecorated as part of the lifecycle programme covering the whole of the building (26 Whitehall). Further additional costs specifically relating to the relocation into the building of the Office of the Leader of the House were incurred to a value of £4,379 plus VAT.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which Welsh companies or organisations have obtained contracts through the Olympic Delivery Authority; what the value of each contract is; and what work is involved in each. [201314]

Tessa Jowell: To date three businesses or organisations registered in Wales have supplied goods and services to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). These are John Evans Photography; Strategy and Solution Limited; and the Office for National Statistics. These contracts were awarded for photography, management consulting services and data processing and preparation. Due to commercial sensitivities I cannot make public the value of each of these contracts, but I can tell you that spend to date with them is £5,053.

In January, the Olympic Family launched the London 2012 Business Network, helping businesses across the country to access and compete for 2012 related contracts. Over 200 Welsh companies have registered for the CompeteFor service, and businesses in every constituency should be encouraged to sign up and get support. The ODA will be visiting Cardiff in

May 2008 to speak to Welsh businesses about the opportunities generated by the Games.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which contracts have been let by the Olympic Delivery Authority; and what *(a)* value and *(b)* percentage of contracts have been let to companies based in (i) England, (ii) Scotland, (iii) Wales and (iv) Northern Ireland. [201315]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority will directly procure over 2,000 contracts; these are expected to generate 50,000 supply chain opportunities. At this early stage, 600 contracts have been awarded. The percentage shares are as follows:

	Percentage share
England	97
Scotland	1
Wales	1
Northern Ireland	1

The London 2012 website provides information about contracts awarded by sector. The value of these contracts is in excess of £1 billion.

In January, the Olympic Family launched the London 2012 Business Network, helping businesses across the country to access and compete for 2012 related contracts. Businesses in every constituency should be encouraged to sign up and get support. To this end ODA have a programme of business engagement covering all of the UK's nations and regions. Events took place in Northern Ireland in November, in Scotland in February, and will take place in Wales in May.

In addition to these direct opportunities flowing from London 2012 procurement, there are of course wider opportunities for the nations and regions to benefit economically from the Games. These include a potential £2.1 billion boost to the UK's tourism industry and volunteering opportunities which can help drive up skills levels and improve employability. Over 600 top class sporting facilities from across the UK will appear in the London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camps Guide to be launched this summer, with 31 in Wales alone. These have the potential to attract top athletes from around the world bringing a range of sporting and business opportunities, including inward investment. In addition, UK Trade and Investment are developing programmes to use the Games as a springboard for export.

PRIME MINISTER

Tibet

Jo Swinson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his oral answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 915, on Tibet, what plans he has to report to the House following his proposed meeting with the Dalai Lama. [201359]

The Prime Minister: My meetings will be reported in the usual way.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the competence of non-registered/qualified health care assistants operating the triage system for the telephone assessment service in British Forces Germany. [201362]

Derek Twigg: The primary and community care contract has been commercially let using standard MOD terms and conditions of contract which has clear performance requirements, including the professional standard required of their staff. Previously, out-of-hours services involved 24-hour manning of British Forces Germany (BFG) medical centres. With the introduction of the new contract a telephone advisory service (TAS) triage system for out-of-hours is being operated by qualified nurses, whilst health care assistants provide support. The system was assessed and found successful for over a year in two pilot sites in Germany before its successful introduction on 1 April 2008.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the retention of staff of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) of the change of terms and conditions in his Department's contract with Guys' and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and SSAFA for health care staff in British Forces Germany. [201364]

Derek Twigg: The primary and community care contract has been commercially let using standard MOD terms and conditions of contract, which were accepted by the SSAFA/GSTT partnership. The contractor has responsibility to manage their own staff retention in order to meet the requirement of the contract. However, evaluation of the contract tender considered the fact SSAFA have provided similar services on a commercial basis to MOD over several years and have been able to offer employment terms and conditions that have ensured a good track record of recruitment and retention. Since contract signature in December 2007, both British Forces Germany Health Services and the contractor have engaged in a comprehensive communication strategy with all staff, to ensure what has been a successful transition to the new contract.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of *(a)* robustness and *(b)* appropriateness of the clinical interventions and health care provided for servicemen and their families at the Gilead mental health facility in Germany. [201363]

Derek Twigg: Gilead mental health facility is provided by a contract with Guy's and St. Thomas's Trust (GSTT) which has clear performance and clinical governance requirements which are reported and monitored regularly. As such, GSTT are responsible for the clinical governance of this service. This service has been assessed and subsequently validated by the South London and Maudsley (SLAM) NHS Foundation Trust and the Defence Consultant Advisor in Psychiatry.

Bombs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the Government classify and define CRV-7 weapons. [193321]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: CRV7 is 2.75inch/70mm unguided rocket system offering a range of motors, launchers and warheads depending upon mission objectives. The rocket is classified according to whether it will be fired from a fixed wing or helicopter platform and is further sub-classified according to the warhead that has been fitted to the round.

European Security and Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his French counterpart on *(a)* European Security and Defence Policy, *(b)* NATO and *(c)* France's EU presidency between July and December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [200955]

Des Browne: I met the French Defence Minister for bilateral discussions during the UK-France summit held in London on 27 March. I also had the opportunity to meet him at the NATO summit held in Bucharest on 2-4 April.

In the course of these meetings we discussed a range of issues, including European Security and Defence Policy, NATO, and France's EU presidency between July and December 2008.

HMS Argyll

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where HMS Argyll has been deployed in 2008 to date; what plans he has for further deployments prior to its decommissioning; and if he will make a statement. [200307]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Argyll was engaged in sea and pre-deployment training from April to October 2007 and has been deployed East of Suez, taking part in operations in the Arabian Gulf from October 2007 to April 2008. HMS Argyll is due to be removed from service in 2019. I am withholding HMS Argyll's future programme as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether individuals captured by British forces during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have at a subsequent time been held at the United States detention facilities at *(a)* Bagram Theatre Internment Facility, *(b)* Balad Special Forces Base, *(c)* Camp Nama BIAP and *(d)* Abu Ghraib prison. [200771]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information requested as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the effectiveness of our armed forces.

However, I am confident in the processes that are in place to ensure that any persons captured by UK forces in either Iraq or Afghanistan and subsequently detained by US forces are held in accordance with the UK's policy and legal obligations.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North of 25 February on a constituent (ref: MC01269/2008). [201165]

Derek Twigg: I replied to my hon. Friend on 22 April.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the percentage shortfall requirement for a *(a)* Hercules, *(b)* Tornado and *(c)* Typhoon aircraft was at the latest date for which figures are available. [199472]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the Hercules C-130 availability contract, performance is measured in terms of aircraft available for operations averaged across each calendar month. Spares availability is not measured.

For Tornado, the current figures for spare demands satisfied are 97 per cent. for the Tornado F3 and 98 per cent. for the Tornado GR4, as recorded on 29 February 2008.

Aircraft spares for Typhoon are partly provided direct from industry and partly by the MOD through an international contract. These arrangements are being built up as the RAF fleet grows and demands satisfied from MOD stocks average 68 per cent. as recorded on 29 February 2008.

Military Exercises: Nuclear Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates the last joint US-UK nuclear weapon accident exercise was held; where it was held; on what dates the next joint US-UK nuclear weapon accident exercise will be held; and where it will be held. [201272]

Des Browne: The last joint US/UK nuclear weapon accident exercise (Exercise DIMMING SUN 03) was held in Norfolk over the period 16-20 June 2003. The next joint US/UK nuclear weapon accident exercise is scheduled to be held in 2010, the date and location have yet to be determined.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* names, *(b)* dates and *(c)* locations will be of the nuclear weapons emergency exercises being organised by his Department in 2008. [201273]

Des Browne: Exercise ASTRAL CLIMB 08, which will test the operational response to a nuclear weapon convoy accident, will be held on 24 September 2008 in Cumbria.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to publish confidence-building verification methodologies for monitoring nuclear disarmament; and if he will make a statement. [200304]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Atomic Weapons Establishment is engaged in developing technical methods and processes for verifying multilateral nuclear disarmament both nationally and in co-operation with several Norwegian defence laboratories. Progress is presented periodically to the conferences of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and related fora.

Additionally, in his speech to the Conference on Disarmament in February this year, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence proposed the development of confidence building activities among the five recognised Nuclear Weapon States (NWS). This proposal has generated considerable interest among the wider international community. We are engaging with the other NWS to consider how this initiative should be taken forward.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons no British naval vessels intervened to prevent the hijacking of the ice tug Svitzer Korsakov off the coast of Somalia on 1 February 2008; what the rules of engagement are for British and NATO ships in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [200837]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In line with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS Article 100), the Royal Navy may come to the aid of vessels under attack by pirates in international waters. No Royal Navy vessels were in the vicinity of the Svitzer Korsakov at the time of its seizure. A warship was subsequently despatched to the area, ready to assist if required. In the event, British military intervention was not necessary.

In circumstances of this kind, UK Service personnel are permitted to use reasonable force in self defence, or defence of others in accordance with our UK domestic law. It would not be appropriate for me to comment upon the rules of engagement of other nations.

WALES

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1329W, on council tax, what assessment has been made of the change in average council tax per dwelling solely as a result of the council tax revaluation and rebanding exercise and the phasing out of transitional relief. [199551]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Year-to-year changes in the level of Band D council tax have been the result of local authority budget decisions as stated in my answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1329W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1329W, on council tax, whether the revaluation and rebanding exercise after the end of the transitional relief was revenue-neutral. [199552]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Yes, the revaluation and rebanding exercise was revenue-neutral in that the overall increase in council tax receipts in the year of revaluation was broadly in line with increases in the previous years. Year-to-year changes in the level of council tax receipts since then as set out in my answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1329W, are the result of local authority budget decisions.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Firearms: Licensing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average time was to process correctly completed application forms for firearms certificates in Northern Ireland in (*a*) 2005, (*b*) 2006 and (*c*) 2007. [201351]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable has advised me that the average time taken to process correctly completed application forms for firearms certificates was 139 days in 2005, 80 days in 2006 and 73 days in 2007.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received on the time taken to process correctly completed application forms for firearms certificates in Northern Ireland in the last three months. [201352]

Paul Goggins: No formal representations have been made to the Secretary of State in the last three months about the average processing time for correctly completed firearm certificate applications.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 26th March 2008, *Official Report*, column 157W, on departmental data protection, if he will include information assurance data from previous years on data loss incidents in his Department's next annual report. [199264]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 1179 and the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 98WS. The review by the Cabinet Secretary and security experts is looking at procedures within Departments and agencies for the storage and use of data.

The interim report of 17 December 2007 committed to put in place a programme to examine and improve data handling procedures. An update on this commitment will be included in the final report, expected in spring 2008, and this report will detail the information to be included by Departments on data loss in their annual reports.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his departmental website. [200029]

David Cairns: The website of the Scotland Office was last redesigned in 2004 at a cost of £23,425.99.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers there were in his Department in each month since May 2005. [200165]

David Cairns: The staffing numbers of the Scotland Office are published in the office's annual report; figures are not maintained in the form requested.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [199032]

David Cairns: Nothing.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided by polling companies for his Department in financial year 2007-08, broken down by company. [200013]

David Cairns: None.

TREASURY

Fuel Taxes

12. **Mr. MacNeil:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reduce fuel taxes for those living in rural areas. [200871]

Jane Kennedy: In the Budget the Government deferred the increase in fuel duty for six months in order to help motorists.

Energy Prices

13. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of the recent rises in energy prices. [200872]

Angela Eagle: Increases in global energy prices, driven by developments in the oil and wholesale gas markets, inevitably continue to influence UK inflationary pressure. And our Budget economic forecasts fully reflected the impact of these developments on the UK economy. However, the UK is better placed to respond to these challenges than in the past, with employment at record highs, inflation presently lower than in the euro area or the United States and the IMF expecting UK GDP growth to be the fastest in the G7 again this year.

Government Borrowing

15. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the level of Government borrowing benchmarked against other major economies. [200875]

Angela Eagle: Over the economic cycle that began in 1997-98, UK public sector net borrowing averaged 1.0 per cent. of GDP, whereas for both the euro area and OECD as a whole, borrowing averaged 2 per cent. of GDP over the same period.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the level of Government borrowing benchmarked against other major economies. [200874]

Angela Eagle: Over the economic cycle that began in 1997-98, UK public sector net borrowing averaged 1.0 per cent. of GDP, whereas for both the euro area and OECD as a whole, borrowing averaged 2 per cent. of GDP over the same period.

17. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer What assessment he has made of the level of Government borrowing benchmarked against other major economies. [200877]

Angela Eagle: Over the economic cycle that began in 1997-98, UK public sector net borrowing averaged 1.0 per cent. of GDP, whereas for both the euro area and OECD as a whole, borrowing averaged 2 per cent. of GDP over the same period.

18. **Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the level of Government borrowing benchmarked against other major economies. [200878]

Angela Eagle: Over the economic cycle that began in 1997-98, UK public sector net borrowing averaged 1.0 per cent. of GDP, whereas for both the euro area and OECD as a whole, borrowing averaged 2 per cent. of GDP over the same period.

Alcohol Duties

16. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the increases in alcohol duties announced in Budget 2008. [200876]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Welfare Tax Credits

19. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what inquiries are made into the immigration status and eligibility to receive public funds of a second-named person on a joint application for tax credits. [200879]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC takes fraud seriously and has a range of checks in place throughout the period of the claim. If fraud is suspected, payment is stopped. In the most serious cases, prosecution will be considered.

HMRC use a number of tools to help them detect wrong and fraudulent claims. Cases requiring compliance intervention are selected using a risk-based approach, which examines the overall features of a claim.

It would be inappropriate to disclose a complete list of verification checks as to do so may provide assistance to those attempting to defraud the system.

Banking Sector: Bad Debt

20. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the banking sector on its exposure to bad debt. [200880]

Jane Kennedy: The Chancellor meets regularly with representatives of the banking sector and discusses a range of issues.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Housing Minister hosted a meeting with the mortgage and lending industry at No. 11 Downing street on Tuesday 22 April to discuss what the industry can do to support borrowers in difficulty during the current period of turbulence in global financial markets.

Higher Education: Expenditure

21. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of expenditure on higher education. [200882]

Yvette Cooper: As Lord Leitch set out in his independent report on the UK's long-term skills needs, a highly skilled workforce drives innovation, leadership and management, enabling business to compete in the global economy.

He found that improving the skills profile of the UK workforce over time has contributed to economic growth.

By 2011, funding for higher education will have increased by over 30 per cent. in real terms since 1997. In addition, since 1997, funding for the ringfenced science budget has increased from £1.3 billion to £3.4 billion.

Average Earnings

22. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the rate of inflation and *(b)* the annual change in average earnings. [200883]

Angela Eagle: In March 2008, the annual rate of inflation as measured by the consumer prices index (CPI) was 2.5 per cent. The annual change in average earnings as measured by the annual earnings index (AEI) including bonuses was 3.7 per cent. in February 2008.

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received from overseas Governments on the legality of the proposed aviation duty. [201161]

Angela Eagle: The aviation duty formal consultation period ends today. The Treasury is unable to make an assessment of representations received from foreign Governments during the consultation period until the consultation formally closes.

Capital Gains Tax

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimates he has made of the likely receipts to the Exchequer from setting capital gains tax rates at the taxpayer's marginal rate of tax in 2008-09. [200972]

Jane Kennedy: A broad estimate of the eventual steady state impact, taking account of the likely taxpayer response to such a change, is additional receipts in the order of £2 billion a year by comparison with the current capital gains tax regime.

A reform of this kind would result in a large behavioural response and as such estimates are susceptible to a wide margin of error.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage change in vehicle excise duty for a Nissan Micra will be as a result of the changes to vehicle excise duty announced in Budget 2008. [200873]

Angela Eagle: Nissan produces, and has over the years produced, a number of different models of Micra. These have a range of carbon dioxide emissions outputs from 125g to 175g /km.

Using 2008-09 rates of VED and the current Micra as a baseline, the percentage change varies between -25 per cent. and +21 per cent. in 2009-10, and between -21 per cent. and +24 per cent. in 2010-11, reflecting the fact that there is a range of emissions choices with this model of car, as there are with many others.

If the current Micra model range remains unchanged, the percentage change for a newly licensed Micra under first year rates of VED in 2010-11 lies between -100 per cent. and +76 per cent. depending on the emissions choice.

Income Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) by how much the personal allowance would need to be increased in order to remove an additional *(a)* 500,000, *(b)* 1,000,000 and *(c)* 1,500,000 people from income tax liability; and what the cost would be; [201463]

(2) what increase in the personal allowance would be created by an increase in funding of £8 billion; and how many people would be removed from any income tax liability as a result of such an increase. [201464]

Jane Kennedy: Approximate estimates for 2008-09 can be found in the following table.

Increase in personal allowance[1]	*Cost*[2] *(£ billion)*	*Number taken out of tax (thousand)*
£470	5.5	500
£690	8.0	700
£960	11.1	1,000
£1,430	16.4	1,500

[1] Personal allowance for individuals below the age of 65.The personal allowances for individuals aged 65 and over are assumed to stay the same.

[2] Includes the accruals cost of both income tax and national insurance contributions

The income tax information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes 2005-06 projected in line with Budget 2008 assumptions. The national insurance contributions estimates are taken from the NICs forecasting model based on the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2004-05 uprated in line with Budget 2008 assumptions. The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were paying income tax at the 10 pence rate on the entirety of their taxable income in *(a)* Thurrock, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Scotland on the latest date for which figures are available. [201162]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated number of taxpayers in Scotland paying tax only at the starting rate of income tax for 2007-08 is shown in table 2.2 "Number of individual income taxpayers by country and region", which is available from HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Accurate information on the number of taxpayers who pay income tax at the 10p starting rate for geographic areas below country and region are not available but information on the total number of taxpayers in the county of Essex and Thurrock unitary authority are shown in table T3.14, and for the parliamentary constituency of Thurrock in table T3.15. These tables can be found at the HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

These estimates are based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2005-06).

Personal Income: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals in Peterborough constituency classified as being without children for tax credits purposes who are employed *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time earn between £5,000 and £18,000 per annum; and if he will make a statement. [201356]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Further information on tax credits can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Public Expenditure

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional public spending under the Barnett formula is expected to be received by *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11 and (iv) 2011-12 as a result of public spending on the London 2012 Olympics. [200239]

Yvette Cooper: The 2012 Olympics is being held on behalf of the whole of the UK. It is therefore not devolved spending and there are no Barnett consequentials for Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Wider spending on London does attract Barnett consequentials in the normal way.

Public Sector Debt

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the accuracy of his Department's forecasts for public sector debt and public borrowing over the last five years. [200870]

Yvette Cooper: The end of year fiscal report (EYFR) published alongside the pre-Budget report provides a clear and transparent assessment of public sector debt and public borrowing forecasts.

Taxation

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Inland Revenue assessments were held in abeyance pending the outcome of Jones *v.* Garnett; what proportion of those assessments have been abandoned following the decision in that case; and if he will make a statement. [200881]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

However, cases in abeyance pending the court judgment have been disposed of in three different ways. Cases with facts in line with the Jones case were closed down very quickly. Some others have been settled with tax being payable. And there are some cases where the arguments have not been affected by the terms of the court judgment, some of which are still being resolved.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which his Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199199]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows:

Internal

The vast majority of internal communications is distributed electronically, including correspondence. All internal publications are distributed through the intranet or email.

External

For external correspondence, we have data and full monitoring on the shared correspondence service with DCSF—which covers our Skills and Higher Education policy areas. The combined email/letter split for DIUS and DCSF in 2007 was 63 per cent. email and 37 per cent. letter. In the quarter January—March 2008 on the 3,777 DIUS cases answered, 53 per cent. were by email, 47 per cent. by letter.

We do not yet have tracking figures for the shared correspondence service with BERR—who have been dealing with Science and Innovation correspondence since this Department was created in June 2007.

For distribution of publications externally: the Department is able to monitor the number of requests to the publications section of the DIUS corporate site and tracks the number of electronic downloads.

Higher Education: Prisoners

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much of the budget allocated for spending on higher education in prisons was used to fund the tutorial costs of those students already engaged in courses of higher study in the latest period for which figures are available. [196548]

Bill Rammell: Aside from the Offenders' Learning and Skills Unit's arrangement to support Open University study, there is no budget allocated for spending on higher education in prisons, or for those prisoners released on temporary licence to study full time higher education.

The Department set aside a budget of £287,000 in 2007-08 to meet the additional costs of providing tutorial support for prisoners studying Open University courses. The Open University operates a fee waiver arrangement for prisoners studying second and subsequent course modules; and my Department supports this by meeting the Open University's additional costs in providing tutorial support while the learner remains a prisoner.

The Learning and Skills Council's provider of learning and skills for prisoners also provides informal, practical support for Open University and other higher education students who are prisoners as they continue their studies.

Overseas Students: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students from EU member states other than the UK received financial assistance from the public purse *(a)* for tuition fees and *(b)* living costs in each year for which figures are available. [187648]

Bill Rammell: EC nationals are eligible for tuition fee support only, provided that they have been ordinarily resident in the EEA and Switzerland for the three years prior to the start of their course.

The following table shows the number of new and continuing students in each academic year and those who received tuition fee support. Prior to 2006/07, this support was in the form of a means-tested grant. Since 2006/07, new students were eligible to apply for a non-means-tested loan.

10 countries acceded to the EC in May 2004, which has resulted in an increase in student numbers.

EU domiciled students studying in England by support received

	EU domiciled students[1]	*Students receiving fee grants*[2]	*Students receiving fee loans*	*Percentage receiving fee grants*	*Percentage receiving fee loans*
1999/2000	79,600	20,100	—	25	—
2000/01	79,300	23,600	—	30	—
2001/02	73,900	19,100	—	26	—
2002/03	72,500	17,400	—	24	—
2003/04	70,800	15,700	—	22	—
2004/05	78,400	16,400	—	21	—
2005/06	82,600	17,000	—	21	—
2006/07	86,500	10,600	8,300	12	10

[1] *Source:*
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Figures are on a snapshot basis as of the 1 December for comparability across the years.

[2] *Source:*
Student Loans Company (SLC). Since 2006/07 a student may be in receipt of either a grant (continuing students) or a loan (new students).

Only EEA and Swiss migrant workers and certain family members who have been ordinarily resident in the EEA and Switzerland and EC nationals who have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands may be eligible to the full support package.

Students: Loans

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of 18 to 30-year-olds received a student loan in each year since 1997, broken down by local government area. [198460]

Bill Rammell: Information on the proportion of students taking out loans is not available at a local authority level or by age group. National information is shown in the table.

Eligibility and take-up of maintenance loans in England academic years 2001/02 to 2006/07[1]

Academic year	*Eligible Population (Thousand)*	*Number of loans taken out (Thousand)*	*Take up of loans by eligible population (Percentage)*
2001/02	768	629	82
2002/03	816	666	82
2003/04	840	682	81
2004/05	874	693	79
2005/06	897	719	80
2006/07	n/a	727	n/a

[1] Provisional.
n/a = not available
Source:
Loan figures provided by Student Loans Company

Consistent national information is not available before 2001/02. In addition to the maintenance loans covered in the table, tuition fee loans have been available to eligible students from 2006/07. In that year 387,000 tuition fee loans were taken out.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Abkhazia: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria the Government use in determining its policy on whether Abkhazia should be recognised as an independent country. [198886]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government do not recognise Abkhazia as an independent state, but consider it to be part of the territory of Georgia which the UK recognised in 1992.

The international community has consistently reaffirmed Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty including through successive UN Security Council Resolutions on Georgia, most recently UN Security Council Resolution 1781 (2007) of 15 October 2007, in which the Security Council

"reaffirms the commitment of all member states to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders".

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide a line-item breakdown of contracts with private military and security companies in Afghanistan for 2006-07 indicating which line-items *(a)* are new, *(b)* have received increased funding and *(c)* have received decreased funding since 2005. [198010]

David Miliband: It is not possible to provide a line-item breakdown of contracts with private military and security companies in Afghanistan in 2006-07 for reasons of commercial confidentiality and security, although I would refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore) on 14 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 319W, and also to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 841W, which detail the overall value of our security contracts in Afghanistan.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had two main contracts with private and military security companies in Afghanistan in financial year 2006-07, the first for security services and the second for police mentors and advisers. The security services contract was re-tendered in late 2006 and the police mentors and advisers contract was tendered in mid 2007. Both were awarded to ArmorGroup Services Limited.

The security services and the police mentors and advisers contracts have both received increased funding since 2005.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications there were for *(a)* Chevening and *(b)* Commonwealth scholarships in each of the last five years. [199079]

David Miliband: Applications for Chevening and Commonwealth scholarships are made respectively to our overseas posts and to nominating agencies in Commonwealth countries. It would incur disproportionate cost to compile these figures.

Chile: Terrorism

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of *(a)* bomb threats in Santiago, Chile since 17 March 2008, *(b)* the explosion of an incendiary device on 19 March 2008 and *(c)* the Government of Chile's response to these events; what assessment he has made of these matters; and if he will make a statement. [199211]

Dr. Howells: A number of institutions in Santiago, including offices and the main court building, received bomb threats in the lead up to 29 March 2008, the anniversary of the 1985 assassination of brothers Rafael and Eduardo Vergara Toledo by the Pinochet regime. At 01.00 local time on 18 March, an explosive device was detonated outside a branch of Banco de Credito e Inversiones in the Providencia district of Santiago. There was extensive damage to the building as a result of the blast but no injuries were reported.

Local anarchist groups have claimed responsibility. The Chilean authorities are investigating the incidents.

China: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the policies *(a)* proposed and *(b)* implemented by Zhang Qingli in his capacity as Deputy Secretary of the Communist Party of China Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regional Committee from 2004 to 2006; what assessment he has made of such policies; and if he will make a statement. [199216]

Meg Munn: We have not made an assessment of Zhang Qingli's policies during his tenure from 2004 to 2006 as deputy secretary in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. We do however continue to monitor the situation in Xinjiang and remain concerned by reports of human rights violations in the region, including restrictions on the peaceful exercise of political, cultural and religious rights. We regularly raise these concerns with the Chinese Government and did so most recently at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue, which took place in Beijing in January.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the activities of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps in China; and if he will make a statement. [199217]

Meg Munn: The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) is a governmental organisation based in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR). We understand that the XPCC effectively has administrative authority over a number of cities, farms and settlements across the XUAR region and performs governmental functions such as health care, education and civil policing for areas under its jurisdiction. In this context, we are

also aware that the XPCC has a role in running some prisons in the area. The stated goals of the XPCC are to develop frontier regions, promote economic development, ensure social stability and ethnic harmony, and counter the East Turkestan independence movement.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the policies *(a)* proposed and *(b)* implemented by Zhang Qingli since his election as Secretary of the Communist Party of China Tibet Autonomous Regional Committee; what assessment he has made of such policies; and if he will make a statement. [199218]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We recognise that Zhang Qingli has been party secretary of the Tibet Autonomous Region since 2005 and as such has been responsible for implementing Beijing's policies, including the 'Develop the West' campaign and China's policies designed to promote economic development in Tibet. While we welcome the economic development in Tibet, we hope that more will be done to ensure that Tibetans will benefit. We continue to raise our concerns on Tibet with the Chinese Government, in particular with regard to the handling of recent unrest in the region.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of claims by the government of Colombia concerning financial support of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia by the government of Venezuela; what assessment he has made of such claims; and if he will make a statement. [199204]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of these allegations. Clearly it would be a matter of concern if any country were supporting a terrorist organisation, wherever that was and whatever form that support took. Therefore it is encouraging that Rio Group members reiterated on 7 March their

"commitment to fighting the security threats to all states from the activities undertaken by irregular groups and criminal organisations, in particular those with ties to drug trafficking activities".

Colombia: Uranium

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports his Department has received of claims that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia were planning to be involved in or were involved in black market transactions of uranium; what assessment he has made of such claims; and if he will make a statement; [199205]

(2) what reports his Department has received of claims by the Colombian Government of a uranium seizure on 26 March 2008; what assessment he has made of such claims; and if he will make a statement. [199203]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of the Colombian Government's statement that they have come into the possession of information suggesting that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have been seeking to obtain uranium. We are also aware of the recent reporting on this matter, including the Colombian military's capture of uranium, in the international press. We would be greatly concerned if the FARC, a terrorist organisation proscribed by the EU, were involved in the procurement of radioactive material. We will monitor this situation closely.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Ethnic Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* nature and *(b)* activity of the Bundu dia Kongo in the Bas-Congo province of Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [199210]

Meg Munn: The Bundu dia Kongo is a politico-religious movement established to represent the ethnic Kongo population in western Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the wider region. It provides cultural and educational support and a political voice for its members. However, elements within the Bundu dia Kongo have become militant and turned to violent means to further their cause. The Bundu dia Kongo poses unacceptable challenges to some state institutions in the DRC.

The Government support the statement issued by the EU on 17 March 2008, which called for the authority of the state to be upheld and for talks between the DRC Government and Bundu dia Kongo's political leaders. We wish to see multi-party democracy with space for the opposition in the DRC, underpinned by the rule of law and effective institutions.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the level of activity by United Nations peacekeeping personnel in the Bas-Congo province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the inception of the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [199224]

Meg Munn: The UN maintains a permanent office in Matadi, the provincial capital of Bas Congo, and has a peace keeping presence in the province as part of its mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Additional peace keepers have deployed to Bas Congo following outbreaks of violence in the province in January and February 2007. The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for the DRC called for a peaceful resolution to violence in the province in February 2008. In March 2008 the UN deployed peace keepers and military observers to protect the civilian population in Bas Congo, assess events in the province and support the local authorities.

The UN faces significant challenges in maintaining peace in the Bas Congo province. Violence has occurred in various locations across the province and transporting troops is difficult because of the weak local infrastructure. The UN mission has commitments across the DRC, particularly in the east of the country, which have to be met to prevent a return to conflict.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of political action in the Bas-Congo region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 19 March 2008; what assessment he has made of *(a)* such reports and *(b)* the number of casualties; and if he will make a statement. [199223]

Meg Munn: The violence which took place in the Bas Congo province in early 2008 is under investigation by the UN. A report is expected in due course. It has not yet been possible to determine reliably the number of casualties either of the violence on 19 March or of the clashes in Bas Congo in 2008 overall.

I am concerned by the violence seen since January in Bas Congo. The development of democratic governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) depends on representation of diverse political views, tolerance of opposition, respect for human rights and effective and accountable state institutions. I support the recent EU statement on events in the province, which called for the authority of the state to be upheld and for talks between the DRC Government and the political leaders of the Bundu dia Kongo, whose members have clashed with the Congolese security forces.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [198987]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not keep a central record of amounts spent on publicity and advertising. The information required to answer this question could only be obtained by requiring individual budget holders in the FCO to examine all invoices for the required year. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many working days were lost by his Department due to stress-related illness in each of the last 24 months. [198941]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to protecting the health, welfare and productivity of its staff. Our occupational stress policy provides guidance for staff and managers on recognising and dealing with stress and on reducing the causes of stress in the workplace. We provide further support through a team of welfare officers, referral to our occupational health service and access to a 24/7 confidential Employee Assistance Programme.

The number of working days lost in each of the last 24 months, which FCO staff have declared to be stress-related are as follows:

	Number
2006	
April	176
May	160
June	180
July	160
August	143
September	156
October	103
November	105
December	110
2007	
January	129
February	165
March	356
April	208
May	230
June	196
July	191
August	170
September	94
October	112
November	193
December	203
2008	
January	97
February	95
March	94

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department in each of the last five years. [198950]

Meg Munn: The average number of days sick leave reported by Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff in each of the last five years are:

	Days
2003-04	3.9
2004-05	4.8
2005-06	4.2
2006-07	3.5
2007-08	3.8

On 1 January 2008 the FCO introduced new sickness absence reporting arrangements, which should lead to more accurate reporting of sickness absence figures.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff took more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35 and *(h)* 40 days leave due to stress in each of the last five years, broken down by pay grade. [198970]

Meg Munn: We are unable to provide a breakdown of figures for staff in each grade who took stress-related leave in each of the categories requested by the hon. Member. The numbers in each category would be so small that they risk exposing the individuals concerned to the risk of being identified.

The following table sets out aggregated numbers for staff who took five or more days sick absence due to illness declared as stress-related in the last five years:

	Number
2003-04	36
2004-05	58
2005-06	75
2006-07	46
2007-08	48

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what targets his Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199041]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, along with other central Government Departments, has agreed with the Cabinet Office targets for the percentage of employees in the senior management structure (SMS), senior civil service equivalent, who have declared a disability. The current SMS target is 3.2 per cent. by April 2008. No targets have currently been set for beyond this period: the employment of people who have declared a disability is one of several diversity issues to be discussed and agreed with the Cabinet Office for action after April 2008.

Fragile States

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries are classified by his Department as *(a)* fragile and *(b)* failing states; and if he will make a statement. [199209]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep a list of fragile and failing states. However, we closely monitor countries and regions at risk of instability.

Hamas

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have had discussions or other contact with Hamas in the last 12 months. [198883]

Dr. Howells: The Government have had contacts with Hamas in the past 12 months as part of consular efforts to secure the release of kidnapped journalist Alan Johnson only. All contact with Hamas ceased on Mr Johnson's release.

Hezbollah

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have had discussions or other contact with Hezbollah in the last 12 months. [198882]

Dr. Howells: The Government have had no contact with Hezbollah in the last 12 months. The UK's policy on contacts with Hezbollah's political wing is based on our assessment of their behaviour and our judgment of whether such contacts would encourage them to move away from violence and play a constructive role in Lebanese politics. We continue to call on Hezbollah to abide by all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, in particular Resolutions 1701 and 1559, including by disarmament and peaceful participation in Lebanese politics.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK has taken to comply with the new sanctions provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1803 on Iran. [199078]

David Miliband: The UK has implemented UN Security Council Resolution 1803 (2008) in the following ways:

The UK Border Agency and HM Treasury have added the individuals and entities listed in the resolution to their consolidated UK lists of individuals and entities subject to travel bans and assets freezes.

Through Common Positions 2007/140/CFSP and 2001/246/CFSP the EU has already banned the supply of goods and technology listed by the Security Council in Resolution 1803 (2008) to Iran, as well as export credit insurance for trade concerning the supply of items on the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Missile Technology Control Regime lists.

The Security Council has called upon all states to exercise vigilance over the activities of all banks domiciled in Iran, in particular Bank Melli and Bank Saderat, and their branches and subsidiaries abroad. On 4 March 2008 HM Treasury published a notice on its website alerting the UK financial sector to this provision. The notice is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/9/£/fin_sanctions_iran_notification_040308.pdf.

HM Revenue and Customs already conducts routine checks on international cargo according to specific criteria based on risk and intelligence.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether UK forces have been engaged in active operations with US forces in Task Force 6-26. [197028]

Des Browne *[holding answer 26 March 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

I am withholding the information requested as its release would or would be likely to prejudice international relations.

Kenya: Human Rights

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' report on Kenya, with specific reference to the question of amnesty; and if he will make a statement. [199212]

Meg Munn: The Government welcome the report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Kenya and fully supports its recommendations.

The Government agree that perpetrators of gross human rights violations should not be recommended for amnesty. The culture of impunity contributed to the scale of violence in the immediate post-election period. It is vital that those who participate in or incite violence face justice.

Kosovo: Nationality

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government consider Serbs living in Kosovo to be of Serbian or Kosovan nationality. [198689]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Inhabitants of Kosovo can determine their nationality according to their eligibility under the laws of any relevant country.

Middle East: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the viability of a two-state solution in the Middle East without involvement of *(a)* Hamas and *(b)* Hezbollah. [198884]

Dr. Howells: The UK wholly supports President Abbas and the Palestinian Authority. We believe that the Annapolis process, including negotiations between President Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert represents the best way forward towards a viable two-state solution in accordance with their Roadmap committments.

The UK believes that Palestinian unity will be crucial to the creation of a Palestinian state. We believe it is for the Palestinian parties to decide when they are ready to engage with one another. President Abbas has made clear his conditions for dialogue. We have also made clear that without significant movement on the part of Hamas to meet the Quartet's principles, we will be unable to engage with them.

Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 review conference on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. [199256]

Dr. Howells: The UK is fulfilling all its obligations under the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), including those on disarmament under article VI of the treaty. We continue to support the relevant disarmament measures contained in the final document from the NPT Review Conference in 2000, including the 13 practical steps towards disarmament, and we have a good record on meeting the priorities they set out. Not all the 13 steps are relevant to the UK, such as those relating to bilateral measures between the US and Russia.

Peacekeeping Operations: Private Sector

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to introduce legislation to regulate private military and security companies. [198807]

Dr. Howells: In late 2004, my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) requested a review by officials of the options for the regulation of the overseas operations of private military and security companies, registered in or operating from the UK. This applies to private military and security companies operating both in Afghanistan and elsewhere overseas. This was to follow up on the Green Paper of 2002, 'Private Military Companies: Options for Regulation' and to respond to the increase in activities of private military and security companies in areas of conflict overseas.

The review was completed in mid-2005 and suggested a number of options for ways in which the industry could be better managed. The review highlighted some complex issues, particularly in designating which activities should be regulated and how this could be implemented. This issue, along with the options for more effective supervision, continues to be the subject of Ministerial correspondence and official consultation. The Government have undertaken to keep Parliament fully informed of their proposals in this area. If it is decided that regulation is appropriate, the Government will put the proposals to public consultation.

Russia: Foreign Relations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last held discussions with his Russian counterpart; what was discussed; and if he will make a statement. [199214]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in the margins of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Summit on 3 April. Their discussion focused on the Middle East, including the Middle East Peace Process and Iran.

Russia: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Russian policy towards independence of *(a)* South Ossetia, *(b)* Abkhazia and *(c)* Kosovo. [198885]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Russia, like the UK, does not recognise South Ossetia or Abkhazia as independent states. In successive Resolutions, most recently Resolution 1781 (2007), the UN Security Council has reaffirmed the commitment of all member states to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. We look to Russia to use her influence constructively to help bring about the peaceful settlement of both unresolved conflicts.

Russia does not recognise Kosovo as an independent state. The UK recognised Kosovo on 18 February 2008.

Russia: TNK-BP

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the recent *(a)* accusations and *(b)* investigations against TNK-BP (i) employees and (ii) interests in Russia; and if he will make a statement. [199215]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are aware that on 19 and 20 March, the Russian authorities conducted searches at the Moscow offices of both TNK-BP and BP. Files and computer servers were seized and company employees were questioned. We are also aware that on 25 March BP recalled 148 of its secondees from TNK-BP following a problem with their legal status. Most of the staff affected, including British nationals, have decided to remain in Moscow until the dispute is resolved. On the same day the Russian Interior Ministry launched an investigation into alleged tax evasion at a former subsidiary of TNK-BP.

We are in touch with the companies and continue to monitor the situation closely. We welcome the recent statement by Russia's President-elect, Dmitry Medvedev, that actions against TNK-BP were not politically motivated. We expect any investigations by the Russian authorities to be conducted with full transparency and in accordance with Russian law.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the fighting in Mogadishu on 19 March 2008; what assessment he has made of such reports; and if he will make a statement. [199222]

Meg Munn: There was an insurgent attack on an Ethiopian base near a livestock market in northern Mogadishu on 19 March 2008. During the fighting eight people are reported to have been killed, including two civilians.

The Government are concerned about the ongoing violence in Mogadishu and call on all parties to renounce violence and commit to resolving their differences through dialogue. We support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia to facilitate such dialogue.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* UK representatives have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of (A) the governments of member states of the European Union, (B) the Government of Russia, (C) the Government of the United States, (D) the governments of member states of the African Union, (E) the Government of Ethiopia, (F) the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and (G) the United Nations Secretariat on the (1) security situation in, (2) humanitarian situation in, (3) political stability of, (4) African Union deployment in and (5) UN augmentation or replacement of the African Union deployment in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [199213]

Meg Munn: The Government maintain regular contact, at ministerial and official level, with all parties the hon. Member lists in his question, including:

EU Heads of Mission meetings in Nairobi; EU Political Counsellors meetings in Nairobi; Africa Working Group meetings in Brussels; bilateral meetings with officials of member governments of the EU;

bilateral discussions with: the USA; member states of the African Union, including Ethiopia, and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia; and

discussions in New York and Nairobi with the United Nations Secretariat and with member states of the UN Security Council, including Russia, USA and members who are also EU and African Union members.

For example, my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met President Abdullahi Yusuf in London on 21 January 2008; Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein in Addis Ababa on 1 February 2008; and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ahmedou Ould Abdalla, in London on 17 March 2008.

All discussions aim to maintain a coordinated international response to improve the political, security and humanitarian situation in Somalia and to support the Transitional Federal Institutions and Transitional Federal Government to restore peace, stability and governance to Somalia, as envisaged in the Transitional Federal Charter.

South Ossetia: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria the Government use in determining its policy on whether South Ossetia should be recognised as an independent country. [198888]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government do not recognise South Ossetia as an independent state, but consider it to be part of the territory of Georgia which the UK recognised in 1992.

The international community has consistently reaffirmed Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty including through successive UN Security Council resolutions on Georgia, most recently resolution 1781 (2007) of 15 October 2007, in which the Security Council

"reaffirms the commitment of all Member states to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders".

Taiwan: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria the Government use in determining their policy on whether Taiwan should be recognised as an independent country. [198887]

Meg Munn: The Government's long-standing position is that it does not recognise Taiwan as an independent State. We acknowledge the position of the Chinese Government that Taiwan is a province of China and recognise the Chinese Government as the sole legal Government of China.

Timor Leste: Death

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss the New South Wales coroner's findings on the death of the British journalist Brian Peters in Balibo, East Timor in 1975 with the Australian Prime Minister on his forthcoming visit to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [198821]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did not discuss the death of Brian Peters when he met with the Australian Prime Minister earlier this month.

However, I plan to raise this issue with the Australian government to find out how the case is progressing and seek an indication as to when the process might be completed.

Yemen: Armed Conflict

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the activity by rebels under the command of Abdul-Malik al Houthi *(a)* since the signing of the agreement between his group and the government of Yemen on 1 February 2008, *(b)* between June and September 2007 and *(c)* between 2004 and 2007; and if he will make a statement. [199219]

Dr. Howells: The Government of Yemen has been fighting a series of internal conflicts with al-Houthi-led rebels in the Governorate of Sa'dah since 2004. This conflict is an internal matter, driven by a complicated mix of tribal, religious and economic factors. We acknowledge the need for the Government of Yemen to maintain security within its borders. However, we have called for dialogue between the Government of Yemen and the Houthis to try to achieve a ceasefire. A recent Qatari-led mediation effort has achieved a pause in the fighting. This is fragile, and we continue to receive reports of sporadic violence in isolated areas. But we welcome the Qatari mediation effort and consider it the best route to achieving a lasting peace in Sa'dah.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* his Department and *(c)* UK representatives have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the government of (A) the United States, (B) members of the European Union, (C) Russia and (D) Yemen on the (1) social, (2) humanitarian and (3) political situation in Yemen; and if he will make a statement. [199220]

Dr. Howells: The UK is a leading western donor to Yemen. Officials from our Embassy in Sana'a have almost daily contact with the US, EU member states resident in Yemen and the Yemeni Government, regularly raising political, humanitarian and development issues. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office meets frequently with officials from the Yemeni embassy in London. I have visited Yemen on two occasions since becoming a Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and hope to do so again soon. I have raised Yemen's developmental and political situation with the Yemeni Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the action taken by the government of Yemen in the north of the country since January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [199221]

Dr. Howells: The Government of Yemen has been fighting a series of internal conflicts with al-Huthi-led rebels in the Governorate of Sa'dah since 2004. This conflict is an internal matter and we acknowledge the need for the Government of Yemen to maintain security within its borders. We have also called for care to avoid civilian casualties and for dialogue between the Government of Yemen and the Huthis to try to achieve a ceasefire. A recent Qatari-led mediation effort has achieved a pause in the fighting, although we continue to receive reports of sporadic violence in isolated areas. We welcome the Qatari mediation effort and consider it the best route to achieving a lasting peace in Sa'dah.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Fraud

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1140W, on charities: fraud, what steps he plans to take to ensure that copies of the leaflet are printed and distributed to households in Scotland. [201358]

Phil Hope: Charity law and regulation, including the charitable collections of goods, is devolved and a matter for the Scottish Government.

Charity Commission: Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people were employed by the Charity Commission in each of the last 30 years; [198605]

(2) how many people *(a)* resigned and *(b)* retired from the Charity Commission in each of the last 30 years; [198606]

(3) how many people employed by the Charity Commission had salaries between *(a)* £20,000 and £30,000, *(b)* £30,000 and £40,000, *(c)* £40,000 and £50,000, *(d)* £50,000 and £60,000, *(e)* £60,000 and £70,000, *(f)* £70,000 and £80,000, *(g)* £80,000 and £90,000, *(h)* £90,000 and £100,000, *(i)* £100,000 and £110,000, *(j)* £110,000 and £120,000, *(k)* £120,000 and £130,000 *(l)* £130,000 and £140,000, *(m)* £140,000 and £150,000, *(n)* £150,000 and £160,000, *(o)* £160,000 and £170,000, *(p)* £170,000 and £180,000 *(q)* £180,00 and £190,000 *(r)* £190,000 and £200,000 and *(s)* over £200,000 in each of the last 30 years; and what the (i) mean and (ii) median salary of employees was in each of those years. [198607]

Phil Hope: These are matters for the Charity Commission as the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. The Commission's Chief Executive will write to you and a copy of his response will be placed in the House Library.

Charity Commission: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pension of the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission. [198608]

Phil Hope: It is not appropriate to disclose values for staff, other than those whose details are reported in Remuneration Reports in the Department's Resource Accounts. A copy of the Charity Commission's Resource Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2007 is available in the Library of the House.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what pension scheme is offered to staff joining the Charity Commission; and if he will place in the Library details of the terms and benefits of the scheme. [198609]

Phil Hope: New entrants to the civil service are covered by the civil service pension arrangements. Staff can choose between 'nuvos', a defined benefit pension scheme and 'partnership', a stakeholder pension. If a person is being re-employed, and was previously a member of a civil service pension scheme, they may be able to rejoin their previous scheme, but this will depend on the length of time since they were last employed.

In respect of members of the defined benefit schemes, employer contribution rates are assessed for each of four ranges of pay levels. The rates for 2008-09 are:

Band	*Full-time annual salary*	*Rate from 1 April 2008*
Band 1	£19,500 and under	17.1
Band 2	£19,501 to £40,500	19.5
Band 3	£40,501 to £69,000	23.2
Band 4	£69,001 and above	25.5

The scheme rules are laid before Parliament and copies are in the House Library.

For members of 'partnership', the employer pays a basic contribution of between 3 per cent. and 12.5 per cent. (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product, and will match the member's contribution up to a limit of 3 per cent. Employers also contribute a further 0.8 per cent. of pensionable salary to cover the cost of risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

Details of the civil service pension arrangements can be found on the Civil Service Pensions website:

http://www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk.

Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the proportion of children brought up in *(a)* two parent families and *(b)* single parent families in each ethnic group in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [201194]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the proportion of children brought up in (a) two parent families and (b) single parent families in each ethnic group in the latest period for which figures are available. (201194)

The proportion of dependent children in families in the UK can be estimated using the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Table 1 is based on the latest UK family estimates for 2007 and shows the percentage of dependent children in lone parent and couple families according to the ethnicity of the child.

Table 1: Percentage of dependent children in UK families by ethnicity of child, 2007

	Couple	*Lone parent*
White	77	23
Mixed	61	39
Asian or Asian British	85	15
Black or Black British	50	50
Chinese	78	22
Other ethnic group	68	32
Total	76	24

Note:
This table excludes children not in a family and children whose ethnicity was not available

Source:
LFS quarterly data, April to June, not seasonally adjusted

Police

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will ask the Cabinet Secretary to make a formal statement on the appropriateness of the Home Office announcement of 16 April on police during the local elections purdah period. [201160]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the Cabinet Secretary's letter to him of 18 April 2008, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Prostate Cancer

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many men were diagnosed with prostate cancer in each of the last five years. [199453]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008.

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many men were diagnosed with having prostate cancer in each of the last five years. [199453]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of malignant neoplasm of prostate are for the year 2005. Figures for 2001 to 2005 for males in England are in the following table.

Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1], males, England, 2001 to 2005

	Number of cases
2001	27,380
2002	27,672
2003	27,777
2004	29,406
2005	28,886

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Unemployment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many and what proportion of households included no one in full-time employment in the latest 12-month period for which figures are available; [198778]

(2) how many and what proportion of people lived in households where no one was in full-time employment in the latest 12-month period for which figures are available. [198779]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your two Parliamentary Questions. The first asks how many and what proportion of households included no-one in full-time employment in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available (198778). The second asks how many and what proportion of people lived in households where no-one was in full time employment in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available (198779).

Estimates are provided from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). There is currently no annual household dataset, so the figures are given for the April-June quarter to be consistent with those published in the 'Work and worklessness among households' First Release (see web link)

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0807.pdf

For the three month period ending in June 2007, 10.7 million (43 per cent) households include no-one in full-time employment; these households consist of 19.4 million (34 per cent) people.

Published figures for workless households are based on working age households. A working-age household is a household that includes at least one person of working-age, that is a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64.

For the three month period ending in June 2007, 4.7 million (25 per cent) working age households include no-one in full-time employment; these households consist of 10.9 million (22 per cent) people.

In calculating the percentages, households with unknown economic status have been excluded.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK born 16 to 24 year olds were unemployed in each quarter since 1997; and what the employment rate in each category was in the same period. [201004]

Edward Miliband: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 24 April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) UK and (b) UK born 16 to 24 year olds were unemployed in each quarter since 1997; and what was the employment rate in each category in the same period. [201004]

The attached table gives estimates of the number of unemployed people and the employment rate for the categories requested for the three month periods ending June and December each year from 1997 to 2007, derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Comparable estimates for 1998 and 2000 are not available.

It should be noted that the estimate provided is weighted to population estimates consistent with those published in 2003. Reweighted analyses using the latest population estimates, published in summer 2007, will available from 14 May 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ILO unemployment[1] level and employment rate[2] of people aged 16 to 24, by country of birth, three months ending June and December, 1997 to 2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

		Total UK		UK born	
		Unemployment level (thousand)	Employment rate (percentage)	Unemployment level (thousand)[3]	Employment rate (percentage)
1997	Q2	631	61	594	62
	Q4	571	63	529	64
1998	Q2	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
	Q4	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
1999	Q2	548	61	517	62
	Q4	530	64	490	65
2000	Q2	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
	Q4	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
2001	Q2	478	62	445	63
	Q4	544	63	501	64
2002	Q2	498	61	461	62
	Q4	546	63	504	64
2003	Q2	520	60	474	61
	Q4	526	62	487	63
2004	Q2	517	60	476	61
	Q4	565	61	512	63
2005	Q2	550	59	499	60
	Q4	622	58	560	60
2006	Q2	630	57	568	58
	Q4	648	59	576	60
2007	Q2	648	56	574	57
	Q4	638	58	576	60

[1] Number of unemployed people measured using the internationally agreed definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
[2] Number of people aged 16 to 24 in employment as a percentage of all 16 to 24-year-old people.
[3] Data unavailable.

Notes:
1. It should be noted that the estimates:
exclude certain people who have been resident in the UK for less than six months.
exclude students in halls of residence who do not have a UK resident parent.
exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).
are grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying 12 months or more.
are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2007 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates as used in the Labour Market Statistics First Release.
2. Comparable data not available for 1998 and 2000.

Source:
Labour Force Survey (LFS)

TRANSPORT

A14: Lorries

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1005W, on the A14: lorries, how many lorry movements there were on average per day on the A14 in 2006; and what percentage of overall vehicle movements along the road this figure represents. [201277]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The annual average daily flow for the A14 in 2006 was 8,273 for heavy goods vehicles and 46,051 for all motor vehicles. Heavy goods vehicles therefore accounted for 18 per cent. of total flow.

This is a representative traffic flow for any randomly selected point on the A14.

Airports: Baggage

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* regulations and *(b)* guidance govern the carrying of hand luggage on aeroplanes leaving (i) Heathrow and (ii) Gatwick; and who is responsible for determining the number of pieces of hand luggage allowed per passenger on commercial aircraft. [200650]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The previous restriction on the number of cabin bags permitted to be carried at both Heathrow and Gatwick has been lifted. It is for the airlines and airports to apply their own local policies on the number of bags which may be taken on to aircraft by passengers. The only restriction is on the size of cabin bag (remains at 56 cm x 45 cm x 25 cm) and there are no plans to change this. These dimensions are in line with The International Air Transport Association's recommended practice.

Bus Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the consultation on the bus services operation grant and fuel duty rebate is expected to end. [201386]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Our consultation document 'Local Bus Service Support—Options for Reform' was published on 13 March. The closing date for responses is 5 June.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1154-55W, on departmental information officers, if she will break down the figures provided by agency. [187802]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Further to my answer of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1154-55W, individual executive agency figures readily available for press officers and communication officers are as follows, together with corrected information. Some data are not available without disproportionate cost.

(a) Press officers

The full time equivalent number of staff employed on press officer activities for 2002-03 to 2007-08 is as follows:

Staff FTE

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DfT Central	12.7	13.8	13.8	13	14.6	13.8
DSA	2	2	2	2	2	2
DVLA	7	7	7.5	7	7	5
GCDA	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
HA	6	6	6	6.8	11.1	12.2
MCA	2	2	2	2	2	2
VCA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VOSA	1	1	2	2	2	2
DfT agencies	18	18	19.5	19.8	24.1	23.2
DfT total	30.7	31.8	33.3	32.8	38.7	37.0

Note:
Figures for 2005-06 have been corrected from my answer of 6 February.

(b) Communications Officers

The Department does not have a "communication officer" grade. Figures shown are for communication specialists engaged in a range of communications activities, and excluding press officers. The full time equivalent (FTE) number employed as at:

	October 2006	*July 2007*	*February 2008*
DSA	9.0	n/a	12.8
DVLA	43.0	n/a	29.3
GCDA	1.0	n/a	1.0
HA	8.0	n/a	10.8
MCA	3.0	n/a	3.0
VCA	2.5	n/a	2.5
VOSA	7.0	n/a	7.0

Comparable data are not available prior to October 2006 without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* permanent civil service posts, *(b)* permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* temporary or agency workers there were in her Department in each month since May 2005. [200172]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office for National Statistics publishes Civil Service employment statistics every quarter in the Public Sector Employment First Release. The latest statistics published are for Q4 (December) 2007. Table 6 of the publication provides a breakdown of employment by Government Department. This has been available since Q1 2006 and from Q4 2006 included a breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees.

The detailed information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on publicity and advertising in 2007-08. [199033]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total figures for the Department's advertising and publicity spend for the 2007-08 fiscal year are set out as follows. Please note, the figures are provisional outturn and subject to audit.

	2007-08 (expected outturn) (£)
DFT (Central)	26,700,000
DVLA	7,500,000
DSA	169,000
HA	4,718,000
VOSA	659,000
MCA	1,204,000
VCA	66,000
GCDA	30,000
Total	41,046,000

The majority of advertising investment by the central Department is in support of the THINK! road safety, Act on CO2, aviation security and bus concessionary passes campaigns. Major advertising investment by Executive agencies has been by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, to explain changes to the car tax rules.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost was of *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in her Department in each month since May 2005. [200173]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1414-16W, on departmental public relations, which *(a)* lead public relations company and *(b)* other public relations companies worked on each campaign by her Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of each campaign was. [187895]

Jim Fitzpatrick: External public relations companies who have worked to support the Department and executive agencies' communications activities since the 2002-03 fiscal year are:

Major communication activity	*Agency*
DfT Central	
THINK! road safety campaign	Fishburn Hedges, QBO and Red (current agency)
Act on CO_2 campaign	Forster
Concessionary bus fares campaign	Munro & Forster
European Whole Vehicle Type Approval campaign	Geronimo
Executive agencies	
DVLA communications (including the promotion of registered number plate suppliers, electronic vehicle licensing, and local office networks)	MGB Communications
DVLA continuous registration (vehicle taxation) campaign	Red and Geronimo
DVLA accuracy of records activity	Geronimo
DVLA Northern Ireland	Red
DVLA number plate theft campaign	Red
DVLA driver re-engineering project	Geronimo
VOSA communications	Couravel
MCA's Seasmart campaign	Munro & Forster and Kilfross & Render

Total costs incurred since 2002-03 on external public relations agencies and promotions are approximately £3,158,000. Breaking down these costs by each individual campaign over the past five years could be done only at disproportionate cost.

With apologies to the hon. Member, I would like to provide additional figures to my answer of 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1414-16W. Figures provided then did not include expenditure on PR support that DVLA commissioned through the Central Office of Information. Total expenditure for DVLA in each fiscal year since 2003-04 is as follows:

	£
2002-03	[1]84,000
2003-04	257,244
2004-05	346,941
2005-06	871,654
2006-07	371,327
2007-08	[2]479,982

[1] Spend through COI not available.
[2] Estimated outturn.

Disabled

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets her Department has set in relation to its employment of people with disabilities over the next five years. [199053]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is currently reviewing employment targets generally and this includes targets in relation to the employment of people with disabilities. We expect the review to be complete by the summer of 2008 and targets will be published then.

Galileo

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had about the potential uses of the Galileo European satellite navigation system for all Government Departments. [200186]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* I and my transport ministerial colleagues have regular discussions with departmental officials and with Ministers from other Departments about transport issues across the range of our responsibilities.

The Government recognise that Galileo should be a useful tool for delivering a variety of policy aims and improved services in transport and other sectors. That is why officials continue to work closely with all interested Government Departments to identify potential public sector uses for Galileo and to promote this as part of their engagement with the Location and Timing Knowledge Transfer Network (drawn from UK industry, academia, end users and Government).

Lorries: Safety Belts

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many heavy goods vehicles not fitted with seat belts were registered in each of the last 10 years; [200470]

(2) what assessment she has made of the costs and benefits of fitting seat belts to heavy goods vehicles; [200471]

(3) what her estimate is of the number of heavy goods vehicles that are not fitted with seat belts. [200473]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross weight first used on or after 1 October 2001 have been required by law to be fitted with seat belts. The following table shows by year the number of goods vehicles in-use that were registered before that date.

	Thousand
1997	442
1998	441
1999	459
2000	471
2001	466

Prior to 2001 some manufacturers were providing seat belts in their vehicles on a voluntary basis however we do not have statistics to show the fitting rate.

A cost and benefit study was conducted as part of the review leading to the mandatory requirement for seat belt installation. This concluded that, assuming 100 per cent. seat belt fitment, three lives and 35 serious injuries could be saved per year. At today's values this represents a benefit of £9.9 million.

We estimate that in 2006, 266,000 vehicles first registered before October 2001, were still in use. However, a review of the age of the fleet by year shows that, on average, the number of vehicles registered before that date is reducing by approximately 40,000 per year.

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries there were involving drivers of heavy goods vehicles which were not fitted with seat belts in each of the last 10 years. [200472]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not collected.

Motor Vehicles: Petrol Alternatives

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government are taking to promote alternatives to petrol powered vehicles. [201231]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government encourage the use of alternative fuels through reduced rates of vehicle excise duty for cars run on certain alternative fuels and registered after 1 March 2001, and through differentials in fuel duty between petrol and diesel and other fuels. Vehicles powered wholly by electric power are exempt from VED.

The Government fund the running of an Infrastructure grant programme. The grants assist the building of refuelling stations for alternative fuels (natural gas/biogas, hydrogen and bio-ethanol). It is also funding research and development into battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles through a low carbon vehicles innovation platform, which brings together funding from the Department for Transport, Technology Strategy Board and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

The Government have also introduced the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO). The RTFO, which came into effect from 15 April 2008 aims to ensure that sustainable biofuels make up an increasing percentage of total UK road transport fuels, and means that biofuels are starting to become available in low blends at the majority of forecourts in the UK.

Personal Location Beacons: Licensing

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration her Department has given to the merits of a licensing regime for personal location beacons for land-based use. [200372]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK Search and Rescue (UKSAR) Inland Consultative Committee is currently looking at the use of personal location beacons on land and is in the process of gathering views from interested parties which will be discussed at their next meeting on 11 June with a view to ultimately making recommendations to the UKSAR Strategic Committee—an inter-agency national forum, chaired by DfT, with responsibility for advising on the structure, scope and framework of the organisation of UKSAR.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies each year was in 1996-97; what the cost was in each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if she will make a statement; [189671]

(2) how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189672]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was created in May 2002. Records of costs from 1996-97 until 2001-02 are not readily available owing to departmental and agency re-organisations and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for NDPBs and quarter year figures could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

(1) The cost of DFT Central's press office (including pay and non-pay costs) for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 and forecast for 2007-08 is as follows:

£ million

	DFT(C) pay	*DFT(C) non-pay*
2002-03	0.85	0.81
2003-04	0.70	0.80
2004-05	0.70	0.83
2005-06	0.77	0.76
2006-07	0.88	0.67
2007-08	0.84	0.67

The non-pay costs include media monitoring, use of Central Office of Information's Government News Network and all other direct external costs attributed to press office operations.

Press office activities in most agencies are not carried out by staff or units solely dedicated to this purpose. Full records of costs are therefore not readily available for press office functions alone. However, agency press office function pay costs have been estimated for the years 2002-03 to 2006-07 and forecast for 2007-08 as follows:

Staff £ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DSA	0.04	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
DVLA	0.14	0.15	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.14
GCDA	0	0	0	0	0	0
HA	0.21	0.22	0.23	0.27	0.30	0.36
MCA	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.15	0.15
VCA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VOSA	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04

(2) The full-time equivalent number of staff employed on press officer activities from 2002-03 to 2007-08 is as follows:

Staff FTE

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DFT Central	12.7	13.8	13.8	13	14.6	13.8
DSA	2	2	2	2	2	2
DVLA	7	7	7.5	7	7	5
GCDA	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
HA	6	6	6	6.8	11.1	12.2
MCA	2	2	2	2	2	2
VCA	0	0	0	0	0	0
VOSA	1	1	2	2	2	2
DFT agencies	18	18	19.5	19.8	24.1	23.2
DFT total	30.7	31.8	33.3	32.8	38.7	37.0

The Highways Agency recruited regional press officers in 2006 and 2007 to support its new role as a network operator and in particular the introduction of the traffic officer service which took over many police functions in managing motorway incidents.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: AIDS

Mr. Cabora: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made on the educational programme in Africa to combat the spread of AIDS; and if he will make a statement. [196727]

Gillian Merron: The most significant progress that has been made on education programmes in addressing the threat posed by HIV and AIDS has been through strengthening the content of education sector plans by more explicit reference to HIV prevention through curriculum reform, teacher training, peer education, etc.

A recent survey of 34 countries in Africa showed that all of these countries have a National HIV and AIDS policy and three quarters of them have an education sector specific HIV and AIDS strategy and plan. 30 countries are training teachers to protect themselves, and all countries participating in the survey are providing some HIV prevention education at primary and/or secondary levels.

More progress is needed in the establishment of effective monitoring and evaluation procedures. The Department for International Development routinely works with partner country governments to strengthen their monitoring and evaluation systems.

Corruption: Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was spent on tackling corruption in *(a)* India, *(b)* Tanzania, *(c)* Sudan, *(d)* Bangladesh, *(e)* Pakistan, *(f)* Afghanistan, *(g)* Ethiopia, *(h)* Nigeria, *(i)* Uganda, *(j)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(k)* Ghana, *(l)* Kenya, *(m)* Malawi, *(n)* Zambia, *(o)* Indonesia, *(p)* Mozambique, *(q)* Vietnam, *(r)* Iraq, *(s)* Nepal and *(t)* China in 2006-07. [199001]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has programmes to combat corruption that both directly target corruption as well those that have a broader focus on prevention and on strengthening governance. Such programmes include for example: support to strengthen the capacity, accountability and responsiveness of the state; initiatives to strengthen parliamentary oversight; programmes with civil society; and targeted support for the investigation and prosecution of corrupt activities.

Departmental bilateral expenditure on governance related programmes in 2006-07 totalled £323 million. We are unable to break this down further and provide specific statistical information on anti-corruption expenditure by country. The following table provides details of the levels of governance expenditure for the countries highlighted in the question.

DFID bilateral governance expenditure, 2006-07

		£ million
(a)	India	31.9
(b)	Tanzania	19.7
(c)	Sudan	7.5
(d)	Bangladesh	10.8
(e)	Pakistan	14.6
(f)	Afghanistan	10.7
(g)	Ethiopia	13.2
(h)	Nigeria	24.7
(i)	Uganda	13.6
(j)	Democratic Republic of Congo	7.8
(k)	Ghana	7.1
(l)	Kenya	3.0
(m)	Malawi	6.4
(n)	Zambia	4.1
(o)	Indonesia	7.3
(p)	Mozambique	13.7
(q)	Vietnam	5.8
(r)	Iraq	25.2
(s)	Nepal	1.9
(t)	China	1.1

Departmental Research

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what progress has been made on his Department's new research strategy; and whether it will commence in April 2008; [197726]

(2) whether he plans to publish the findings of the in-country consultations his Department held in Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda on its new research strategy; [197728]

(3) what progress has been made towards widening the scope of his Department's education research to look at *(a)* post-primary education and *(b)* the links between education and the world of work; [197779]

(4) what progress has been made towards the development of non-medical research initiatives on *(a)* children's education, *(b)* HIV and AIDS, *(c)* the relationship between women's income and the survival rate of their children and *(d)* safer childbirth. [197782]

Mr. Thomas: The new Department for International Development research strategy 2008-13 was launched on 22 April and it, together with 10 working papers, can be found on the DFID website http://www.dfid.gov.uk/research/newresearch.asp.

The working papers provide background and detail about the research to be funded within the strategy period.

The education and health working papers contain more detail about how DFID will develop its education and non-medical health research. Future open competitions for research will call for research proposals to cover these areas.

Findings from the in-country consultations have been published and can be accessed at the following link on DFID's Research Portal:

http://www.research4development.info/features.asp?FeaturelD=58

Developing Countries: Diseases

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what responses his Department received from private companies on development of new treatments, vaccines and technologies for *(a)* malaria, *(b)* tuberculosis, *(c)* HIV and AIDS and *(d)* other diseases during the consultation on the Department's new research strategy. [197730]

Mr. Thomas: Over 600 responses were received during the web-based consultation on the new research strategy, of which 21 identified themselves as business/industry, but no further detail is available.

The development of new treatments, vaccines and technologies for *(a)* malaria, *(b)* tuberculosis, *(c)* HIV and AIDS and *(d)* other diseases were raised by many respondents. Responses to the consultation were analysed anonymously and comments cannot be attributed to individuals or organisations.

Developing Countries: Terrorism

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government have taken to provide assistance to developing countries following terrorist attacks in the last 12 months. [199409]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided emergency support to developing countries affected by terrorist attacks during the last year. Though available in theory, the scale of terrorist attacks to date has not warranted large international humanitarian responses.

More generally DFID can help to mitigate the economic and social impact of a serious attack, both on people's livelihoods and government finances, for example support for the efforts of multilateral organisations such the World Bank and United National Development Programme following the 2002 Bali bombing.

DFID can also help to reduce the threat of violence through:

Mainstream development programming, which can help developing countries to address the grievances which ultimately drive conflict and cause terrorism.

Support for conflict prevention and mediation measures, where appropriate.

Developing Countries: Transport

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the World Bank on research into low-cost transport options for poorer communities. [197729]

Mr. Thomas: Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) discussed research relevant to low-cost transport options with the World Bank in the first quarter of this year. This topic has been incorporated into wide-ranging provision for collaborative work which falls with the following areas:

(a) DFID's South East Asia Community Access Programme (SEACAP) designed to enhance the pro-poor content of World Bank's programmes in the Mekong area.

(b) The World Bank's Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy programme (SSATP), which will co-ordinate the Steering Group for DFID's African Community Access programme (AFCAP)

(c) A joint programme of transport research support to be based in the Transport Unit within the World Bank's sustainable development network in Washington; and

(d) Co-operation with the World Bank in the work of the DFID-funded global transport knowledge partnership.

Ipsos MORI

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 149W, on Ipsos MORI, what the estimated value of the contract is through the Central Office of Information to research issues into public attitudes. [199976]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The total value of the contract with Ipsos MORI to research issues into public attitudes, contracted through COI, was £126,778 plus VAT.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the level of fiduciary risk for UK bilateral aid to *(a)* India, *(b)* Tanzania, *(c)* Sudan, *(d)* Bangladesh, *(e)* Pakistan, *(f)* Afghanistan, *(g)* Ethiopia, *(h)* Nigeria, *(i)* Uganda, *(j)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(k)* Ghana, *(l)* Kenya, *(m)* Malawi, *(n)* Zambia, *(o)* Indonesia, *(p)* Mozambique, *(q)* Vietnam, *(r)* Iraq, *(s)* Nepal and *(t)* China. [199877]

Mr. Thomas: Since 2004, the Department for International Development (DFID) has conducted detailed fiduciary risk assessments in all countries where we provide poverty reduction budget support (PRBS). This is aid given to support poverty reduction programmes through partner governments' own budgets, and using partners' own financial management, procurement and accountability systems. The following table shows the most recent fiduciary risk rating in each country listed above that has received PRBS.

Country	*DFID fiduciary risk rating*
Tanzania	medium
Bangladesh	high
Pakistan	medium
Ethiopia	moderate
Uganda	medium
Ghana	substantial
Malawi	high
Zambia	high
Mozambique	substantial
Vietnam	medium
Nepal	high

DFID has not provided any PRBS to the Federal Government of India, but we do provide sector budget support in some of our focus states where the risk rating is judged as medium. No PRBS has been provided to the Sudan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Indonesia, Iraq or China.

From 2008, DFID will as part of its country planning process conduct fiduciary risk assessments for all countries where we provide financial aid.

Overseas Aid: Expenditure

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government have spent on foreign aid since 1997. [200523]

Mr. Malik: Details of total UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) since 1997 are in the following table.

UK Official Development Assistance, 1997 to 2007

	£ million
1997	2,096
1998	2,332
1999	2,118
2000	2,974
2001	3,170
2002	3,285
2003	3,834
2004	4,313
2005	5,925
2006	6,770
2007 (provisional)	4,957
Total 1997-2007	41,774

The primary reason for the decline in UK ODA in 2007 is the result of lower levels of debt relief. In 2006 the UK gave more than £1.9 billion in debt relief, primarily to Nigeria; this fell to £35 million in 2007.

Despite the decline in 2007, the UK remains on target to provide 0.7 per cent. of gross national income (GNI) as ODA by 2013, two years ahead of the EU target.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children were *(a)* adopted and *(b)* taken into care in each year from 1978 to 2008; and if he will make a statement; [200993]

(2) how many children were taken into care in each local authority area in the latest year for which figures are available; what the rate was per 10,000 children in each such area; and if he will make a statement. [201459]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is as follows.

PQ 200993

Data on the number of children looked after by English local authorities who have been *(a)* adopted from care in each of the years ending 31 March 1995 to 2007, and *(b)* taken into care in each of the years ending 31 March 1996 to 2007 are shown in the following tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Children looked after adopted during the years ending 31 March 1995 to 2007[1,2,3], England

	Number
1995	2,000
1996	1,900
1997	1,900
1998	2,200
1999	2,100
2000	2,700
2001	3,100
2002	3,400
2003	3,500
2004	3,800
2005	3,800
2006	3,700
2007	3,300

[1] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication data of previous materials.

[2] Between 1998 and 2000, the number of children adopted could only be estimated on the basis of a one-third sample as a proportion of the total number of children looked after. Since 2001 additional information has been collected on a 100 per cent. basis for looked after children who were adopted. Consequently, for 2001 to 2003, the exact number of adopted children is known and has been used to estimate the number of children in the age groups shown. These figures should therefore be treated with caution.

[3] To maintain the confidentiality of each child, numbers below 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 10 and numbers above 1,000 have been rounded to the nearest 100. As a consequence, figures may not sum to the total.

Source:
SSDA903 return on children looked after.

Table 2: Children looked after who were taken into care during the years ending 31 March 1996 to 2007[1,2,3,4], England

	Number
1996[5]	5,800
1997[5]	6,100
1998[6]	7,100
1999[6]	7,100
2000[6]	7,700
2001[6]	7,000
2002[6]	7,400
2003[6]	8,100
2004[6]	7,500
2005[6]	7,700
2006[6]	7,700
2007[6]	7,600

[1] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been collected.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

[3] Children who are deemed to be "taken" into care are those who started to be looked after as the result of a care order (full or interim), police protection, emergency protection order or child assessment order.

[4] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small amounts. All numbers which appear in national tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[5] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 1996 and 1997 as well as since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

[6] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

Source:
SSDA903 return on children looked after.

PQ 201459

The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Child Poverty Unit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the minutes of each meeting of the Child Poverty Unit since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [201073]

Beverley Hughes: In October 2007 the Government established the DWP/DCSF Joint Child Poverty Unit to ensure that there is a clear cross Government approach to tackling child poverty.

The unit brings together the expertise of officials from DWP and DCSF and works closely with HMT and our key stakeholders to drive forward the child poverty agenda.

Since its formation, members of the unit have undertaken a large number of meetings with prominent members of the child poverty lobby, key think tanks and other stakeholders, as well as attending ministerial meetings.

Meetings are held routinely and on an ad hoc basis, as the unit seeks to reinvigorate the Government's child poverty strategy, to ensure we eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Flexibility is the key to the unit's success. Officials are co-located and work together on a daily basis. As a consequence is it not possible formally to minute each and every meeting that members of the unit undertake. To do so would place an additional burden on the unit's time and resources.

Children: Abuse

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what statutory requirements there are on *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools to report allegations of child abuse to a local authority designated officer; and if he will make a statement. [201312]

Kevin Brennan: Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 imposes a statutory duty on both local authorities and the governing bodies of maintained schools to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State in considering such arrangements.

Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 impose a duty on independent schools to draw up and implement a policy to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school.

These statutory duties are supported by guidance contained within Working Together to Safeguard Children, which was issued in April 2006, and Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education, which was issued in November 2006 and came into force in January 2007. Both documents set out the process for dealing with allegations that might indicate that someone is unsuitable to continue to work with children, because it is alleged that they have behaved, in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child; possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to

work with children. The guidance is clear that any allegations that fell within this definition must be taken seriously and should be examined objectively by someone independent of the school concerned: in the first instance this is typically the local authority designated officer who leads on dealing with allegations in that area. The guidance explains that the police must be consulted about any case in which a criminal offence may have been committed, and that a strategy discussion (which will involve children's social care) should take place when there is cause to suspect a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Sometimes allegations will be so serious as to require immediate intervention by children's social care or the police, prior to notifying the local authority designated officer.

Children: Asylum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of children in each local authority area who are the children of parents seeking asylum; and if he will make a statement. [201193]

Kevin Brennan: In order to respond to this question, the Department will need to gather information from other Government Departments. When the information is available I shall write to the hon. Member and place a copy of that letter in the House Library.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contribution his Department is making to meeting the Government's 2010 child poverty target; and if he will make a statement. [200995]

Beverley Hughes: Tackling child poverty is in everybody's interest and it needs to be everybody's business. On Budget Day we published "Ending child poverty: everybody's business" with the Government's strategy for halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020. The measures announced in the Budget will invest an additional £950 million and lift up to a further 250,000 additional children out of poverty from 2010-11, up to 500,000 in all when combined with announcements in last year's Budget and pre Budget report

The Joint Department for Children; Schools and Families and Department for Work and Pensions Child Poverty Unit we created last year is coordinating work across Government to support families to escape poverty by increasing employment and raising incomes for those who can work. And last year's Budget and the Children's Plan set out further policies and measures to improve children's life chances and invest in improving services for children to enable them to break the cycle of poverty from generation to generation.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's budget for publicity and advertising *(a)* was in 2007-08 and *(b)* is for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [201126]

Kevin Brennan: The budget for publicity and advertising for DCSF for *(a)* 2007-08; and *(b)* 2008-09 is as follows:

	£ million
2007-08	13.1
2008-09	9.3

Dyslexia

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the provision of specialist dyslexia teaching in the light of the report of the No to Failure project on screening for dyslexia and specific learning difficulties. [201226]

Kevin Brennan: All local authorities and schools must have regard to the special educational needs code of practice which provides advice on their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for pupils' special educational needs. Children with dyslexia should have their needs identified and support put in place in the same way as children with other special educational needs (SEN).

To identify and promote best practice, we are working with the British Dyslexia Association, Dyslexia Action, Xtraordinary People and the Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties on the No to Failure project. This project is supporting trailblazer schools in three local authority areas, where children are screened and specialist teaching provided to those identified at risk of dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties. We are supporting this project with just over £1 million funding over three years.

The recently published report from No to Failure says that a significant proportion of children in the trailblazers not achieving expected levels of attainment are at risk of dyslexia or other specific learning difficulties. However, the report does not indicate how many had already been identified with SEN, nor does it evaluate the impact of specialist teaching on children's progression. We are looking forward to seeing the final report later this year, which we understand will contain such an evaluation.

Through No to Failure, we have commissioned Dr. Chris Singleton to summarise published research on the impact of specialist dyslexia teaching. We will consider whether and how we should promote specialist dyslexia teaching as best practice in the light of evidence of its impact.

To help those working in schools with identifying and supporting children with dyslexia, last October we launched the inclusion development programme, which is offering professional development in key areas of SEN starting with training on communication difficulties, including dyslexia. The inclusion development programme materials were developed in close consultation with dyslexia organisations.

We are also providing £150,000 over two years for the British Dyslexia Association to enhance their helpline's service to teachers, and 250,000 over three years for Dyslexia Action to run Partnership for Literacy pilots in a further 10 schools.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of providing school dinners free of charge to all pupils in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools; [201041]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of extending entitlement to free school meals to all pupils *(a)* in primary schools, *(b)* in secondary schools and *(c)* aged four to 18 years. [201088]

Kevin Brennan: The Department estimates that the cost of providing school meals free of charge to all pupils in *(a)* primary schools is approximately £1.2 billion, and *(b)* secondary schools is approximately £1 billion. The primary figure includes pupils aged four. Therefore, for pupils in schools aged 4-18 in schools, we estimate the cost to be £2.2 billion.

Parents

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times the Parents Panel has met since it was established; what conclusions it has reached; if he will publish the minutes of the panel's meetings; and what the cost of the panel has been. [200992]

Beverley Hughes: We are currently in the process of tendering for an organisation to run the Parents Panel and a survey to provide information on parents' confidence in their ability to help their children to thrive and in the support services available to them. Panel members will be recruited in a way that ensures the panel is as representative of parents as possible. We expect to hold the first meeting of the Parents Panel in autumn 2008.

In the meantime, we are convening a group of 36 parents to discuss key issues arising from the children's plan. This parents group will meet on 15 May and 9 July and is made up from parents who attended the recent Time to Talk events on the children's plan.

The cost of running the two parents group events is just over £75,000. This includes: recruiting parents; providing facilities for the meetings; organising and facilitating the events; developing stimulus materials; providing an on-line forum for parents' discussion before and between meetings; contributing to parents' out of pocket expenses.

We will publish the findings of both the parents and the parents group.

Parents: Advisory Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many calls there have been to the Parent Know How helpline in each month since it was established; what the cost of the helpline has been; and if he will make a statement. [200985]

Kevin Brennan: The Parent Know How programme is funding seven third sector organisations to deliver helplines for parents. The funding for these helplines commenced on 1 April 2008. Management data, including the number of calls to the helplines, will be collected quarterly and the first report is due in July. The third sector organisations are funded by grants to deliver the helpline services. The total cost in 2008-09 is £3.4 million.

Pre-School Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with representatives of the *(a)* Steiner and *(b)* Waldorf Foundation on the early years framework. [199479]

Beverley Hughes: Officials in the Department have met representatives of the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship on a number of occasions following the development of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and the Department has had regular informal contact.

As my hon. Friend knows, the Early Years Foundation Stage is designed as a flexible, play-based framework for early learning and care from birth to five. It contains developmental milestones which many, but not all, children can reach by the age of five, but the pace and approach through which practitioners support children towards those milestones is left to their professional judgment.

I can reassure my hon. Friend that practitioners of Steiner Waldorf educational philosophy will be able to work within the Early Years Foundation Stage without compromising their educational principles, and that no school or setting would be penalised by Ofsted simply for following any particular philosophy.

Pupil Exclusions: Deviance and Behaviour Disorders

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties were given a fixed period exclusion in each year for which figures are available; [200321]

(2) how many pupils entitled to free school meals were given a *(a)* fixed period and *(b)* permanent exclusion in each year for which figures are available. [200320]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what research he has commissioned on the impact of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 on the number of under 16 year olds in employment; and if he will make a statement; [200609]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* teachers and *(b)* non-teachers who will be required to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority when that agency comes into operation in October 2009; [200610]

(3) what the *(a)* estimated costs and *(b)* regulatory impact will be of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 on (i) businesses and (ii) work experience opportunities for teenagers. [200611]

Kevin Brennan: The impact on businesses was considered in the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 which was updated June 2006. It found that costs for employers, some of whom already vet staff caring for children, will be offset by savings—for example on repeat work, since the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) registration will be portable from job to job—as well as by reduced risk of unsuitable employees. This should encourage employers to continue part-time opportunities for under-16s, including work experience. In addition, most employees that young people come into contact with during their employment will not be required to register with the ISA. This is because looking after, training, supervising etc. the young person during the course of their employment is not a part of those employees' jobs.

It is envisaged that some 11.3 million people will be required to register with the ISA, mostly due to work which under the Act will be "Regulated Activity" with children or vulnerable adults; 525.6 thousand of these are teachers including occasional and supply teachers in England and Wales (January 2007 statistics).

Earlier this year the Department concluded a consultation on many aspects of the scheme including issues for business and work experience; We have received useful feedback from stakeholders including the British Retail Consortium and work experience providers on how far regulated activity should cover contact with under 16-year-olds in employment and on work experience. Risk can never be eliminated from our lives, but young people must be introduced to it in a measured way. We remain of the view that part-time work is potentially beneficial for under 16s. It introduces them to the world of work and can develop self-confidence, communication and organisational skills, familiarity with money and dealing with other people. We shall publish the outcome of the consultation in due course.

It is not our intention to make any work a regulated activity unnecessarily and we will continue to work with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and with stakeholders to help inform regulations and prepare for implementation of the Act.

Schools

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many notifications have been sent out by his Department to the Schools Inspectorate under automatic transfer arrangements in relation to *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained schools since April 2005. [201313]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has referred 73 notifications to the Schools Inspectorate since April 2005 relating to individuals who resigned or were dismissed from independent schools because they were considered unsuitable to work with children. In the case of maintained schools, Ofsted can approach the local authority concerned in respect of notifications from its schools.

Under the new vetting and barring scheme a supervisory authority such as Ofsted will be required to inform the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) if it has information that a person poses a risk of harm. In return, the ISA must inform them when it bars someone who is supervised or registered by them.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school children engaged in less than (i) two hours, (ii) three hours and (iii) four hours of physical education and sport each week (A) in each year since 1997 and (B) on the latest date for which figures are available. [200982]

Kevin Brennan: Data are not collected in the format requested. The annual PE and School Sport Survey was introduced In 2003/04 and collects data relating to participation in PE and School Sport.

Over the last four years, the percentage of pupils who did not take part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week is as follows:

	Primary	*Secondary*	*Percentage Overall*
2003/04	48	27	38
2004/05	36	25	31
2005/06	18	22	20
2006/07	8	20	14

Prior to 2003/04, no data were collected relating to the amount of time spent on PE and school sport.

Secondary Education: Absenteeism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have more than five per cent. of secondary school pupils as persistent absentees; how many and what proportion of pupils are persistent absentees in each case; and if he will make a statement. [200988]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of persistent absentees and the percentage of enrolments who are persistent absentees for each local authority has been placed in the Library.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average salary of *(a)* new entrants, *(b)* classroom teachers, *(c)* deputy heads and *(d)* heads in (i) the primary sector and (ii) the secondary sector was in each year since 1997. [199478]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average salary of full-time regular new entrants, classroom teachers, deputy heads and heads in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England and Wales, in March each year, 1997 to 2006.

Average salary of full-time regular new entrants, classroom teachers, deputy heads and heads in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England and Wales, in each March 1997 to 2006

	Nursery/primary				Secondary			
	New entrants[1]	*Classroom teachers*[2]	*Deputy heads*[3]	*Heads*	*New entrants*[1]	*Classroom teachers*[2]	*Deputy heads*[3]	*Heads*
1997	14,480	20,420	26,500	30,060	14,620	22,650	33,220	41,550
1998	14,950	20,940	27,400	31,130	15,100	23,270	34,410	42,990
1999	15,540	21,740	28,570	32,510	15,710	24,160	35,870	44,780
2000	16,100	22,480	29,700	35,130	16,260	25,010	37,270	48,210
2001	16,640	24,020	32,320	37,270	16,810	26,650	38,960	50,640
2002	17,780	25,240	34,150	39,430	18,030	28,030	41,040	54,060
2003	18,450	26,780	36,230	41,810	18,890	29,700	43,430	57,600
2004	19,010	27,830	37,970	43,950	19,390	30,770	45,380	60,490
2005[4]	19,510	28,790	39,450	45,980	19,850	31,830	47,020	63,610
2006[4]	20,190	29,640	41,060	48,220	20,460	32,610	48,760	67,480

[1] New entrants includes teachers who gained qualified teacher status in the previous calendar year through college based routes, (excluding those qualified through employment based routes).
[2] Includes teachers on the classroom, upper and advanced skills pay scales.
[3] Includes assistant heads from 2001.
[4] Provisional.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Youth Services: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated by his Department to improve youth facilities in each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12; what projects will be funded; and if he will make a statement. [201074]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has committed new investment of £190 million over the next three years to deliver world class facilities through the "myplace programme" delivered by the Big Lottery Fund. The allocation in each of these years is: £45.4 million in 2008-09; £114.6 million in 2009-10; and £30 million in 2010-11.

DCSF is also continuing baseline funding of £26.5 million per annum over the next three years via local authorities for the Youth Capital Fund (YCF). We set out in the Youth Task Force Action Plan a further £22.6 million in 2008-09 to enhance this fund to benefit young people in the most deprived neighbourhoods and estates.

Our vision is that DGSF capital investment drives a system wide transformation in the way places for young people to go are planned and delivered; particularly in the role and influence of young people and the level of genuine cross sector partnership working.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will list the approved premises for persons on bail in England and Wales; and how many suspects are held in each premises. [199991]

Mr. Straw: All approved premises can take residents on bail. The following list details the number of residents who were on bail at approved premises in England and Wales on 29 February 2008.

Approved premises	*Number of residents on bail on 29 February 2008*
Bedford	1
Napier Road	1
Peterborough	0
Basildon	0
John Boag House	1
Lightfoot House	1
The Cottage	0
Burdett Lodge	0
Howard House	0
Kirk Lodge	1
Wordsworth House	2
Bridgewood	0
Astral Grove	0
Southwell House	0
Trent House	0
Hestia Battersea	9
Hestia Streatham	0
Katherine Price Hughes House	0
Kelley House	4
Beckenham Road	1
Camden House	0
Canadian Avenue	0
Ealing	0
Ellison House	3
Kew	0
Seafield Lodge	1
Tulse Hill	1
Westbourne House	2
Ozanam House	0
St Christophers	0
Cuthbert House	0
Pennywell	0
Nelson House	2
The Crescent	2
Bunbury House	3
Linden Bank	0
Bowling Green	6
Ascot House	0
Bradshaw House	0
Chorlton	0
Hopwood House	1
St Josephs	1

Approved premises	Number of residents on bail on 29 February 2008
Wilton Place	0
Withington Road	2
Haworth House	0
Highfield House	2
Adelaide House	6
Canning House	2
Merseybank	0
Southwood	4
Dickson House	16
Southampton	1
The Grange	0
Fleming House	0
St Catherines	1
Brighton	4
Elizabeth Fry	6
Abingdon Road	0
Clarks House	3
Manor Lodge	1
Milton Keynes	1
St Leonards	2
Ashley House	0
Bridge House	0
Brigstocke Road	0
Glogan House	13
Lawson House	0
Meneghy House	1
The Pines	0
Weston	0
Ryecroft	0
Plas-Y-Wern	1
Ty Newydd	0
Quay House	1
Mandeville House	2
Stattheford House	0
Wenger House	2
Wharflane House	3
McIntyre House	6
Kenilworth Road	1
Braley House	0
Bilston	3
Carpenter House	3
Crowley House	5
Elliot House	1
Stonnall Road	1
Sycamore Lodge	4
Welford House	4
Queens Road	1
Scunthorpe	0
South View	0
Norfolk Park	2
Rookwood	0
Town Moor	2
Cardigan House	0
Ripon House	6
St Johns	3
Albion Street	0
Elm Bank	1
Holbeck	0
Westgate	0
Total	160

Courts: Cells

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times court cells have been used to house prisoners overnight in 2008 to date, broken down by court; and if he will make a statement. [200116]

Mr. Straw: Court cells were used on 21 nights between the nights of 5-6 and 28-29 February. The following table shows the number of places used in each of five courts over this period.

Date	Bristol MC	Highbury MC	Mansfield MC	Tameside MC	W London MC	Total
5 February 2008	—	26	15	—	25	66
6 February 2008	—	30	15	—	26	71
7 February 2008	—	30	—	—	26	56
8 February 2008	—	—	—	—	—	0
9 February 2008	—	19	—	—	13	32
10 February 2008	—	19	—	—	13	32
11 February 2008	15	25	17	16	26	99
12 February 2008	13	20	13	15	26	87
13 February 2008	15	24	13	—	19	71
14 February 2008	20	17	17	15	26	95
15 February 2008	—	—	—	—	—	0
16 February 2008	—	26	—	—	—	26
17 February 2008	—	26	—	—	—	26
18 February 2008	12	—	15	10	26	63
19 February 2008	—	—	9	—	—	9
20 February 2008	18	—	—	—	26	44
21 February 2008	20	27	—	—	22	69
22 February 2008	—	—	—	—	—	0
23 February 2008	19	20	—	—	—	39
24 February 2008	19	20	—	—	—	39
25 February 2008	17	26	—	—	18	61
26 February 2008	12	28	—	—	—	40

Date	Bristol MC	Highbury MC	Mansfield MC	Tameside MC	W London MC	Total
27 February 2008	—	26	11	—	26	63
28 February 2008	—	27	—	—	—	27
Total	180	436	125	56	318	1,115

Courts: Limavady

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of Limavady Courthouse; and what complaints have been received from users of the courthouse in the last 12 months. [201354]

Bridget Prentice: There have been no complaints regarding the service provided at Limavady Courthouse over the last 12 months.

The Northern Ireland Court Service is developing proposals to establish 'hearing centres' at a number of court venues including Limavady Courthouse. Hearing centres would open on court sitting days and court office services would be available only on those days.

During 2007 Limavady Courthouse had on average one court sitting each week and a recent survey indicated that on average two people per day visited the court office.

The proposals to introduce hearing centres are intended to make more efficient use of court resources. These proposals will be subject to full public consultation before any final decisions are made.

Crime

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the 10 most common *(a)* offences and *(b)* motoring offences were for which (i) men and (ii) women of each age group were (A) prosecuted, (B) convicted, (C) fined and (D) sent to prison in (1) Essex and (2) England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [198675]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against for the 10 most common offences in England and Wales and Essex, broken down by result, sex and age group are shown in the tables A1 and A2 as follows.

Available information on motoring offences for 2005 (latest available) is provided in the following tables B1 and B2. The data are based on the 10 most common offences proceeded against. Some of these cover more than one offence where the data reported centrally do not identify them separately. Data for 2006 will be available later this year.

Table A1: 10 most common offences proceeded against at the magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for Essex police force area, 2006[1]

Number of offences

			Male								
			All persons	Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
	No.	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
17000	1	Motor vehicle: licences; failure to pay appropriate duty.	4,521	1	—	—	—	3,604	3,151	3,119	—
19101	2	Television licence evasion.	3,112	1	1	1	—	1,126	951	949	—
16901	3	Offences in relation to railways	2,700	39	22	14	—	2,206	1,822	1,796	6
10501	4	Common assault & battery.	2,322	361	289	2	15	1,583	1,053	87	238
4600	5	Stealing from shops & stalls.	1,871	219	206	16	8	1,131	1,044	258	320
8301	6	Failing to surrender to bail	1,263	88	41	4	—	980	405	206	72
14900	7	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less.	1,091	338	275	5	1	662	527	147	42

Table A1: 10 most common offences proceeded against at the magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for Essex police force area, 2006[1,2]

Number of offences

				Male						
			All persons	Aged 10-17			Aged 18 and over			
	No.	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
12512	8	Harassment, alarm & distress.	632	110	80	21	—	416	347	256	—
11606	9	Contravening the law relating to the regulation and control of fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels etc.	533	—	—	—	—	531	507	496	—
17200	10	Other offences against revenue law (excluding failure to pay appropriate duty on motor vehicle licences).	515	—	—	—	—	355	264	264	—
		Total	18,560	1,157	914	63	24	12,594	10,071	7,578	678

Number of offences

				Female						
				Aged 10-17			Aged 18 and over			
	No.	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
17000	1	Motor vehicle licences, failure to pay appropriate duty.	—	—	—	—	916	790	779	—
19101	2	Television licence evasion.	1	1	1	—	1,984	1,749	1,747	—
16901	3	Offences in relation to railways.	11	10	8	—	444	359	357	—
10501	4	Common assault & battery.	127	104	—	1	251	168	6	17
4600	5	Stealing from shops & stalls.	96	88	2	1	425	377	64	90
8301	6	Failing to surrender to bail.	13	6	1	—	182	74	41	9
14900	7	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less.	37	33	—	—	54	38	7	1
12512	8	Harassment, alarm & distress.	35	28	5	—	71	59	37	—
11606	9	Contravening the law relating to the regulation and control of fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels etc.	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—
17200	10	Other offences against revenue law (excluding failure to pay appropriate duty on motor vehicle licences).	—	—	—	—	160	112	112	—
		Total	320	270	17	2	4,489	3,728	3,152	117

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table A2: 10 most common offences proceeded against at the magistrates courts, by result at all courts, sex and age-group for England and Wales, 2006[1,2,3]

Number of offences

						Male				
		All persons	*Aged 10-17*				*Age 18 and over*			
No.	*Offence description*	*Total proceedings*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
1	Television licence evasion.	128,733	23	11	5	—	46,102	39,229	38,705	2
2	Motor vehicle licences, failure to pay appropriate duty.	114,039	76	37	26	—	93,048	82,393	81,577	—
3	Common assault & battery.	74,915	9,561	7,260	99	275	54,787	34,431	4,081	4,853
4	Stealing from shops & stalls.	64,401	5,950	5,324	352	146	42,615	39,950	7,447	9,071
5	Failing to surrender to bail.	47,780	3,213	1,451	352	29	37,621	22,438	10,941	2,664
6	Offences in relation to railways.	41,600	314	190	132	—	33,289	27,895	27,518	11
7	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less.	38,632	9,705	7,558	278	30	25,163	19,893	5,124	1,080
8	Harassment, alarm & distress.	26,406	4,421	2,953	604	—	18,375	13,997	8,656	5
9	Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm.	25,747	3,715	2,627	16	363	18,730	11,733	428	3,599
10	Any other offences peculiar to stage carriages and public service vehicles not classified elsewhere[1].	24,159	35	16	15	—	16,005	13,957	13,815	—
	Total	586,412	37,013	27,427	1,879	843	385,735	305,016	198,292	21,205

Number of offences

						Female				
			Aged 10-17				*Aged 18 and over*			
No.	*Offence description*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Fined*	*Immediate custody*
1	Television licence evasion.	20	9	7	—	82,588	75,098	74,183	—
2	Motor vehicle licences, failure to pay appropriate duty.	7	4	3	—	20,908	18,304	18,076	—
3	Common assault & battery.	3,415	2,624	20	58	7,152	4,586	447	304
4	Stealing from shops & stalls.	2,355	2,074	68	25	13,481	12,088	1,692	1,574
5	Failing to surrender to bail.	619	276	47	3	6,327	3,399	1,569	356
6	Offences in relation to railways.	45	31	20	—	7,945	6,639	6,537	1
7	Criminal damage, value £5,000 or less.	1,432	1,077	13	2	2,332	1,706	240	42
8	Harassment, alarm & distress.	1,098	781	95	1	2,512	1,805	880	—
9	Assaults occasioning actual bodily harm.	1,096	780	3	56	2,206	1,347	22	188

Number of offences

		Female							
		Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
10	Any other offences peculiar to stage carriages and public service vehicles not classified elsewhere[1]	14	5	5	-	8,905	6,842	6,736	-
	Total	10,101	7,661	281	145	153,556	131,814	110,382	2,815

[1] Includes offences under the Road Transport (International Passenger Services) Regulations 1984, sections 12, 24(2), 24(3), 25, 60, 66(a-e) of the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981, the Public Service Vehicles (Condition of fitness, equipment, use and certification) Regulations 1981 and the Public Service Vehicles (Lost property) Regulations 1978.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B1: 10 most common motoring offences proceeded against at the magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for Essex police force area, 2005

Number of offences

		All persons	Male						
			Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over		
No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
1	Speed limit offences	11,393	31	26	26	-	8,823	7,742	7,651	-
2	Using motor vehicles uninsured against third party risks	7,031	432	372	141	-	5,847	4,480	3,199	-
3	Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	4,818	3	2	-	-	3,992	3,409	3,348	-
4	Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	4,351	377	316	47	-	3,413	2,447	993	-
5	Other vehicle registration offences (excluding fraud & forgery)[1]	3,606	15	12	2	-	2,926	2,371	2,282	-
6	Vehicle test offences	2,864	98	67	6	-	2,436	1,529	649	-
7	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	2,279	35	34	2	1	1,952	1,820	1,207	194
8	Other offences of neglect of traffic directions[1]	1,534	36	25	5	-	1,150	1,021	949	-
9	Other miscellaneous motoring offences[1]	1,473	13	7	5	-	1,176	681	623	-
10	Careless driving - without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for others	1,429	65	53	25	-	1,142	895	796	-

Number of offences

		Female							
		Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
1	Speed limit offences	-	-	-	-	2,539	2,294	2,286	-
2	Using motor vehicles uninsured against third party risks	21	18	5	-	731	586	483	-
3	Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	-	-	-	-	933	798	772	-

Number of offences

		Female							
		Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
4	Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	26	21	3	–	535	363	141	–
5	Other vehicle registration offences (excluding fraud & forgery)[1]					665	536	504	–
6	Vehicle test offences	1	1			329	233	86	
7	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	7	6	1		285	269	177	9
8	Other offences of neglect of traffic directions[2]					348	326	316	
9	Other miscellaneous motoring offences[3]	1	1			283	152	145	–
10	Careless driving - without due care and attention or reasonable consideration for others	3	2	1		219	182	165	–

– = Nil

[1] Includes offences under SS34, 35, 37, 42, 43 46 & 59 of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994, S28A, S43, and S46A of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 as added by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002, and Reg 35 of the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations 2003.

[2] Includes offences under SS35(1) & (2), 36(1) & 163(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, S28(3) Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, and S6 Traffic Management Act 2004.

[3] Includes offences under SS 13(1), 17(2), 18(4), 34(1), 71(1), 75(5), 76(1), 76(3), 83, 123(4), 135, 177 & Sch 1(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, SS 3(1)(a) & (b) of the Road Traffic (Foreign Vehicles) Act 1972, SS 35A(2),47(1), 47(3), 104, 112(4), 117 & Sch 12 Para 3(5) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1994, Regs 3, 9, 22, 33, 83, 86 & 89 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regs 7, 8, 23 27 & 28 of the End-of-Life Vehicle Regulations 2003, and S4BD of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

Notes

1. A person appearing in court can be dealt with for more than one offence at that appearance. The table shows the number of offences dealt with and not the number of persons appearing in court.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B2: 10 most common motoring offences proceeded against at the magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for England and Wales police force area, 2005

Number of offences

		All persons	Male						
			Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over		
No	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
1	Using motor vehicles uninsured against third party risks	392,635	19,704	16,498	6,474	–	336,534	246,030	181,328	–
2	Vehicle test offences	277,843	8,037	4,486	739	–	242,540	124,939	57,920	–
3	Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	272,778	16,348	13,360	2,880	–	229,992	152,989	82,955	–
4	Speed limit offences	191,417	385	328	278	–	155,902	130,489	128,616	–
5	Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	153,028	181	83	50	–	125,895	110,356	107,958	–

Table B2: 10 most common motoring offences proceeded against at the magistrates courts by result at all courts, sex and age-group for England and Wales police force area, 2005

Number of offences

			Male							
		All persons	Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
No.	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
6	Other miscellaneous motoring offences[1]	112,157	360	225	100	..	89,895	58,256	54,024	..
7	Other vehicle insurance offences (except forgery etc)[2]	106,531	2,237	387	75	..	93,889	29,270	4,819	..
8	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	81,805	1,464	1,405	242	66	70,811	67,530	49,054	3,852
9	Failing to produce driving licence	80,761	1,480	304	61	..	71,840	30,652	8,864	..
10	Driving whilst disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence	50,899	2,700	2,404	54	740	45,806	40,900	2,250	16,710

Number of offences

			Female						
		Aged 10-17				Aged 18 and over			
No.	Offence description	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody	Total proceedings	Total findings of guilt	Fined	Immediate custody
1	Using motor vehicles uninsured against third party risks	730	621	228	..	35,667	26,125	20,788	..
2	Vehicle test offences	252	150	23	..	27,014	14,654	6,355	..
3	Driving, or causing or permitting another person to drive other than in accordance with licence	680	589	100	..	25,758	17,368	9,134	..
4	Speed limit offences	25	21	19	..	35,105	29,553	29,313	..
5	Motor vehicle licence - failing to pay appropriate duty	12	8	4	..	26,940	23,438	22,840	..
6	Other miscellaneous motoring offences[1]	34	25	8	..	21,868	13,743	12,652	..
7	Other vehicle insurance offences (except forgery etc)[2]	72	15	..	..	10,333	3,042	384	..
8	Driving with alcohol in the blood above the prescribed limit	107	102	10	1	9,423	9,071	6,951	132
9	Failing to produce driving licence	42	8	1	..	7,399	3,231	813	..
10	Driving whilst disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence	23	19	..	..	2,370	2,163	158	447

.. = Nil

[1] Includes offences under SS 13(1), 17(2), 18(4), 34(1), 71(1), 75(5), 76(1), 76(3), 83, 123(4), 135, 177 & Sch 1(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, SS 3(1)(a) & (b) of the Road Traffic (Foreign Vehicles) Act 1972, SS 35A(2),47(1), 47(3), 194, 112(4), 117 & Sch 12 Para 3(5) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1994, Regs 3, 9, 22, 33, 83, 86 & 89 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regs 7, 8, 23 27 & 28 of the End-of-Life Vehicle Regulations 2003, and S4BD of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

[2] Includes offences under SS147, 154(2), 165(3), 170(7) & 171(2), and the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Risks) Regulations 1972.

Notes:

1. A person appearing in court can be dealt with for more than one offence at that appearance. The table shows the number of offences dealt with and not the number of persons appearing in court.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences are less than complete.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Crimes of Violence: Home Detention Curfews

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners released on home detention curfew were serving sentences for *(a)* violence against the person and *(b)* sexual offences in the last five years for which data is available. [200238]

Mr. Straw: The following table gives the numbers of prisoners released on home detention curfew between 2002 and 2006 where the term of imprisonment was for either violence against the person or sexual offences.

	Number released	*Population in sentence length band*	*Percentage released*
Violence against the person			
2002	3,693	8,235	45
2003	3,564	8,740	41
2004	3,157	9,093	35
2005	3,204	10,064	32
2006	2,490	9,840	25
Sexual offences			
2002	20	1,193	2
2003	8	1,238	1
2004	6	1,162	0
2005	2	1,236	0
2006	0	1,203	0

The figures are taken from Prison Statistics in England and Wales for the year 2002, and volumes of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003, 2005 and 2006. Figures on sex offenders for 2004 were provided by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice the Member for Bradford South (Mr. Sutcliffe) to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 686-87W. Copies of these publications are available from the House of Common Library and at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Since March 2001 offenders required to register under the Sex Offenders Act 1997 (now replaced by Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) have been statutorily excluded from HDC. Prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences that are not subject to registration are presumed unsuitable for HDC unless there are exceptional circumstances.

As noted in the footnote to published tables, the reasons for recall from home detention curfew are sometimes presented as the reason for the original imprisonment. Further investigations suggest that around 5 per cent. of offence types recorded do not relate to the offence for which they were sentenced and subsequently released on home detention curfew, but relate to offences committed after release from prison and before the licence expiry date for their sentence.

HDC allows prisoners serving primarily between three months and less than four years, to be released, depending on their sentence length, up to 135 days earlier than they would be otherwise. Prisoners must serve a minimum of one quarter of their sentence in custody subject to a minimum of 30 days before release on HDC. (Prisoners subject to the release arrangements of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 who are sentenced to four years or more are not statutorily ineligible for release on HDC but are presumed unsuitable unless there are exceptional circumstances.)

No prisoner can be placed on HDC for longer than 135 days.

The most serious violent offenders and all sexual offenders are either statutorily excluded or are presumed unsuitable for release on HDC. It should be noted that offenders serving extended sentences for serious violent offences are statutorily ineligible for release on HDC. Since March 2001 offenders required to register under the Sex Offenders Act 1997 (now replaced by Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) have been statutorily excluded from HDC. Prisoners serving sentences for sexual offences that are not subject to registration are presumed unsuitable for HDC unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Eligible prisoners are not granted HDC unless they pass a careful risk assessment.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system, and although shown to the last individual the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff in his Department and its predecessor in each of the last five years. [198962]

Maria Eagle: The information is in the following table. Data for the Office of Criminal Justice Reform, the National Offender Management Service and the Public Sector Prison Service, which now forms part of the Ministry of Justice, are being provided in a separate Home Office response.

Average number of days sick leave per employee

Agency	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Former DCA HQ	7.7	7.3	6.9	7.7	6.5
Office of the Public Guardian	12.3	8.9	9.6	10.0	8.5
Tribunals Service	12.7	12.2	11.4	11.3	8.8
Court Service	10.9	10.3	11.0	11.2	9.5

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [200130]

Mr. Wills: The Department and its agencies use 0800, 0845 and 0870 telephone numbers to provide a range of services to the public. These include (but are not limited to) IT support for online queries; complaints, enquiries, recruitment, Land Registry services; and contact with

jury offices, summoning centres and courts (county, combined and magistrates).

A list of 0800, 0845 and 0870 telephone numbers available for use by the public is detailed as follows:

0800

0800 0156510
0800 0560559
0800 3583506
0800 3121159
0800 3583601
0800 0850982
0800 4320432
0800 5280021
0800 4961125
0800 4961130
0800 4961224
0800 5287708
0800 6920107
0800 6920113
0800 6921333

0845

0845 6045935
0845 3302964
0845 3302962
0845 3302963
0845 3455303
0845 3455484
0845 4565150
0845 4568770
0845 4085302
0845 4085303
0845 4085314
0845 4085315
0845 4085316
0845 4085317
0845 4085318
0845 6000730
0845 6000710
0845 6000736
0845 3771000
0845 6000629
0845 6000788
0845 6000722
0845 4085319
0845 6015889
0845 2232022
0845 6060766
0845 3555567
0845 3555155
0845 4085304
0845 4085305
0845 4085306
0845 4085310
0845 4085311
0845 4085312
0845 4085313
0845 4085322
0845 7045007
0845 7078607
0845 3302900
0845 6000490
0845 6017134
0845 6022064
0845 6066035
0845 6017125
0845 6017136
0845 6017124
0845 6020014
0845 6020016
0845 6015889
0845 7078607
0845 6015935
0845 7045007
0845 6020012
0845 6020015
0845 6020013

0870

0870 2204119
0870 2204120
0870 2204121
0870 2204123
0870 2204124
0870 2204100
0870 2204101
0870 2204102
0870 2204103
0870 2204104
0870 2204105
0870 2204106
0870 2204107
0870 2204108
0870 2204109
0870 2204110
0870 2204111
0870 2204112
0870 2204113
0870 2204114
0870 2204115
0870 2204116
0870 2204117
0870 2204118
0870 2204127
0870 2204128
0870 2204131
0870 2204130
0870 2204129
0870 2204134
0870 2204135
0870 2204136
0870 2204137
0870 2204138
0870 2204139
0870 2204411
0870 2410109
0870 2204126
0870 2204125
0870 2204132
0870 2204133

0870 4960080
0870 2204122
0870 4960094
0870 0108318
0870 0000100
0870 0002121
0870 0000100
0870 0008321
0870 0012020
0870 4960070

Departmental Working Hours

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per employee were worked by civil servants in his Department in the last year for which records are available. [195824]

Maria Eagle: The Department does not collate records of the total or average hours worked by its employees. The information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Euthanasia

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the Law Commission's recommendations relating to recognition in law of mercy killing as *(a)* an offence and *(b)* a partial defence; and what plans he has to consult the public on these matters. [200423]

Maria Eagle: The Law Commission has not made any recommendations for an offence or partial defence of "mercy" killing. It has recommended that the Government undertake a public consultation on the issue.

This is a difficult and sensitive area. As the Law Commission recognises, the question of whether there should be a partial defence of "mercy" killing raises many of the same issues raised by the debate as to whether assisted dying should be legalised. The Government have made clear that assisted dying is a matter of conscience and for Parliament to decide. Parliament has considered this on several recent occasions. The Government have no current plans to take forward a consultation in this area.

Fines: Surcharges

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what value of victim surcharge monies has been *(a)* imposed and *(b)* collected since the introduction of the victim surcharge in criminal courts in the Greater London area; to which victims' organisations the money collected has been disbursed; how much has been disbursed to each organisation; and if he will make a statement. [201166]

Maria Eagle: Receipts from the surcharge are appropriated in aid as part of the Ministry of Justice Estimates; allocations are made to recipient organisations or other departments as appropriate. Some recipient organisations based in London provide a national service while others provide a national help-line. Full details of how the surcharge revenue was being used nationally were given in my answer to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 96W.

In the period April 2007 to March 2008 courts in the London region collected £549,048 in victims surcharge receipts. However, under current IT systems it is not possible to extract and collate centrally information on the value of surcharge impositions entered into local court case management and accounting systems.

Recipient organisations with a Greater London area only remit, and the indicative grant, included the following:

	£
Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks	29,515
Hounslow Community Safety Partnership	15,000
Victim Support London	25,620
One-in-Four	48,510
Lilith	30,104
Step Forward	32,190
Galop	35,122

A further £200,000 was allocated to the London Domestic Violence Coordinating Group for assignment to independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA) services supporting existing specialist domestic violence court (SDVC) areas and services considering the development of SDVCs. Funding of £20,000 was assigned to each of the following boroughs:

Brent SDVC: Victim Support Brent

Croydon SDVC: Croydon Women's Aid, Family Justice Centre

West London SDVC, Advance, covering Hammersmith and Fulham and

Women's Trust IDVA Service, covering Kensington and Chelsea

Barking and Dagenham: Community Safety and Prevention Services Division

Barnet DV Support Service

Greenwich Women's Trust/DV Advocacy Service

Harrow Hestia Women's Aid

Hillingdon Community Safety

Islington Community Safety

A proportion of the allocations is also passed to the Crown Prosecution Service towards the cost of maintaining victim and witness services through the joint Police/CPS witness care units. It is not possible to say what proportion of this is spent in the Greater London area because this designation does not correspond to the boundaries of CPS operational areas.

Freedom of Information: Private Sector

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made in his assessment of the desirability of extending the remit of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to private companies deemed to be delivering public functions. [201309]

Mr. Straw: The Government received over 130 responses to its consultation on extending the coverage of the Freedom of Information Act to organisations exercising functions of a public nature. The consultation officially

concluded on 1 February 2008 but a number of responses received up to a month later were accepted and are being taken into account.

The Government are continuing to analyse the responses and assess the desirability and implications of designating additional public authorities under the Act.

Homicide

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what his timetable is for the introduction of legislative proposals to amend the law of homicide; [200421]

(2) what his timetable is for launching a consultation on potential changes to the law of homicide. [200422]

Maria Eagle: In December 2006, following extensive public consultation, the Law Commission published its report on "Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide". That report was intended as the first stage in the review of the law in this area, with the Government to undertake the second stage.

On 12 December 2007 I announced the commencement of that next stage of the review which is looking first at the recommendations relating to provocation, diminished responsibility, complicity and infanticide. Discussions have been taking place with stakeholders over the last few months. If it is decided that legislative change is necessary, draft clauses will be published for consultation in the summer. Any subsequent legislation would be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department and its predecessors to Karian and Box since 1997. [199648]

Maria Eagle: From April 1999 until March 2007, the financial years for when records are available, my Department has not awarded any contracts to Karian and Box.

Offenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what three offender characteristics are given the greatest weight when calculating the predicted rate of adult re-offending; and what assessment he has made of the effect of each on the predicted rate. [200202]

Mr. Straw: The calculation of the predicted rate of adult re-offending considers three main offender characteristics: gender, age and criminal history of the offender—although these characteristics are broken down further in the model by various subcategories.

The individual effect of each on the predicted rate was not assessed in detail because the main purpose of the predicted rate is to control for offender characteristics across different cohorts. In short, it is the combined effect of all offender characteristics which is of greatest interest.

Detailed methodology on how the predicted rate is derived can be found in the 'Methodological annex: statistical modelling' section of the 2007 report 'Re-offending of adults: results from the 2004 cohort', available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

Police Custody: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were held in custody in police cells in Essex in each of the last three years. [190703]

Mr. Straw: Prisoners are held in police cells either under Operation Safeguard or as ad-hoc "lockouts".

Operation Safeguard was not used in 2005. The number of occasions on which prisoners were held under Operation Safeguard in Essex in 2006 and 2007 is shown in the table below. An occasion is one prisoner night. The average number of prisoners held under Operation Safeguard per night is also shown.

	2006	*2007*
Number of occasions	1,009	4,387
Average number in Safeguard per night[1]	14	13

[1] Based on number of nights that Safeguard was available in each year, rounded to nearest whole number

In 2006 Operation Safeguard was not used before mid-October.

Data on ad-hoc lockouts is not available for individual police forces but nationally they represent a very small proportion of the total numbers held in police cells.

Prisoners: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to fund the implementation of the integrated drug treatment system across all prisons in England and Wales. [199693]

Maria Eagle: On 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 49-50WS, my hon. Friend, the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice the Member for Delyn (Mr. Hanson), my right hon. Friend, the Minister of State, Department of Health the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) and my hon. Friend, the Under-Secretary of State for Health the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis), announced the Government's plans for drug treatment funding. This stated that the Department of Health will make £24.4 million available for clinical aspects of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) in 2008-09—a rise of £11.7 million on 2007-08 levels. This will allow a roll-out of enhanced clinical treatment in around 38 more prisons.

Department of Health funding for prison clinical drug treatment will rise to £39 million (indicative) in 2009-10 and £43 million (indicative) in 2010-11 which will enable enhanced clinical services to be available in all prisons.

Decisions on funding for the psycho-social elements of IDTS have yet to be taken.

Prosecutions: Drugs

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of a third (i) Class A drug trafficking and (ii)

domestic burglary offence in each of the last seven years, broken down by age group. [198847]

Mr. Straw: The table shows the number of people recorded as sentenced to the mandatory minimum sentence for a third class A drug trafficking offence and third domestic burglary; under sections 110 and 111 of the Power of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act (2000).

These are the numbers recorded by courts as receiving the mandatory sentence. As the Courts Proceedings Database does not include criminal histories we are not able to identify those who were not given the mandatory minimum from this data source.

Persons sentenced[1] to immediate custody under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, 2000-06 England and Wales

Number of persons

	Section 110 Minimum 7 years for third class A drug trafficking offence	*Section 111 Minimum 3 years for third domestic burglary*
2000		
18 to 20	—	—
21 and over	2	—
Total	2	0
2001		
18 to 20	1	—
21 and over	—	6
Total	1	6
2002		
18 to 20	—	2
21 and over	—	—
Total	0	2
2003		
18 to 20	—	4
21 and over	3	9
Total	3	13
2004		
18 to 20	1	15
21 and over	3	31
Total	4	46
2005		
18 to 20	—	18
21 and over	3	71
Total	3	89
2006		
18 to 20	—	33
21 and over	7	196
Total	7	229

[1] Principal offence basis

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Terrorism: Prisoner Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons awaiting trial for, or convicted of, terrorism offences have been released on home detention curfew since 1997. [196558]

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving sentences for terrorism offences were released on home detention curfew in each of the last five years. [200237]

Mr. Straw: The Home Detention Curfew (HDC) scheme, was introduced in January 1999. It applies only to offenders serving determinate sentences of imprisonment or detention.

Anyone serving four years or more is either statutorily ineligible or presumed unsuitable for HDC unless there are exceptional circumstances. Since July 2003 prisoners serving sentences of any length for certain violent offences such as conspiracy to commit murder and serious explosives offences, which could have links to terrorist activity, have been presumed unsuitable for HDC unless there are exceptional circumstances.

In December 2007 the list of examples of presumed unsuitable offences was clarified and extended to include most offences under counter terrorism legislation. Since then, and in line with the announcement made by me on 28 March concerning the eligibility criteria for the End of Custody Licence scheme, prisoners serving sentences for any offence committed under counter terrorism legislation, will be presumed unsuitable for release on HDC. Prison governors were notified of this decision on 4 April 2008 and a Prison Service instruction will be issued in due course.

Between 1999 and 2007 three prisoners convicted of offences under terrorism legislation were released on HDC: two in 2003 and one in 2007.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders Institutions: Counselling

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offender institutions provide counselling services for inmates who have previously experienced sexual abuse or violence. [199677]

Maria Eagle: All 18 male and nine female young offender institutions which hold young adults (18-21) and young people (15-17) provide counselling services for those assessed as likely to benefit from them. Specific interventions will depend on assessment of need in individual cases and may include, for example, the provision of information and advice, or support from local agencies with specialist knowledge and experience. Referrals to psychological or mental health services will sometimes need to be made.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance she has issued to local authorities on checking that appropriate certificates of compliance are *(a)* in place

and *(b)* relevant before granting permission for the erection of mobile phone masts. [201401]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department issued guidance about this matter in 2001 which still applies. Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications, states that all new mobile phone base stations are expected to meet the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) guidelines. All applicants for planning permission or prior approval should include with their applications, a statement to certify that the mobile phone base station, when operational, will meet the guidelines. Where a mobile phone base station is added to an existing mast or site, the operator should confirm that the cumulative exposure will not exceed the ICNIRP guidelines.

Bellwin Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the efficacy of the Bellwin Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [200612]

John Healey: The Government have asked Sir Michael Pitt to review the handling of the summer floods in 2007. We will consider his recommendations, including those relating to the costs of response and recovery, when they are available.

Council Tax: Parish Councils

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average Band D parish council precept is in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [198878]

John Healey: Information on precepts and Band D council taxes set by individual parish and town councils in England is not collected by the Department.

Departmental Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pensions of the 10 highest paid members of staff in her Department and its Executive agencies; and if she will make a statement. [200740]

Mr. Dhanda: It is not appropriate to disclose values for staff, other than those whose details are reported on in Remuneration Reports in the Department's Resource Accounts. A copy of the Resource Accounts for 2006-07 can be found in the Library of the House.

Departmental Written Questions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many days it took on average to answer written parliamentary questions tabled by each hon. Member for answer by her in the last six months. [201754]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disability Essex: Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the construction of a new headquarters and training centre for Disability Essex; and if she will make a statement. [201441]

Mr. Iain Wright: The East of England Development Agency (BEDA) provided initial funding in June 2007 to Disability Essex to enable them to prepare a business case for their new headquarters and training centre which must go through a transparent process in order to secure public money for their projects. A completed capital grant fund application form must be submitted before it can be considered by an independent appraisal panel.

I understand that EEDA have not received the necessary capital grant application form from Disability Essex, and unfortunately the cut-off date has now passed.

It is highly regrettable that Disability Essex did not submit an application in the 10 months since they received a bursary award and prior to the cut off date, but EEDA was required to take a decision as to the basis upon which 'live' projects could be taken forward under the circumstances.

However, EEDA will continue to work with Disability Essex, and other organisations in the East of England, to support their major fund-raising activities.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her Written Ministerial Statement of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 70-72WS, on eco-towns, if she will list the parliamentary constituencies in which the proposed eco-towns are located. [200211]

Caroline Flint: On information currently available the 13 eco-town locations, which have been shortlisted for public consultation and further assessment are located within the following parliamentary constituencies. In some areas exact locations have yet to be defined.

Eco-town location	*Constituency*
Rossington	Don Valley
Manby	Louth and Horncastle
Curborough	Lichfield
Pennbury	Site is split between Rutland and Melton and Harborough
Middle Quinton	Stratford-on-Avon, with part of site in Mid Worcestershire
Marston	Mid Bedfordshire and Bedford
Hanley Grange	South East Cambridgeshire
North East Elsenham	Saffron Walden
Weston Otmoor	Banbury
Bordon-Whitehill	North East Hampshire
Ford	Arundel and South Downs
St. Austell (Clay Community)	Truro and St. Austell
Coltishall	North Norfolk, with part of site in Mid Norfolk

In addition further reviews are being carried out on in terms of sites at Rushcliffe and Leeds city region.

Fire Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many control staff in each fire and rescue authority have agreed to transfer to the South West Regional Control Centre in Taunton. [199480]

Mr. Dhanda: Discussions concerning which staff could reasonably transfer to the Regional Control Centre are for the current Fire and Rescue Authorities, and the future employer, the South West Fire Control Service Ltd., to make in consultation with their employees. The Fire and Rescue Authorities included in this company are; Avon, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly and Wiltshire.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many retained firefighters there were in each fire and rescue authority in each of the last five years. [201409]

Mr. Dhanda: Available information, for each Fire and Rescue Service area within England is shown as follows.

Retained duty system firefighters[1] in England, 2002-06

Fire and rescue service	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon	218	215	213	220	232
Bedfordshire and Luton	151	139	106	150	154
Buckinghamshire	190	200	195	184	188
Cambridgeshire	344	327	350	369	373
Cheshire	190	199	199	198	207
Cleveland	85	89	87	90	84
Cornwall	425	431	413	418	417
County Durham and Darlington	161	160	158	154	161
Cumbria	439	461	458	467	477
Derbyshire	364	341	353	354	350
Devon	111	728	771	825	823
Dorset	331	332	343	357	357
East Sussex	240	291	224	241	251
Essex	477	472	475	488	534
Gloucestershire	289	298	285	296	297
Greater Manchester	38	20	35	38	36
Hampshire	688	673	704	707	738
Hereford and Worcester	355	355	344	340	353
Hertfordshire	261	208	268	257	261
Humberside	327	335	344	351	356
Isle of Wight	153	163	163	148	168
Isles of Scilly	34	34	40	39	38
Kent	736	719	739	111	847
Lancashire	357	369	384	402	397
Leicestershire	225	218	218	262	193
Lincolnshire	495	498	529	506	520
London	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	0	0	21	95
Norfolk	405	426	435	501	514
North Yorkshire	366	392	324	381	378
Northamptonshire	242	228	220	237	229
Northumberland	187	177	187	189	219
Nottinghamshire	354	356	349	339	347
Oxfordshire	319	320	293	301	339
Royal Berkshire	155	168	154	137	155
Shropshire	299	289	294	294	293
Somerset	372	364	373	377	384
South Yorkshire	58	63	59	54	54
Staffordshire	398	420	397	424	405
Suffolk	401	415	399	425	452
Surrey	129	130	134	133	131
Tyne and Wear	23	23	23	23	21
Warwickshire	178	189	191	179	179
West Midlands	9	11	11	11	11
West Sussex	311	323	295	353	379
West Yorkshire	163	159	165	187	184
Wiltshire	344	316	314	339	346

[1] Includes all roles of retained fire officers including station managers.
Source:
Annual returns CLG

Fire Services: South West

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the current establishment is in each fire control room for every South West Fire and Rescue Authority; and what the anticipated establishment is at the Regional Control Centre in Taunton. [199481]

Mr. Dhanda: The current establishment and actual number of staff employed as at 31 March 2007 in each control room in the South West is given in the table as follows:

Fire and Rescue Authority	*Establishment[1] (FTE)*	*Number Employed[2] (FTE)*
Avon	32	36
Cornwall	15	15.5
Devon	26	30
Dorset	21	25.5
Gloucestershire	25	24.19
Isles of Scilly	—	0
Somerset	18.5	22.5
Wiltshire	23	26
Total	160.5	179.69

[1] "Establishment" is the agreed staffing level within each control room shown as Full Time Equivalent Employees.
[2] "Number employed" is the actual number of people who currently work in each control room (Full Time Equivalents). This figure is often greater than establishment as it includes, for example, cover for maternity leave, secondments etc.

Decisions about exact staffing levels will be a matter for the South West Fire Control Service Ltd. to decide. The Fire and Rescue Authorities included in this company are; Avon, Cornwall, Devon and Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly and Wiltshire.

FireBuy Limited

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the operation of FireBuy Limited. [200513]

Mr. Dhanda: FireBuy Ltd. was established as a non-departmental public body in March 2006. Its role is to help deliver the National Procurement Strategy for the Fire and Rescue Service, published in November 2005. FireBuy's aim is to secure efficiencies in procurement through the negotiation of fire-specific contracts for the Fire and Rescue Service. It is also working to advance interoperability within the service, improve standards of equipment and assist in removing traditional barriers to recruitment and reduce environmental impacts. The Department is currently reviewing the National Procurement Strategy, including the role of FireBuy Ltd.

Housing Associations: Borrowing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Housing Corporation has made of the effect of instability in the credit markets on borrowing by housing associations from the open market. [198866]

Caroline Flint: The Housing Corporation has instigated a quarterly review with all partner developing housing associations. Their conclusions from the last review in January are that most associations have sufficient facilities in place and agreed with lenders to fund their business plans, including new development for the next two years. The corporation does not, at this point, anticipate that the tightening of the credit market should adversely impact on housing associations ability to meet either their service commitments to tenants or development targets.

Local Government Finance: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated revenue from local authority planning fees was in each year since 1997. [194292]

Mr. Iain Wright: The estimated revenue from local authority planning fees are based on local authority voluntary returns to the Government and are not a published statistic.

Information for the period 1997-99 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Taking this into account the figures for the periods 1999-2000 to 2006-07 are as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	245
2005-06	234
2004-05	200
2003-04	195
2002-03	174
2001-02	143
2000-01	140
1999-2000	132

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to answer the letter of 12 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Hitchin and Harpenden on the meeting between officials of her Department, developers and Luton Borough Council on plans to build homes in Hitchin and Harpenden constituency. [201469]

Caroline Flint: I have now replied to the right hon. Member's correspondence.

Planning: Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what grounds developments may take place against the advice of the Environment Agency on the grounds of flood risk; [200275]

(2) what criteria she takes into account in taking decisions on whether building developments on functional flood plains should proceed. [200276]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning applications are decided by local planning authorities in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In arriving at their decisions, all representations made, including any from the Environment Agency on flood risk grounds, are taken into account. Each case is decided on its individual merits.

If a planning application for development in the functional flood plain is called-in or comes to the Secretary of State on appeal, it will be decided on the same basis as an application by a local planning authority. Where flood risk is an issue, account will be taken of the Government's policy in Planning Policy Statement 25 "Development and Flood Risk".

Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local councils in receipt of Preventing Violent Extremism funding for the year 2008-09 have *(a)* signed up and *(b)* not signed up to indicator IN35 as a condition of receiving that funding. [201229]

Mr. Dhanda: As Local Area Agreement negotiations are ongoing, I am not in a position to provide the information requested at this time. However it is worth noting that all 198 indicators, including NI 35, will be measured in every relevant local authority.

Funding for preventing violent extremism to local authorities from 2008-09 onwards is based on need and is paid through the Area Based Grant (ABG). As with all other aspects of ABG, this funding is not conditional on inclusion of the relevant National Indicator as a priority indicator.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Kettering constituency in each of the last five years; [198858]

(2) how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Corby constituency in each of the last five years. [198857]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Ludlow constituency in each of the last five years; [199131]

(2) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Solihull and Stourbridge constituency in each of the last five years; [199132]

(3) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Hereford constituency in each of the last five years; [199133]

(4) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Brecon and Radnor constituency in each of the last five years. [199134]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Elmet constituency in each of the last five years; [199320]

(2) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in South West Surrey constituency in each of the last five years; [199321]

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Suffolk Coastal constituency in each of the last five years; [199867]

(2) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Waveney constituency in each of the last five years; [199868]

(3) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Ipswich constituency in each of the last five years. [199869]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in North Norfolk constituency in each of the last five years; [199129]

(2) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Montgomeryshire constituency in each of the last five years. [199130]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

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Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Banbury constituency in each of the last five years; [199127]

(2) how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Derby North constituency in each of the last five years. [199128]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence

against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Aldridge

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Aldridge-Brownhills constituency in each of the last five years. [198570]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Crimes of Violence: Altrincham

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Altrincham and Sale West constituency in each of the last five years. [199713]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Beaconsfield

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Beaconsfield constituency in each of the last five years. [198929]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each of the last five years. [198568]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Billericay

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Billericay constituency in each of the last five years. [198767]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Bournemouth

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Bournemouth west constituency in each of the last five years. [200606]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Bromsgrove

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Bromsgrove constituency in each of the last five years. [198740]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Bury

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in *(a)* Bury North and *(b)* Bury South constituencies in each of the last five years. [200773]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in South East Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last five years. [199559]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in South Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last five years. [200772]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Charnwood

Mr. Dorrell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Charnwood constituency in each of the last five years. [199448]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Chichester

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in Chichester constituency in each of the last five years. [198856]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person statistics for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: City of Westminster

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in the Cities of London and Westminster constituency in each of the last five years. [198859]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Cotswold Hills

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Cotswold constituency in each of the last five years. [200038]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Croydon

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in Croydon South constituency in each of the last five years. [198860]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Daventry

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Daventry constituency in each of the last five years. [199124]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Devizes

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Devizes constituency in each of the last five years. [200602]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Dorset

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in North Dorset constituency in each of the last five years. [199869]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Crimes of Violence: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last five years. [198648]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Epping Forest

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in Epping Forest constituency in each of the last five years. [198861]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [198564]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in North Essex constituency in each of the last five years. [201357]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Faversham

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Faversham and Mid Kent constituency in each of the last five years. [199560]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Folkestone

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Folkestone and Hythe constituency in each of the last five years. [199482]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush and *(b)* Hammersmith and Fulham constituencies in each of the last five years. [198905]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Wimbledon constituency, *(b)* Tooting constituency and *(c)* Eastleigh constituency in each of the last five years. [199323]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Hampshire

Sir George Young: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in North West Hampshire constituency in each of the last five years. [198565]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in East Hampshire constituency in each of the last five years. [199424]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Harwich

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Harwich constituency in each of the last five years. [200429]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Crimes of Violence: Hastings and Rye

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Hastings and Rye constituency in each of the last five years. [199322]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the last five years. [199125]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Hertford

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Hertford and Stortford constituency in each of the last five years. [199425]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Hitchin

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Hitchin and Harpenden constituency in each of the last five years. [199870]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Isle of Wight

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in the Isle of Wight in each of the last five years. [198904]

Mr. Coaker: The Isle of Wight is a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

A copy of the table is also available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Macclesfield

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Macclesfield constituency in each of the last five years. [198739]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Maidenhead

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Maidenhead constituency in each of the last five years. [199937]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Meriden

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Meriden constituency in each of the last five years. [200604]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in North East Milton Keynes constituency in each of the last five years. [199162]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Crimes of Violence: Monmouth

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Monmouth constituency in each of the last five years. [198566]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: New Forest

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in New Forest West constituency in each of the last five years. [198862]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in New Forest East constituency in each of the last five years. [199364]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Newbury

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Newbury constituency in each of the last five years. [199696]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Norfolk

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in North West Norfolk constituency in each of the last five years. [198647]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Mid Norfolk constituency in each of the last five years. [198738]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in South West Norfolk constituency in each of the last five years. [199135]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Northampton

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Northampton South constituency in each of the last five years. [200603]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Orpington

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Orpington constituency in each of the last five years. [198907]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Poole

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Poole constituency in each of the last five years. [201307]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Preseli

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Preseli Pembrokeshire constituency in each of the last five years. [199866]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Rayleigh

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Rayleigh constituency in each of the last five years. [198908]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Crimes of Violence: Reading

Mr. Mackay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Reading West and *(b)* Bracknell constituencies in each of the last five years. [198649]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Crimes of Violence: Romsey

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Romsey and *(b)* Salisbury constituencies in each of the last five years. [198906]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Sevenoaks

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Sevenoaks constituency in each of the last five years. [198604]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence

against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

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Crimes of Violence: Shipley

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Shipley constituency in each of the last five years. [198567]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Skegness

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Boston and Skegness constituency in each of the last five years. [200608]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Somerset

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Woodspring constituency in each of the last five years. [200973]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Southend

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Southend, West constituency in each of the last five years. [199888]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Spelthorne

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in Spelthorne constituency in each of the last five years. [199449]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Stratford-on-Avon

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Stratford-on-Avon constituency in each of the last five years. [200607]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Sutton

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Sutton and Cheam and *(b)* Reigate constituencies in each of the last five years. [199365]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Tunbridge Wells

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Tunbridge Wells constituency in each of the last five years. [200605]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Upminster

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Upminster constituency in each of the last five years. [198930]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person statistics for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Wantage

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Wantage constituency in each of the last five years. [199126]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Wiltshire

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against a person were recorded in North Wiltshire constituency in each of the last five years. [199450]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Windsor

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Windsor constituency in each of the last five years. [199889]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Witney

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Witney constituency in each of the last five years. [198646]

Jacqui Smith: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Woking

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Woking constituency in each of the last five years. [198569]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Worcestershire

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving violence against the person were recorded in West Worcestershire constituency in each of the last five years. [198863]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Worthing

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in East Worthing and Shoreham constituency in each of the last five years. [198931]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Crimes of Violence: Wycombe

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in *(a)* Wycombe and *(b)* Harrow East constituency in each of the last five years. [199720]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

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Written Answers to Questions

Friday 25 April 2008

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people completed apprenticeships in *(a)* the first year for which data are available and *(b)* the most recent year for which data are available, broken down by local authority. [202125]

Mr. Lammy: Figures at local authority level on the number of people completing apprenticeship frameworks are only available from 2002-03. The following table provides the breakdown of apprenticeship completions by local authority area in 2002-03 and 2005-06, which is the latest information available.

Number of apprenticeship framework completions for the 2002-03 and 2005-06 academic years by local authority of learners as recorded on the Learning and Skills Council work based learning individualised learner record

Local authority area in which learner is resident	*Apprenticeship framework completions*	
	2002-03	*2005-06*
Barking	73	156
Barnet	42	168
Barnsley	212	566
Bath and North East Somerset	112	224
Bedfordshire[1]	358	790
Bexley	130	280
Birmingham	599	1387
Blackburn	189	326
Blackpool	170	370
Bolton	293	693
Bournemouth	150	268
Bracknell Forest	63	134
Bradford	320	925
Brent	31	126
Brighton and Hove	76	273
Bristol	232	449
Bromley	96	328
Buckinghamshire	339	928
Bury	145	415
Calderdale	166	469
Cambridgeshire	402	914
Camden	20	62
Cheshire	793	1454
City of London	[2]	[2]
Cornwall[1]	675	1358
Coventry	255	556
Croydon	104	322
Cumbria	715	1441
Darlington	141	293
Derby	242	595
Derbyshire	990	2089
Devon[1]	766	1860
Doncaster	339	830
Dorset[1]	593	1588
Dudley	319	796
Durham	709	1383
Ealing	49	183
East Riding of Yorkshire[1]	482	1684
East Sussex	205	774
Enfield	65	193
Essex	982	1938
Gateshead	242	581
Gloucestershire	500	1087
Greenwich	107	201
Hackney	35	96
Halton	112	281
Hammersmith and Fulham	27	67
Hampshire[1]	921	2590
Haringey	27	113
Harrow	39	130
Hartlepool	140	344
Havering	117	273
Herefordshire	214	548
Hertfordshire	413	1171
Hillingdon	119	255
Hounslow[1]	100	195
Isle of Wight	104	462
Isles of Scilly	[2]	[2]
Islington	26	115
Kensington and Chelsea	15	48
Kent	694	1920
Kingston upon Hull	355	720
Kingston-upon-Thames	41	118
Kirklees	321	1001
Knowsley	186	493
Lambeth	36	128
Lancashire	1514	2954
Leeds	374	1074
Leicester	142	372
Leicestershire	472	1384
Lewisham	61	155
Lincolnshire	666	1610
Liverpool	491	1064
Luton	139	237
Manchester	249	648
Medway[1]	235	512
Merton	55	156
Middlesbrough	195	374
Milton Keynes	195	409
Newcastle upon Tyne	207	515
Newham	62	167
Norfolk	775	1536
North East Lincolnshire	165	367
North Lincolnshire	150	343
North Somerset	149	289
North Tyneside	197	443
North Yorkshire[1]	1242	2171

Local authority area in which learner is resident	Apprenticeship framework completions	
	2002-03	2005-06
Northamptonshire	866	1519
Northumberland	289	909
Nottingham	192	504
Nottinghamshire	697	2025
Oldham	179	514
Oxfordshire	378	908
Peterborough	162	306
Plymouth	445	725
Poole	122	241
Portsmouth	123	249
Reading	77	192
Redbridge	73	159
Redcar and Cleveland	267	496
Richmond-upon-Thames	45	104
Rochdale	225	477
Rotherham	295	555
Rutland	14	44
Salford	240	554
Sandwell	258	710
Sefton	256	680
Sheffield	548	1039
Shropshire[1]	336	1811
Slough	56	117
Solihull	130	309
Somerset	498	1061
South Gloucestershire	204	452
South Tyneside	172	445
Southampton	137	324
Southend	73	168
Southwark	41	136
St Helens	258	443
Staffordshire	815	1980
Stockport	246	641
Stockton-on-Tees	278	576
Stoke-on-Trent	272	750
Suffolk	847	1625
Sunderland	408	858
Surrey	582	1214
Sutton	90	240
Swindon	162	300
Tameside	247	612
Telford and Wrekin	217	352
Thurrock	86	179
Torbay	109	290
Tower Hamlets	65	163
Trafford	188	429
Wakefield	223	633
Walsall	207	625
Waltham Forest	82	183
Wandsworth	59	110
Warrington	223	424
Warwickshire	550	984
West Berkshire	109	270
West Sussex	376	991
Westminster[1]	87	141
Wigan	406	794
Wiltshire[1]	378	1022
Windsor[1]	59	145
Wirral	409	857
Wokingham[1]	656	1026
Wolverhampton	162	480
Worcestershire	481	933
York	116	343
England	42,679	98,678
Other[3]	760	1,019

[1] These local authorities areas have >10 per cent. apprenticeships funded by MoD.
[2] Denotes <10 apprenticeship framework completions.
[3] The 'other' category includes incomplete records and learners not resident in England, but who are learning in England (for example, learners resident in Scotland or Wales).
Notes
1. Local authority areas are based on home postcode of the learner, where residential learning is taking place in the MOD, the learner is allocated to the local authority where they are based.
2. The local authority area geography presented here refers to the upper tier of local authorities.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effects of imports of subsidised biodiesel on domestic production. [201257]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are aware that imports of subsidised biodiesel from the United States are having a negative impact on the competitiveness of the UK biofuel industry. The Government cannot, however, act unilaterally to resolve the problem. We have urged the European Commission to find a solution, and have lobbied the US authorities to make the necessary legislative changes so that US biofuel subsidies are limited to US domestic sales. The Commission has said that it will consider initiating a countervailing duty investigation on receipt of a properly documented complaint from the European biodiesel industry, and is expecting to receive such a complaint imminently.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since July 2007. [198284]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No new offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by the Department for Transport since July 2007 and which has been enacted, although the Department is currently sponsoring primary legislation including the Local Road Transport Bill, the current version of which does propose new criminal offences.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by her Department and its predecessors since May 1997. [198323]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following information is that readily available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Merchant Shipping Act offences

Under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 offences under section 117 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 were abolished.

Under the Marine Safety Act 2003, offences under section 100D and 139 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 were abolished.

Railways related offences

S95(5) of the Railways Act 1993 created an offence of failing to comply with a direction given by the Secretary of State to provide information in connection with a transfer scheme. This section was prospectively repealed by s274 of and Schedule 31 to the Transport Act 2000 (although no date has yet been appointed for this repeal to come into force).

Road transport related offences

Passenger Vehicles Act 1981 (c.14)

Section 24(3)—(failure to produce a licence within a reasonable time for the purpose of endorsement)

Road Traffic Act 1988 (c.52)

Section 99(6)(b)—(failure to surrender counterpart of Community licence)

Road Traffic Act 1991 (c.40)

Section 66(6)—(removal or interference with penalty charge notice)

Section 69(6)—(removal or interference with immobilisation notice)

Section 69(7)—removal or interference with immobilisation device

Section 70(2)—avoidance of immobilisation by wrongful use of disabled person's badge

Section 71(10)—false declaration to parking adjudicator

Section 73(14)—failure to attend hearing of parking adjudicator

Schedule 6 paragraph 9—false representations to parking adjudicator

London Local Authorities Act 2000

Section 14(2)—false representations relating to unpaid charges

London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003 (c.3)

Section 5(2)—failure to comply with requirements of operator's notice

Section 5(3)—false declarations in response to requirements of operator's notice

Schedule 1—false representations in relation to penalty charges for road traffic contraventions.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in her Department in each of the last three years. [200668]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Midland Main Railway Line

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance she has given to Network Rail on the priority to be given to track infrastructure improvements to facilitate faster train speeds on the Midland Main Line. [201884]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government specified and funded in last year's Rail White Paper the high level improvements in capacity, safety and reliability required by 2014. Network Rail responded with an industry strategic business plan (SBP) to deliver these, which includes an optional enhancement to deliver journey time enhancements through Midland Main Line line-speed improvements.

The independent Office of Rail Regulation is currently reviewing Network Rail's revised SBP, published on 4 April, ahead of the publication of its draft conclusions in June 2008.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles re-licensing applications were not processed by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency within two months of expiry of the last licence in each of the last five years; and how many late licensing penalty notices were issued in respect of the unlicensed vehicles. [201797]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Relicensing applications received electronically are updated on the vehicles database within three days. Manual relicensing applications are processed and the database updated within seven days.

There are no figures for the number of relicensing applications not processed within two months of the expiry of the last licence.

It is therefore not possible to provide the number of late licensing penalty notices that have been issued as a direct result of this. Figures are available for the total number of late licensing penalty notices issued since 2004 to date.

Late licensing penalty notices issued

	Number
Apr 2004 to March 2005	1,183,543
Apr 2005 to March 2006	1,341,598
Apr 2006 to March 2007	1,272,384
Apr200 to March 2008	1,219,462

Motor Vehicles: Lighting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the UK will be required to implement the provisions of European legislation requiring vehicles to have their lights on throughout daylight. [201429]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have been successful in preventing the introduction of Europe-wide requirements for drivers of all existing vehicles to use dipped headlamps during the day.

However, from early 2011 new types of passenger car and light van will have to be fitted with low-wattage dedicated daytime running lights (DRLs), in addition to standard vehicle lighting. By summer 2012 new types of buses and large/heavy vehicles will also have to be so fitted. Only 'new types' of vehicle are affected, not those already in use or new vehicles built under existing type approvals.

The requirements arise from revisions to a United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regulation. The EU Lighting Directive, by which the UK will be obliged to abide, is imminently expected to be updated to mirror these revisions.

Shipping: EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether emissions from shipping will be included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [200631]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government would prefer to see the development of a global emissions trading scheme, under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). However, until a truly global solution can be found, or if progress within IMO proves too slow, the UK will continue to look at other options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships, including the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Because of the world-wide nature of the shipping industry, the Government believe that regional (EU) action should be seen as a stepping stone to future global agreements on international shipping emissions.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will put in place a procedure by which right hon. and hon. Members would be able to find out the names and addresses of service personnel from their constituencies who have been injured in Iraq or Afghanistan since January 2001; and if he will make a statement. [168066]

Derek Twigg: The paramount aim of MOD policy is the welfare of wounded personnel and their family.

Service personnel and their families may of course contact their MP on any matter and at any time, and the MOD accordingly takes the view that the initiative over contact with the MP should remain with the wounded individual and their family.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [200634]

Des Browne: The security situation in Afghanistan is stable if fragile in places. The Afghan National Army and troops from the 40-nation International Security Assistance Force have achieved significant tactical success against the Taliban in 2007; this has restricted geographically the ability of the insurgents to conduct sustained activity. NATO figures show that 91 per cent of insurgent activities have been reported in only eight per cent of the districts during 2008.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procurement process will be used to determine which contractors will be awarded the contract to build the new aircraft carriers; and if he will make a statement. [200540]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As announced by the then Secretary of State for Defence on 14 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 149WS, the new aircraft carriers will be manufactured in "super blocks" to be allocated to BAE Systems yards at Govan and Barrow, to VT in Portsmouth and to Babcock in Rosyth, with final assembly of both carriers at Rosyth. The majority of the structure above the hangar deck will be open to competition.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Mates: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ask the Armed Forces Pay Review Body to examine *(a)* entitlements to and *(b)* payment of service pensions; and if he will make a statement. [197896]

Derek Twigg: The Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB) periodically value armed forces pensions relative to civilian pensions as part of its remit to have regard for the need for military pay to be broadly comparable with pay levels in civilian life.

In addition, as part of the parliamentary passage of the 2004 Armed Forces Bill, it was agreed that the AFPRB would review the new Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 being introduced as part of that legislation after its initial five years of operation in 2010.

These are the only two forms of engagement that are planned between the AFPRB and the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. It would not be appropriate for the AFPRB to undertake the type of detailed examination of the service pension schemes described in the question. The schemes are subject to annual scrutiny by the National Audit Office in terms of overall payment of entitlements and to internal MOD audit procedures in terms of the accuracy of individual pension payments.

Armed Forces: Schools

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his officials first discussed with Essex local authority schooling for the children of Colchester Garrison; on what subsequent dates discussions have been held; which *(a)* officials from his Department and *(b)* officials from Essex local authority attended; which (i) Ministers and (ii) Essex County Councillors were present at these meetings; what the location was of each meeting; and what the subject heading was of each item discussed. [182349]

Derek Twigg: I have agreed to meet with the hon. Member to discuss this issue and will write to him after the meeting.

Substantive answer from Derek Twigg to Bob Russell:

I know you have continued to express your very close interest in the future of Alderman Blaxill School, a local authority school in your constituency, on a number of occasions. I am writing to follow up our meeting on 5 February, and to confirm what was discussed—including the specific information you requested in your Parliamentary Question of 28 January 2008 (Official Report, column 32W) I am sorry that I have not been able to write sooner—and what has happened since. First may I say that I was grateful for your very positive comments about your visit to Afghanistan on the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme and your acknowledgement that, regardless of some media coverage, morale was exceptionally high and the atmosphere among our troops wholly positive.

I hope you found the meeting a good opportunity to pass on your views on the future of Alderman Blaxill School. I reiterate that the best possible education for all children in this country is at the heart of this Government's plans. I made the point to you that the MOD does not lead on education in the UK, although we are responsible for Service schools for children from Service families who are living overseas. For Alderman Blaxill School, it is the local authority that leads but with a responsibility to consult all those with an interest. This includes the local Service community, both through direct consultation and through their representatives in an Armed Forces context, the local chain of command. For that reason I was pleased that Colonel Tony Phillips, the Deputy Garrison Commander in Colchester, and Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Ray Housley, the Army Welfare Service lead for these matters in Colchester, were able to join us for the meeting. It was clear that there is close contact between you and Colonel Phillips on a range of local issues. This is the right basis of Ministry of Defence (MOD) involvement in an issue like planning for local schools; it is the local chain of command who understand the local conditions and can, on a daily basis, look out for the best interests of their people.

In turn you made some good points about the importance of pastoral support in schools, not least for Service children. I agree with you; that support will need to be strong whatever the shape of education is in Colchester in the future. We may have some good practice to offer here from our experience with Service schools overseas within our Service Children's Education (SCE) Agency. This is being considered by the Service Children In State Schools (SCISS) forum, which is run by and for head teachers from schools in England with a significant population of children from Service families. They are developing a booklet that will offer a range of advice and best practice to schools, so that they can offer the best possible support to Service children. The forum has the support and involvement of both MOD and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) officials. The guidance will be made widely available, for example through teachernet, the key DCSF online resource for all teaching professionals in England.

At our meeting you heard that Colonel Phillips was fully satisfied with the approach of the local authority on plans for Alderman Blaxill School, in relation to the engagement that had occurred and the consultation that had been planned and undertaken. He felt that Service families had had every opportunity to understand what was being proposed and to comment on it. The MOD cannot, of course, take a central view on all proposals for the future of individual schools in UK. But we do expect there to be good local interaction, so that Service families affected can be confident that their voices can and will be heard. I am confident that this has happened in this case, and I hope you were reassured on that point by Colonel Phillips.

On the detailed questions you raised, I can confirm that discussions between MOD officials and the local authority first took place on 27 June 2007, between Lieutenant Colonel Housley and Major Di Waddington from Colchester Garrison staff and Mr Peter Wright and Mr Graham Ranby from Essex County Council. The purpose of the meeting was for the local authority representatives to inform the Colchester Garrison representatives of the circumstances of Alderman Blaxill and Thomas Lord Audley Schools and that a recommendation had been made to consider their replacement with an Academy. The local authority wanted to ensure that Service families affected could be made aware of any subsequent proposals and involved in any consultation. A second meeting was held on 17 October 2007 between Lieutenant Colonel Housley and Mr Wright. The aim of the meeting was for the consultation process to be explained and the consultation documentation described. There was also some discussion of the best way to encourage engagement with Service families. Finally, I can confirm that there were no Ministers or Essex County Councillors at either of the meetings.

At our meeting Colonel Phillips emphasised to you his confidence that Garrison staff had ensured that all Service families affected had been made aware of the proposals and had had an opportunity to comment. I should add that the Garrison staff worked to make this happen, although this did not involve further meetings with the local authority. Since our meeting we have been waiting for the results of the consultation but at this time I have little to pass on. There has been telephone contact between Colchester Garrison and local authority staff which has confirmed that the consultation had drawn 236 responses. It is not possible to state how many of those were from Service families but the local authority have noted strong interest from Service families at meetings held during the consultation period. Like you, we look forward to hearing the outcome of the consultation in due course.

This letter to you on the subject of the future of Alderman Blaxill School follows responses I have given to your Parliamentary Question on 9 July 2007 (Official Report, column 1281W), to your letter of 10 July 2007, to points you made in intervention during the Armed Forces Personnel Debate on 10 January 2008 and at our meeting on 5 February 2008. I hope that you are reassured that the MOD has played a proper part in ensuring that Service families have a free and open opportunity to make their views known on the future of the school, although the responsibility for deciding on that future does not lie with the MOD.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997. [198291]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007. [198311]

Derek Twigg: None.

European Fighter Aircraft: Costs

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse of the Typhoon Eurofighter *(a)* has been to date and *(b)* is estimated to be in total. [200537]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As recorded in the Major Projects Report 2007 (MPR07), expenditure to 31 March 2007 on the Eurofighter Typhoon is £11.8 billion. I am withholding the estimated total cost of the programme as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* in kind contributions the Atomic Weapons Establishment has made to the (i) International Atomic Energy Agency and (ii) Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in the field of verification techniques in the last five years. [200305]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: AWE is a member of the IAEA's Network of Analytical Laboratories that analyse environmental samples collected by the IAEA's Department of Safeguards. Over the past five years, analytical work to the value of £417,000 has been carried out at AWE. This work is performed under the UK Support Programme for IAEA safeguards, funded by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

AWE has not provided any support to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution Atomic Weapons Establishment verification researchers made to the Royal Society's report on Detecting Nuclear and Radiological Materials; and if he will make a statement. [200306]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Personnel from the Atomic Weapons Establishment participated in a two-day workshop run by the Royal Society in December 2007. The findings from this workshop formed the basis for the Royal Society's report on Detecting Nuclear and Radiological Materials.

Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many plasma television screens have been purchased by his Department and its agencies, and at what cost, in the last 24 months. [191085]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure on plasma televisions must comply with the principles of propriety set out in Managing Public Money and in the Treasury's handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since May 1997. [198322]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has not taken forward primary legislation to abolish any criminal offences.

Departmental Pay

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the total cost was of *(a)* salaries for permanent civil service posts, *(b)* salaries for permanent non-civil service posts and *(c)* payments to temporary or agency workers in his Department in each month since May 2005. [200171]

David Cairns: The staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from other Departments who submit invoices to the Office on a regular basis. The Office does not maintain financial records in the form requested; the total cost for each year was:

			£
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]
Permanent civil servants	1,888,383	1,888,861	2,250,243
Permanent non-civil servants	0	0	0
Temporary staff	539	20,067	7,394

[1] Estimate

Departmental Public Participation

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many public consultations were held by his Department in each of the last three years; and how many respondents took part in each consultation. [198641]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office undertook two targeted and time-limited public consultations; one entitled "Scottish Parliament Elections May 2007: Ballot Paper Design"; there were 32 responses, and a further 100 people took part in focus groups. The other, "Sorting the Ballot", received 39 responses. Responses to both consultations were received from councils, political parties and a range of other organisations presenting the opinions of all their members.

In addition, the Office participated in a joint consultation with the Ministry of Justice and the Wales Office on "Fees for the Marked Register of Electors produced at UK Elections".

Devolution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Advocate-General on devolution arrangements. [201220]

Des Browne: I meet regularly with the Advocate-General to discuss a broad range of issues.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what allocation of funding Scotland will receive under the Barnett formula for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [201245]

David Cairns: As a result of Barnett consequential from the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, the funding allocation for Scotland for 2008-09 will be £27,244 million.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what forecasts she has made of spending on the parliamentary contributory Pension Fund in each year between 2008-09 and 2050-51; and how many members of the scheme there are; [200802]

(2) what the *(a)* rate and *(b)* cost of Exchequer contributions to the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund was in each year since 2005-06; [200803]

(3) what estimate she has made of the unfunded liability in present value terms of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund; and what assumptions for *(a)* discount rate and *(b)* longevity the estimate is based on. [200804]

Helen Goodman: The Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) is a fully-funded pension scheme whose costs are met from Members' contributions, investment returns and an Exchequer contribution. The Government Actuary undertakes a triennial valuation in which he makes recommendations as to the necessary Exchequer contribution to the PCPF. This can rise or fall depending on factors such as predicted investment returns and longevity assumptions.

In the triennial valuation report laid before the House in March 2006, the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) calculated that the Exchequer contribution should be 26.8 per cent. of pensionable pay from 2006-07 until 2020-21 and then 18.1 per cent. of pensionable pay thereafter. The estimated cost of contributions payable by the Exchequer for the financial year 2008-09 and the next triennial valuation is £12.1 million.

As at 31 March 2007 the membership of the PCPF was as follows:

	Number
Current Members	666
Deferred Members (former MPs, Ministers and Office Holders not yet in receipt of a pension)	208
Pensioners	1,931

The value of the Exchequer contributions since 2005-06 is as follows:

Financial year	*PCPF exchequer contribution rate (percentage of salaries)*	*PCPF exchequer contribution (£ million)*
2005-06	24.0	10.17
2006-07	26.8	11.5
2007-08	26.8	12.0

The aforementioned costs include contributions payable in respect of pensions provided for MPs, Ministers and Office Holders.

The deficit (unfunded liability) calculated as at 1 April 2005 (the date of the last valuation) was £49.5 million. This is the approximate value of the Exchequer 'contribution holiday' between 1989 and 2003.

The main financial assumptions used by GAD were:

	Percentage
Gross rate of return	6.5
Real rate of return, net of earnings increases	2.0
Real rate of return, net of price/pension increases	3.5

The liabilities were valued by discounting back to the valuation date the expected future expenditure on pension benefits, using the discount rates given in this table. The investments were brought into account in the assessment by discounting back to the valuation date the expected income from them, using the discount rates given in this table.

GAD also assumed that male pensioners aged 65, would live on average for a further 19.5 years, and that female pensioners aged 65 would live on average for a further 22.6 years.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for capping decisions and implementation for 2008-09. [198920]

John Healey: On 27 March I announced that eight authorities had been designated for exceeding the principles set for 2008-09. The authorities have the right to challenge their designation and all eight have done so.

We will now carefully consider these challenges and, if our decision is to proceed with the designation of one or more of the authorities, I will seek the approval of the House.

Eco-Towns: Community Development

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account will be taken of community cohesion in the development of eco-towns. [200780]

Caroline Flint: Community cohesion and empowerment is one of the seven criteria that eco-towns must address and will be vital to the success of an eco-town, which should provide a vibrant and sustainable community. The outcomes that we want to see are set out in "Eco-towns—Living a greener future" and supported through the work that the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) are doing with us on the practical application of the criteria. This includes the recent publication of a community worksheet to provide practical help to all those involved with taking forward eco-town proposals, which is available on the TCPA website.

Eco-Towns: Employment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account is being taken of the provision of employment opportunities in each of the locations shortlisted to become eco-towns. [200779]

Caroline Flint: One of the criteria that we have assessed eco-town proposals against relates to jobs and the outcomes we expect to see. This includes developing a clear strategy to maximise employment opportunities and enabling links to existing clusters of employment. In the consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future" we have set out some of the potential employment opportunities and issues for the shortlisted locations. We are currently consulting on these locations and final decisions on the locations are still to be determined. Copies of the consultation document are available in the Library of the House.

Eco-Towns: Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public funding would be required to establish an eco-town at each of the 15 shortlisted locations. [200778]

Caroline Flint: At this stage the 15 shortlisted locations for eco-towns are subject to consultation and are still to be determined, and later in the year we will make final decisions on locations with potential to be an eco-town. The bulk of investment needed to create an eco-town will come from the private sector, but there will also be projects that we want to help develop through direct funding to local authorities using the Growth Areas fund and from mainstream programmes. In terms of the level of growth funding available for eco-towns I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 6 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1397W.

Eco-Towns: Green Belt

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much greenfield land would be developed in respect of each of the 15 shortlisted eco-town proposals. [200782]

Caroline Flint: In the recently published consultation document "Eco-towns—Living a greener future" we have provided a description of the shortlisted locations and this demonstrates that many make significant use of previously developed land. However in some cases development on greenfield land provides the best opportunities and may be appropriate. All the shortlisted locations for eco-towns are subject to consultation and further assessment.

Energy Performance Certificate: Inspections

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many inspectors she estimates will be qualified to assess a property for an energy performance certificate by 1 April 2008. [193760]

Caroline Flint: As at 1 April we had 7,304 assessors accredited to provide energy performance certificates.

English Partnerships: Manpower

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will break down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* age, senior managers and staff of English Partnerships engaged in transition arrangements; and whether this staff profile is likely to be maintained in the Housing and Communities Agency. [200181]

Caroline Flint: Although the precise details of the staff of English Partnerships who will transfer to the Homes and Communities Agency will not be known until nearer the event, the following table sets out the current expectation of those who will transfer, broken down by gender, ethnicity and age as at 31 March 2008:

Employees by ethnic minority

	Number	Percentage
British	453	
Irish	14	
Other White	9	
Other Mixed	2	
Caribbean	4	
African	3	
Indian	5	
Pakistani	4	
Other Asian	8	
Chinese	3	
Other	3	
Not declared	9	
Awaiting declaration	21	
Total	538	
Percentage		5.9

Employees by gender

	Male		Female	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total	252	46.8	286	53.2

Employees by age band

Age	Number
16 to 20	1
21 to 30	89
31 to 40	150
41 to 50	163
51 to 60	118
61 to 65	16
66+	1
Total	538

Staff from other bodies including the Housing Corporation, will also transfer to the HCA. Such staff are not included in the aforementioned table. Since the transfer to the HCA is to be treated as if TUPE applied, it is expected that the profile of the HCA will be broadly similar to the profile of English Partnerships, at least in so far as the transfer of English Partnerships staff is concerned.

I can also confirm that, in the Housing and Regeneration Bill, we are amending Schedule 1A to the Race Relations Act 1976 to include the Homes and Communities Agency (Schedule 7, paragraph 5, to the Bill). The Homes and Communities Agency will therefore be subject to the specific duties under the race legislation.

Other amendment of primary legislation is not necessary. The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (as amended by the Equality Act 2006) now contains a

general duty which applies to all public authorities, which would include the Homes and Communities Agency without the need for any further legislative amendment.

Further, we propose to amend the secondary legislation in respect of the specific sex and disability duties to include the Homes and Communities Agency, during the period of transition between the existing bodies and the new Agency.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of implementing the Lifetime Homes Standard, with particular regard to *(a)* additional building costs and *(b)* increased plot size. [201443]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 'Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods—A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society', launched on 25 February 2008, we estimated that "compliance with the Lifetime Homes Standards could result in modest additional costs of around £547 per new home."

Our assessment of the effect of the introduction of Lifetime Homes Standards on new homes was informed by findings from 'Designed for Manufacture, Lessons Learned' (English Partnerships, CLG, June 2006). We have stated that it is our aspiration to see all new homes built to Lifetime Homes Standards by 2013, and that we will undertake a review of Lifetime Homes Standards take-up across all sectors in 2010. My officials are now considering what work needs to be commissioned to further develop the evidence base for the proposed review. This will include additional research into the potential impact of Lifetime Homes Standards on *(a)* additional building costs and *(b)* increased plot size.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were revalued for council tax purposes following *(a)* the request of the homeowner and *(b)* sale of the property in each region of England in each year since 1997; and how many moved (i) up and (ii) down by one council tax band following revaluation in each case. [201653]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Local Authorities: Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulations cover the provision of *(a)* information and *(b)* documents by local authorities on their actions to (i) hon. Members, (ii) local councillors and (iii) members of the public; and what exemptions apply. [199698]

John Healey: Part 5A of the Local Government Act 1972, and the regulations made there under, establish the principle regime for the provision of information by local authorities, which are also subject to a range of other legislative provision and case law on information, including

The Data Protection Act 1998

The Freedom of Information Act 2000

Environment Information Regulations 2004

These statutory provisions give extensive rights of public access to local authority information. In addition to these statutory provisions, the members of local authorities enjoy wide common law rights to access information held by the councils of which they are members.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives her Department offers to local authorities to encourage higher standards of performance as measured under the comprehensive performance assessment. [201771]

John Healey: Incentives were announced in September 2006, with the publication of the analysis of responses to the consultation on proposed changes to the delivery of Local Authority Freedoms and Flexibilities under CPA 2005:

Authorities have exemptions to produce certain statutory plans; freedoms over how to spend fixed penalty notices; powers to trade; and freedoms on unringfenced grants. The precise exemptions and freedoms and norms differ according to the authority's performance under CPA.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to ring-fence Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme funding to business development opportunities. [201408]

John Healey: None. Current Local Authority Business Growth Incentives scheme funding is not ring-fenced and the Government have said they are minded that a reformed scheme would remain unring-fenced.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 4 March 2008, transferred from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on solar energy. [201510]

Mr. Iain Wright: I replied to the hon. Member's letter on 21 April.

Parish Councils: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether parish councils will be able to apply to the fund created under

the Community Infrastructure Levy proposed in the Planning Reform Bill; what the criteria will be for applications to the fund; and if she will make a statement. [200406]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The purpose of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is to support the provision of infrastructure needed to support the development of an area. This infrastructure could be at the regional, sub-regional or local level, including at parish level. The Government's initial proposals for the process of identifying the infrastructure are set out in the Community Infrastructure Levy document of 24 January which is available in the House Library.

Further details of how the CIL will work in practice will be set out in draft Regulations, on which we intend to consult in the autumn.

Regional Planning and Development: Eco-Towns

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether proposals for eco-towns will be included in relevant *(a)* local development framework plans, *(b)* regional spatial strategies and *(c)* regional transport plans. [200781]

Caroline Flint: The planning process remains the route by which eco-town proposals would be decided. In some cases the principle of development has already been established in the local development framework, in others this may involve reviews of and/or new development plans coming forward, and in some cases revised regional spatial strategies (RSS). We expect the RSS reviews announced in the Housing Green Paper (which depending on the region will be prepared between now and 2011) to test the longer term issues that arise from the eco town proposals—such as the ultimate size of new settlements. RSS reviews are informed by and incorporate the regional transport strategies, which will take into consideration all proposals for growth.

TREASURY

Attendance Allowance: Tax Allowances

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of exempting those who are in receipt of attendance allowance from vehicle excise duty. [201214]

Angela Eagle: The Government offer exemption from vehicle excise duty to those in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance or the war pensioners mobility supplement. The total number of recipients as at the end of September 2007 was 1,125,380.

The population of exempted vehicles will vary in engine size and carbon dioxide emissions output and it is not possible to disaggregate this population by notional tax paying class.

Child Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value of child benefit support as a percentage of forecast *(a)* mean and *(b)* median earnings in each year until 2012. [200642]

Jane Kennedy: Child benefit is currently paid at a rate of £18.80 for the first child and £12.55 for subsequent children. The first rate of child benefit has risen by over 25 per cent. in real terms since 1997, and is set to rise further to £20 from April 2009.

The Government do not publish average earnings forecasts for future years.

While the Government are committed to further tackling child poverty and strengthening financial support for families, child benefit rates from April 2010 have not yet been set. Decisions about the rate of child benefit will continue to be made at Budgets and pre-Budget reports.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time posts were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in his Department in each of the last three years. [200669]

Angela Eagle: This information is not kept centrally and therefore the question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Income

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of *(a)* individuals and *(b)* families claiming (i) working and (ii) child tax credits have incomes of (A) 60 per cent., (B) 70 per cent., (C) 80 per cent., (D) 90 per cent. and (E) 100 per cent. or more of median earnings; and if he will make a statement. [200643]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, estimates of the number of in-work benefiting families with tax credit awards, broken down by income bands, are produced in table 2.10 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Annual Awards." for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Income Tax

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in each constituency in Wales were paying income tax at the 10 pence rate on the entirety of their taxable income on the latest date for which figures are available; [201501]

(2) how many people in Chesham and Amersham constituency were paying income tax at the 10 pence rate on the entirety of their taxable income on the latest date for which figures are available. [201502]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated number of taxpayers in each Government office region paying tax only at the starting rate of income tax for 2007-08 is shown in Table 2.2 'Number of individual income taxpayers by country and region', which is available from HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Accurate information on the number of taxpayers who pay income tax at the 10p starting rate for geographic areas below country and region are not available but information on the total number of taxpayers in each parliamentary constituency is shown in Table T3.15, which can be found at the HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/incomedistribution/menu.htm

These estimates are based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2005-06).

Income Tax: Low Incomes

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* England, *(c)* Greater Manchester, *(d)* Stockport borough and *(e)* Cheadle constituency were paying only the 10p starting rate of income tax as at 1 April 2008. [200417]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 April 2008]*: Estimates for the number of individual taxpayers in the United Kingdom and England paying tax only at the starting rate of income tax for 2007-08 are provided in tables 2.1 and 2.2, which are available from HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Accurate information on the total number of taxpayers in Greater Manchester, the borough of Stockport, and the parliamentary constituency of Cheadle are shown in tables T3.13, T3.14 and T3.15 respectively, which can be found at the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

These estimates are based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2005-06).

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in Pendle who paid income tax at the 10p rate on all their taxable income on the latest date for which figures are available. [201145]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated number of taxpayers in each Government office region paying tax only at the starting rate of income tax for 2007-08 is shown in Table 2.2 'Number of individual income taxpayers by country and region', which is available from HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

Accurate information on the number of taxpayers who pay income tax at the 10p starting rate for geographic areas below country and region are not available but information on the total number of taxpayers in the parliamentary constituency of Pendle is shown in Table T3.15, which can be found at the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

These estimates are based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2005-06).

Invest to Save Budget

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding has been allocated to each local authority under the Invest to Save budget. [199362]

Yvette Cooper: The ISB has allocated over £87.5 million to 161 local authority-led projects. Successive rounds have continued to fund innovation with an emphasis on local partnerships delivering local projects that strengthen local communities. Tables listing those projects that are local authority-led have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer the letter to him dated 10 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs N Hussain. [201120]

Jane Kennedy: I have replied to my right hon. Friend.

Pay: Public Sector

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate of the effect on inflation of the provision of an overall public sector pay rise of *(a)* 2, *(b)* 3 and *(c)* 4 per cent. in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [201776]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1198W.

Revenue and Customs: Audit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of all internal audit recommendations made in the last five years in relation to *(a)* the Tax Credit Office and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs. [200644]

Jane Kennedy: To do so would prejudice the effective conduct of internal audit work in HM Revenue and Customs.

Revenue and Customs: Surveys

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how staff are surveyed at *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* his Department; and on what dates the next survey's results will be made public. [200273]

Angela Eagle: The staff of HM Revenue and Customs are currently surveyed, on a sample basis, twice per year (winter and summer). The full responses to the staff surveys are published on the Department's external website and are available to the general public. The latest staff survey results from winter 2007 (November/December) were published on 29 February

2008. The next survey is scheduled for this summer and the results will be published shortly thereafter.

Staff at HM Treasury are surveyed in two ways: a main staff survey that takes place in December each year and a series of smaller "Pulse" surveys each quarter. A summary of the results from the 2007 annual staff survey were published on the Department's external website on 5 March 2008.

Taxation: Agriculture

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to produce a regulatory impact assessment on the withdrawal of the agricultural building allowances; and if he will make a statement. [201511]

Jane Kennedy: An impact assessment on the capital allowances changes announced in Budget 2007 was produced and included in the technical note containing draft legislation on the majority of the package, published on 17 December 2007.

It is available on the Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/2/consult_businesstaxreform171207.pdf

Taxation: Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the use of taxation to assist adaptation to climate change. [201224]

Angela Eagle: The Government's strategy for tackling climate change is set out in Government publications and reiterated in pre-Budget Report and Budget documents. Policy on environmental taxation was published in the 1997 Statement of Intent, and the Government continue to keep all taxation matters under review as part of the annual Budget process.

Many climate change impacts (for example floods, droughts and heat waves) are not new. As such, the Government have well-established policies to address them and reviews these policies and their funding regularly. Taxation, spending and regulation are some of the several policy instruments to tackle climate change. For example, the 2007 comprehensive spending review included additional funding for flood defences.

However, climate change is creating different impacts as well as changing the frequency and intensity of traditional ones. The framework in the Climate Change Bill will ensure that the Government regularly assess the risks from climate change and bring together a range of policies and proposals to address these risks, ensuring a joined-up approach to adaptation across Government.

VAT: Bingo

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers he has to exempt bingo games organised by commercial operators from value added tax. [201396]

Angela Eagle: The principal VAT directive, which governs the application of VAT throughout the European Union, provides for VAT exemption to be applied to "betting, lotteries and other forms of gambling, subject to the conditions and limitations laid down by each member state".

Subject to certain exceptions, VAT is chargeable in the UK on bingo participation and session fees.

VAT: Houseboats

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons HM Revenue and Customs has changed its guidance on the value added tax liability of non-powered houseboats. [201395]

Jane Kennedy: Guidance on the VAT treatment of houseboats can be found in HM Revenue and Customs Notice 701/20, 'Caravans and houseboats'. There have been no changes to the technical content of this notice, or the VAT liability rules in this area, since the current version of the notice was published in February 2004.

The supply of a houseboat (defined in VAT legislation as a boat or other floating decked structure designed or adapted for use solely as a place of permanent habitation and not having means of, or capable of being readily adapted for, self-propulsion) is VAT zero-rated.

Welfare Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 890-1W, on income, what estimate he has made of expenditure on (*a*) tax credits and (*b*) child benefits to households in each income decile in each year since 1997. [200256]

Jane Kennedy: Estimates of the distribution of household entitlements to tax credits and child benefit by income decile for each year since 1997 consistent with my previous reply are not available.

The annual Office for National Statistics publication 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income' provides data on the distribution of households' reported receipt of tax credits, child benefit and other benefits by income decile over time:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Product.asp?vlnk=10336

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the effect on receipts to the Exchequer of increasing the taper rate on tax credits to (*a*) 46 per cent., (*b*) 45 per cent., (*c*) 44 per cent. and (*d*) 43 per cent. in 2009; and what his estimate is of the number of people who would no longer be eligible for tax credits in each case. [200260]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated saving, in 2009-10, of increasing the 1st taper rate of tax credits to the rates requested, is as follows.

1st taper rate (percentage)	*Effect on expenditure (£ million)*	*Number of claimants (Thousand)*
46	-1,420	23.8
45	-1,240	18.7
44	-1,060	15.4
43	-870	11.4

These changes would not affect the number of claimants eligible for tax credits. However, it would increase the number of claimants with awards reduced to zero. Estimates of which are provided in third column for each rate change.

No account has been taken of any possible behavioural effects.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what changes have been made to tax credit system procedures following the convictions of David Wilshaw and Nancy Stevenson; [200909]

(2) what changes have been made to the checking systems for the payment of benefits following the convictions of David Wilshaw and Nancy Stevenson. [200908]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC constantly monitor and look for ways to improve their procedures to prevent tax credits and child benefit fraud. These convictions demonstrate that HMRC can and do prosecute those that wish to commit a crime.

Welfare Tax Credits: Administration

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of administering (*a*) tax and (*b*) working family tax credits was in each year since 1997. [200266]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 927W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals there were by tax credit claimants in Northern Ireland in relation to (*a*) overpayments and (*b*) repayments in 2007; and of those how many were successful. [201829]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available.

Customers can contact HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to appeal if they think their tax credits award is wrong. Information concerning appeals can be found in the HMRC leaflet WTC/AP 'How to appeal against a tax credits decision or award' which is available on the internet at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/wtc_ap.pdf

A decision to recover an overpayment does not carry the right of appeal.

However, for information on the number of UK households that disputed a decision to recover overpaid tax credits and the number written off between April 2007 to December 2007 I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 901-02W.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer Question 196462, on household income tabled on 19th March. [201824]

Angela Eagle: The Department for Work and Pensions expects to be in a position to reply to the hon. Gentleman shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Broadcasting Programmes: Children

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of long-term changes in the amount of children's programming provided by public service broadcasters on children's cultural experience. [201371]

Andy Burnham: UK originated children's television programming is a much valued and important part of the UK's broadcasting environment.

Ofcom examined the future prospects for public service broadcasting (PSB) for children in its discussion paper 'The Future of Children's Television Programming', published in October last year. In the light of that, the first phase of its second PSB review, published on 10 April, invited comments on the future of children's programming. The responses received will inform the next phase of Ofcom's review, due in the autumn, and the Government's consideration of the future funding of public service provision.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether free to air broadcasters are required to provide a minimum level of dedicated children's programming. [201372]

Andy Burnham: The Communications Act 2003 does not require specific quotas of dedicated children's programming. However, the programming commitments of licensed public service broadcasters are set out in their statements of programme policy and they are required to consult and take account of the views of Ofcom on proposals for significant changes to those. In performing its functions, the BBC Trust is also required under the Charter and Agreement to have regard to the purposes of public service television broadcasting set out in section 264 of the Act, including that related to the provision of children's programming, and has currently undertaken to provide CBeebies, a channel for very young children, and CBBC, for the pre-teen audience. Under their service licences, BBC1 and 2 are also required to offer children's programmes.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his Departmental website. [200164]

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; what costs were incurred in *(a)* setting up and developing and (b) operating the websites since their inception; and how many unique visitors those websites received in each year for which figures are available. [198367]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department currently operates eight publicly accessible websites.

Website	*URL*	*Status at March 2008*
BBC Charter Review	http://www.bbccharterreview.org.uk/	Closed
Better Public Buildings	http://www.betterpublicbuildings.gov.uk	Transferred to CABE in 2003
Break Out	http://www.culture.gov.uk/breakout/flindex/htm	Live
Casino Advisory panel	http://www.culture.gov.uk/cap/	Dormant
Communications Act 2003	http://www.communicationsact.gov.uk/	Closed
Communications Bill	http://www.communicationsbill.gov.uk	Closed
Communications White Paper	http://www.communicationswhitepaper.gov.uk	Closed
Culture Online	http://www.cultureonline.gov.uk/	Live
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (main site)	http://www.culture.gov.uk	Live
Digital Television	http://www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk	Live
Flying the Union Flag	http://www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying/default.htm	Live
Gambling Review	http://www.gamblingreview.gov.uk/	Closed
Golden Jubilee	http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk	Closed
Golden Jubilee Media Site	http://www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk/	Closed
Government Art Collection	http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/home/index.asp	Live
Lottery 2009 shares consultation	http://www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk/	Live
Mobility of Collections	http://www.culture.gov.uk/mobility/	Dormant

The table lists the 17 websites in existence at 1 January 2005 with their status as of March 2008 an additional website was created in November 2005:

http://www.ukworldheritage.org.uk

	Development costs
	£
2005	228,107
2006	304,992
2007	169,890

These figures include development costs for all websites, extranets, blogs and wikis run by my Department. Figures cannot be calculated for individual sites as my Department does not hold the information in that format. However, the following table indicates where it has been possible to attribute the setup costs to the main culture website (including redevelopment in 2006-07).

	Site	*Set up*	*[1]Hosting cost*	£ *Subtotal*
2005-06	DCMS main site and in-house sites	31,097	17,000	48,097
	Breakout	17,500		17,500
	Creative economy programme	11,337	1,000	12,337
Total maintenance costs 2005-06				
2006-07	DCMS main site and sub-sites	23,153	35,994	59,147
	Breakout			
	Creative economy programme		1,200	1,200
Total maintenance costs 2006-07				60,347

[1] Hosting costs for 2007-08 cover all current websites and extranets for staff and NDPBs.

Visitor Figures

My Department does not hold complete visitor figures for 2005.

Website	*Unique visitors 2006*	*Unique visitors 2007*
Agora	6,655	Site closed
BBC Charter Review	104,034	81,879
Break Out	Figures not available	Figures not available
Casino Advisory Panel	Figures not available	Figures not available
Communications Act 2003	Figures not available	[1]23,334 (re-direct page)
Creative Economy Programme	Figures not available	Figures not available
Culture Online	Figures not available	Figures not available
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	896,599	1,361,828
Digital Switchover	Figures not available	Figures not available
Digital Television	188,779	285,099
Flying the Union Flag	Figures not available	Figures not available

Website	Unique visitors 2006	Unique visitors 2007
Government Art Collection	132,485	267,791
Lottery 2009 shares consultation	Figures not available	Figures not available
Mobility of Collections	Figures not available	Figures not available
National Lottery Awards	Figures not available	Figures not available
UK World Heritage Site	5,588	15,466
Where We Live	3,342	4,434

This webpage automatically redirects to the Office of Public Sector Information http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2001/ukpga_20010021_en_1

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time posts in his Department were filled on a temporary basis for a period in excess of six months in each of the last three years. [200659]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is in the table:

Financial year	Number of posts
2005-06	2
2006-07	7
2007-08	10

Digital Broadcasting: Television

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely benefits of digital terrestrial television technology upgrades for viewers. [201369]

Andy Burnham: Recent developments in compression and transmission technologies for digital television signals are providing opportunities to improve the efficiency of the spectrum used for the digital terrestrial television (DTT) platform. Reorganising existing services on the DTT platform in order to utilise these new technologies, will allow for new services such as high definition TV to be provided.

English Sports Council: Publications

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he place in the Library a copy of Sport England's Investing in Our Sporting Future: Sport England Lottery Fund Strategy 1999-2009. [200675]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am arranging for Sport England's document, Investing in Our Sporting Future: Sport England Lottery Fund Strategy 1999-2009 to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Licensing Act 2003

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the evidential basis is for his evaluation of the effects of the Licensing Act 2003 as a mixed picture. [201378]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government's evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act, which was placed in the Library of the House on 4 March 2008, drew on a number of pieces of evidence as set out in that report. The main elements of the evaluation were:

Scrutiny Councils Initiative: a final report was issued in July 2006 and an update published in 2008;

Independent Fees Panel Report: published on 25 January 2007;

Review of the Statutory Guidance: revised Guidance issued on 28 June 2007;

Live Music Forum Report: published 3 July 2007;

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin: published on 8 November 2007;

DCMS Simplification Plan: the 2nd Simplification Plan was published on 4 December 2007;

Closing times data commissioned by DCMS from CGA Strategy Ltd to analyse actual Saturday closing times: published on 4 March 2008; and

Home Office Report on the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on levels of crime and disorder: published on 4 March 2008.

Motorsport Development UK: Finance

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 540W, on Motorsport Development UK, what estimate was made in 2003 of the amount that would be provided to Motorsport Development UK; and if he will make a statement. [200797]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It was announced by the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) in 2003 that up to £16 million over five years would be required to fund the recommendations of the Motorsport Competitiveness Panel (MCP).

To date, Motorsport Development UK (MDUK) has spent £11.5 million on the five key priority areas identified by the MCP to support and strengthen the sport and its related industry.

During a debate in the House of Lords on 6 March 2008, *Official Report*, column GC179, Baroness Vadera agreed that a detailed breakdown of spending by MDUK would be provided to the Libraries of the House in due course.

S4C

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people watched S4C on average in each week in the latest period for which figures are available. [200295]

Andy Burnham: S4C have confirmed that during the first quarter of 2008, S4C attracted an average weekly reach of 638,000 individuals across the UK during Welsh language hours.

S4C: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department provided to S4C in each year since 1997. [200296]

Andy Burnham: S4C has a statutory, calendar year grant entitlement under section 61 of the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended). Under this formula, DCMS grant to S4C in each year since 1997 has been:

	Grant £ million
1997	72.223
1998	74.895
1999	77.134
2000	78.218
2001	80.745
2002	81.468
2003	83.634
2004	85.729
2005	88.680
2006	90.855
2007	94.395

Sports: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to increase the number of young people engaging in sporting activities. [201174]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Through our joint PE and Sport Strategy for Young people (PESSYP), the Department is working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to increase the take-up of sporting opportunities among five to 19-years-olds.

Our aim is to sustain and increase current levels of participation by those aged five to 16 in at least two hours of high quality PE and sport at school, and offer five to 19-year-olds at least three hours of sport beyond the school day, delivered by a range of school, community and club providers.

These ambitions will be realised through a range of programmes and activities delivered through Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust, and will be supported by increases in the number of coaches in schools, and a national network of Competition Managers within School Sport Partnerships.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent of corruption in the Afghanistan government; and if he will make a statement. [199345]

Dr. Howells: Corruption is internationally recognised as an issue within the Afghan government and its extent has been researched by a number of organisations. Transparency International's 2007 Corruption Perception Index scored Afghanistan at 1.8, indicating that Afghanistan is an extremely corrupt operating environment (10 = highly clean, 0 = highly corrupt). According to Transparency International, only six countries worldwide are more corrupt than Afghanistan.

The perception of corruption within Afghanistan is also extremely high. The Asia Foundation's 2007 Survey of the Afghan people found that 74 per cent. of people think that corruption is a major problem in Afghanistan as a whole. The Government regularly raises the need to tackle corruption with the Afghan government and is supporting measures to address the issue.

British Council: China

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to encourage the British Council to increase the number of its offices in China. [199859]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The British Council's formal status in China (as the Cultural and Educational Section of the British embassy) means the council is restricted to having offices only in the five Chinese cities in which the UK has an embassy or consulate.

However, the British Council does work across all major cities. For example, last year running its major education fair in Wuhan where it does not have an office. The British Council also runs exams from 40 centres across China and its online presence reaches one million students of English around the country.

China: Science

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the British Council on the improvement of scientific links between China and Britain. [199860]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are regular discussions on the improvement of science links between the two countries through the Global Science and Innovation Forum (GSIF), of which the British Council and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are both members.

The GSIF organises bilateral science and technology joint commissions. The most recent joint commission with China was held on 16 April 2008.

The British Council already works in this area, for instance through its International Network for Young Scientists – a programme which supports joint research in priority fields.

China: Tibet

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to his recent comments on the Today programme, what the special position is of China with regard to Tibet. [199348]

Meg Munn: Successive Governments have regarded Tibet as autonomous while recognising the special position of the Chinese authorities there. We have consistently informed the Chinese government of our view that greater autonomy should be granted to the Tibetans. But like all other EU members, we do not advocate Tibetan independence. We have emphasised that the current political difficulties in Tibet can best be resolved through dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama has stated publicly that he opposes violence and does not seek independence, but greater autonomy for Tibet. We consider that this provides a basis for a negotiated settlement to the issue of Tibet.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on the most recent redesign and implementation of his departmental website. [200168]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The recent upgrade of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) corporate website is part of a wider project to deliver a new web platform and improved web presence for the FCO over five years.

The work will provide a single technical platform for all the FCO websites (including the main FCO website, Arabic and Urdu versions of the FCO website, UKvisas website, the FCO Freedom of Information website, and 229 embassy, high commission and special mission sites in multiple languages) as well as new designs, content, functionality and a new hub and spoke model for delivering business support.

The project will complete in September 2008, by which time all of the FCO Post websites will have joined the new platform and will operate under the central domain, fco.gov.uk.

The initial cost of £9.7 million for the web platform was set out in the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 398W. The project is on target to cost £19.2 million over five years. This includes running costs, for example hosting and support, and some staff salaries. The cost of the project to date is £9.2 million which includes the design and implementation of the FCO and UKvisas websites, and the design of the embassy and high commission websites. It also includes procurement costs, client side advice, setting up regional hubs to provide business support and training. Details of the project and costs were published in Whitehall and Westminster World on 4 April:

http://www.civilservicenetwork.com/index.php?id=41&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34250&tx_ttnews[backPid]=29.

The web is vital for the delivery of the FCO's Departmental Strategic Objectives. More people, in the UK and overseas, have contact with the FCO through the web than through any other channel. The FCO is committed to using the web to deliver its policy goals, as well as key services such as travel advice and visa information.

The project has followed the Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review process and is delivering on time and to budget.

Departmental Telephone Services

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public are in use by (i) his Department and (ii) agencies which report to his Department. [200126]

Meg Munn: There are no 0800, 0845, or 0870 telephone numbers for the public directly in use by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) or its agencies. A contractor, on behalf of consular department of the FCO, runs the Travel Advice service which is accessed via an 0845 number.

Diplomatic Service: Greater London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the liability of diplomats covered by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 for the London congestion charge. [199565]

Meg Munn: We informed all foreign missions in the UK by Note Verbale on 18 March 2002 of our view that there are no legal grounds to exempt diplomatic missions from payment of the London congestion charge. We have repeated this view to all missions on a number of occasions, both formally and informally.

Foreign Press Association

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received concerning the operation of the Foreign Press Association; and if he will make a statement. [199483]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials meet regularly with Committee members from the Foreign Press Association to discuss its operation.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons his Department has discontinued its funding of the Foreign Press Association; and if he will make a statement. [199484]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not discontinued funding to the Foreign Press Association. In accordance with best financial practice, we review regularly our funding of external organisations.

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider restoring funding to the Foreign Press Association; and if he will make a statement. [199485]

Meg Munn: Access to funding was restored to the Foreign Press Association in January 2006.

Gaza: Borders

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in securing the return of EU monitors to the Rafah border crossing with Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [200077]

David Miliband: The EU is ready to consider resuming its border assistance mission at the Rafah crossing, which has been dormant since Hamas took over Gaza last summer, as soon as conditions allow. The EU's High Representative Javier Solana, and the EU Special Representative to the middle east peace process continue to engage Israel and the Palestinian Authority on the re-opening of the crossing.

We continue to call on all parties to work urgently to reopen the Gaza crossings. We look forward to the resumption of normal operations at the crossings under

Palestinian Authority control. With my European colleagues I have continued to call for the continuous provision of essential goods and services, including fuel and power supplies from Israel into Gaza. With other EU Foreign Ministers, I have also announced our support for the Palestinian Authority's proposal to take control of the crossings.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200229]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not provide health and social care services. It does however fund arrangements for UK civil servants and their families whom it employs overseas to receive the range and standard of health and social care services that they would be able to access under the national health service and from Social Services in the UK.

JP Morgan

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid to JP Morgan in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of each payment was. [199616]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no record of any payments made in the UK to JP Morgan since 1997. It would incur disproportionate cost to obtain details from posts about any payments they may have made to this supplier.

Karian and Box

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value was of each contract awarded by his Department to Karian and Box since 1997. [199649]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services have no record of any contracts being awarded to Karian and Box since 1997.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations since the Conference in Annapolis; and what his assessment is of both parties' compliance with *(a)* international law and *(b)* the framework set out in the 2003 Roadmap. [200151]

Dr. Howells: The UK continues to support the ongoing negotiations led by Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian President Abbas; Israeli Foreign Minister Livni and Palestinian Chief Negotiator Ahmed Qurei; and Israeli Defence Minister Barak and Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad. We welcome Israeli Defence Minister Barak's announcement that as a result of discussions on 31 March, there will be improved movement and access inside the West Bank. This demonstrates the importance of the ongoing discussions at a high level between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government.

The UK has consistently called for all sides to abide by international law. We have made clear that Israeli settlement activities are illegal under international law. The UK welcomed the renewed commitment both sides made at Annapolis to the 2003 Roadmap. Both sides need to work to fulfil their obligations under the Roadmap. The Roadmap is clear that Israel must freeze all settlement activity and that the Palestinian Authority must develop an effective security apparatus.

Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 591-2W, on departmental official residences, what guidance he issues on the tax liability of *(a)* Ministers of the Crown in any official ministerial residence and *(b)* former Ministers of the Crown occupying official ministerial residences. [199508]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply to the Parliamentary Secretary, the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for (Mr. Watson) gave to him on 13 March, *Official Report*, columns 591-592W. Former Ministers continue to be responsible for tax liability associated with ancillary services in official residences, while they make arrangements to move to other accommodation.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of steps taken by the new government in Pakistan on improving human rights and democratic governance. [199417]

Dr. Howells: We welcome the statements made by Pakistani Prime Minister Gillani in his address to the National Assembly on 29 March, when he set out his priorities for the first 100 days of his coalition government. He announced measures for democratic reform, indicating that he wished to promote greater parliamentary accountability and engage civil society in the process of strengthening democratic institutions. He called for a revival of trade and student unions and also undertook to revoke laws against press freedom, improve freedom of information legislation and establish a review commission to examine the issue of political prisoners.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether all the funding pledges made at the 2007 Paris Donor Conference for aid to the Palestinians have been disbursed to the Palestinian Authority; and if he will make a statement. [200075]

David Miliband: The 2007 Paris Donor Conference resulted in US$7.7 billion of pledges being made to the Palestinian Authority. These pledges are to be disbursed over the next three years. Therefore the complete US$7.7 billion has not yet reached the Palestinian Authority. The UK pledged to contribute £243 million over three years linked to tangible progress in peace negotiations.

On 2 April my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development announced the disbursement of £32 million for Palestinians in 2008. This money forms part of our Paris pledge and was in response to a request from Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad. We hope our lead will be followed by other donors.

We expect further discussion of this at the next Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, which the UK and Norway will jointly chair in London on 2 May.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the British ambassador in Rabat is monitoring the human rights situation in the occupied Western Sahara; and when the ambassador last visited the occupied territories. [199346]

Dr. Howells: Our ambassador in Rabat and his staff monitor human rights in Western Sahara. They maintain a close and continual dialogue with local and international non-governmental organisations working in the territory.

Our ambassador has not visited the territory, but members of his staff have done so.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in southern Yemen. [200079]

David Miliband: Civil unrest over economic and social issues is growing, especially in the south of Yemen. Most of the grievances are shared nationally: lack of jobs, the rising prices of basic commodities including fuel and food and an inadequate safety net for the genuinely needy. Some southerners are calling for secession from the north and a return to two states, as before 1990. Most Yemenis want a single Yemen and national unity remains safe. But the Government of Yemen needs to address the issues that are generating discontent in the south of their country.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Residence

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of British nationals resident in Zimbabwe. [200078]

David Miliband: Our embassy in Harare has recently conducted a re-registration campaign for British nationals in Zimbabwe. As a result, we estimate that approximately 14,000 people are eligible for British consular support. The embassy is in regular contact with registered British nationals via the well established wardens network across the country.

Zurich Financial Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department paid to Zurich Financial Services in each year since 1997; and what the purpose of the payment was in each case. [199602]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no record of any payments made in the UK to Zurich Financial Services since 1997. It would incur disproportionate cost to obtain details from posts about any payments they may have made to this supplier.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels: Sustainable Development

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2112W, on biofuels, what steps he has taken to ensure palm oil is not used in biofuel without a declaration relating to its sustainable sourcing; and if he will make a statement. [200798]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), which came into effect on 15 April, transport fuel suppliers are required to report on the sustainability of any biofuels in respect of which they wish to earn renewable transport fuel certificates. Details of the reporting requirements are available via the Renewable Fuels Agency's website at http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa. The Renewable Fuels Agency will report regularly on the performance of different transport fuel suppliers. The Government are pressing for EU-wide mandatory sustainability standards for all biofuels: these could be in place by April 2010.

Heating: EC Law

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his assessment is of the suitability of the criteria used in the Energy-using Products Directive for the measurement of boiler energy efficiency. [201492]

Joan Ruddock: The European Commission issued a working document on boilers and water heaters on 31 January. This is a first draft of the Commission's proposed implementing measure on these products under the Framework Directive on the Eco Design of Energy using Products.

The proposals have been assessed by experts working on the Market Transformation Programme and this analysis, together with the views expressed by industry, have been instrumental in developing the Government's position on this. The Government have concerns with both the approach put forward in the working document, and the underlying model used to inform this. The Government made this position clear at a meeting of the Consultation Forum on 28 February and in subsequent written comments. Officials have also spoken to the Commission bilaterally to highlight these concerns and try to agree a way forward.

New Forest Official Verderer

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) for what reason the appointment of the next Official Verderer of the New Forest has not been announced; and when the announcement is to be made; [201365]

(2) whether it is planned that there will be a gap following the expiry of the term of the current Official Verderer before either he is reappointed or another candidate is appointed; and if he will make a statement. [201366]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 24 April 2008]*: An announcement regarding the appointment of the next Official Verderer of the New Forest will be made in due course.

Packaging: Drinks

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce a national deposit system for drinks containers to encourage the public to return used drinks containers to where they were bought from. [200911]

Joan Ruddock: We will be looking at a range of ideas to improve the collection of material for recycling, including drinks containers consumed inside and outside of the home. Looking at deposit schemes will be part of this work.

Any solutions have to make both environmental and economic sense if they are to be successful. In the past, deposit and return schemes have been phased out in this country because they did not make financial sense for the operating companies. We would only support the re-introduction of such systems if they delivered environmental benefits in a practical and cost-effective way.

Recycling

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tonnage of material leaving materials recovery facilities was sent to another materials recovery facility for further treatment in the last 12 months. [200567]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA does not hold the information requested. Local authorities are not required to report material sent from one materials recovery facility to another.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tonnage of materials collected for recycling from households was delivered to the gates of materials recovery facilities in the last 12 months. [200568]

Joan Ruddock: During 2006-07, the latest complete validated data available, 1.3 million tonnes of municipal waste collected for recycling in England was sent to a materials recovery facility for further treatment. This is based on data reported by local authorities to WasteDataFlow.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tonnage of materials collected for recycling from households was rejected at the gate of a *(a)* materials recovery facility and *(b)* recycling processor in the last 12 months. [200569]

Joan Ruddock: During 2006-07, the latest complete validated data available, local authorities reported a total of 89,000 tonnes collected for recycling from household sources as rejected for disposal at a materials recovery facility and a further 32,000 tonnes that were rejected at the gate of a recycling processor. This is based on data reported by local authorities to WasteDataFlow.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to maximise the proportion of recovered materials that reach end reprocessors in a clean state. [200570]

Joan Ruddock: A number of factors determine the quality of recyclable materials, including market price, source, and methods of collection and separation. The Government provide support and advice on recycling to businesses and local authorities via the DEFRA-funded waste and resources action programme (WRAP).

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of materials were sent from materials recovery facilities to *(a)* landfill sites and *(b)* energy from waste facilities in the last 12 months. [200571]

Joan Ruddock: Of the 89,000 tonnes of municipal waste collected for recycling in 2006-07 and rejected at a materials recovery facility, 55,000 tonnes were sent to landfill and nearly 34,000 tonnes were sent for incineration with energy recovery. This is based on data reported by local authorities to WasteDataFlow.

Tree Preservation Orders: Guildford

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on tree preservation orders: Guildford, what the latest timetable is for the disposal of the Epsom Road site. [196076]

Joan Ruddock: The current disposal timetable for the Epsom road site is:

(a) the tender closing date is noon on 4 April 2008;

(b) all bidders will be advised no later than 19 May 2008; and

(c) legal completion of the sale is expected to take place on or before 2 July 2008.

The timings of (b) and (c) may be subject to variation in response to the written bids received.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* given a penalty notice for disorder for knowingly consuming alcohol on licensed premises in each of the last two years. [191308]

Mr. Coaker: The number of young persons under 18 who were issued with a reprimand or final warning, penalty notice for disorder, or proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of knowingly consuming alcohol by an under 18 on relevant premises in England and Wales for the years 2005 to 2006 can be viewed in the attached tables 1 and 2.

From June 2000, cautions for offenders under 18 years old were replaced by reprimands and final warnings.

Number of young persons under 18 years issued with a reprimand or final warning, and proceeded against at magistrates' courts for a certain alcohol offence in England and Wales for the years 2005-06[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

	2005	2006
Offence description	*Proceeded against*	*Reprimanded/final warning*[3]
Individual aged under 18 knowingly consumes alcohol		2

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Individual aged under 18 knowingly consumes alcohol: Licensing Act 2003 S.150 (1)
[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. Reprimands and final warnings are included in the above data.
[4] The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Number of persons issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence of consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises in England and Wales for the years 2006-06[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Number
2005	84
2006	75

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises: Licensing Act 2003 S.150(1)
[3] New legislative reference with effect from 24 November 2005.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source: Court proceedings data held by RDS - Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ministry of Justice

Asylum

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of asylum applications received but not yet determined at the latest date for which figures are available. [197638]

Mr. Byrne: The number of cases recorded as awaiting an initial decision and the number of cases recorded as awaiting an appeal determination is published quarterly and annually. Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Bail

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) for what duration a non-terrorist suspect may be held on continuous bail without being charged; how many times during that period bail may be renewed; and how long a suspect may be held in custody after reporting in at the time limit of continuous bail before bail is renewed again without a charge being brought; [199467]

(2) for how long a non-terrorist suspect may be held in custody without being charged before any type of bail is set; [199468]

(3) what powers the police have to hold in custody a non-terrorist suspect who has not been charged with any offence but who has broken the time limit for continuous bail; and for how long such a suspect may be held in custody for breaking bail. [199469]

Mr. McNulty: Part IV of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 sets out the statutory time limit of 96 hours for an arrested person to be detained at a police station. The custody officer is required to consider whether reasonable grounds exist to believe that detention without charge is necessary or whether bail should be granted. The detention of a person is subject to review by the Review Officer and consideration of extensions of detention from 24 hours to 36 hours is subject to the authority of a Superintendent. Any period in excess of 36 hours is subject to the authority of a magistrate. The detainee must be charged with an offence or referred to the CPS for a charging decision when the custody officer considers there is a realistic prospect of conviction. When bail is granted prior to charge, any time the suspect spends at the police station in answering bail counts towards the detention time limits set out in PACE.

There are no statutory time limits on the period for which a suspect may be released on bail or on the number of occasions in which bail may be granted.

Community Calls to Action

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the provisions relating to community calls to action introduced under the Police and Justice Act 2006 have not been implemented. [199581]

Mr. McNulty: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act contained an amendment to Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. This amendment brought together the two models for Community Calls for Actions. The Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government are now working together to develop plans for implementation.

We have always been clear that the implementation of these provisions would need to give proper consideration to the wider local accountability agenda. We are therefore keen to ensure that implementation of these provisions properly takes into account the findings of Sir Ronnie Flanagan's independent review of policing, along with the proposals to be set out in both Louise Casey's review 'Connecting Communities with the fight against crime' and the Home Office's Policing Green Paper both of which will be published later this year.

Community Policing

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to extend the initiative of distributing in areas of high crime key fobs bearing the name, photograph and contact details of community police officers; and if she will make a statement. [195695]

Mr. McNulty: By April 2008, every community in England and Wales will have a neighbourhood policing team of police officers and police community support officers in place. The teams are dedicated to working with their local communities, agreeing priorities for action and informing the public of their progress. This engagement process has already begun in many places and it will now be developed and extended across all areas of England and Wales.

A new 'Name in Every Neighbourhood' campaign will be running for the coming weeks to make sure people in all areas know their own local Neighbourhood Policing team and how to contact them.

Local communications activity will vary from force to force as they pursue a number of different ideas and innovations to build familiarity and understanding in the most effective manner to suit local circumstances.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent requests she has received from foreign *(a)* governments and *(b)* police forces for information on community policing methods in the UK. [198589]

Mr. McNulty: The successful implementation of neighbourhood policing across England and Wales has attracted wide interest and Home Office officials have met with delegations from foreign governments and police forces including Serbia, Mongolia, the United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan about neighbourhood policing in the UK.

During the Anglo-French summit in London on 27 March my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary met with her colleague, Michele Alliot-Marie, the Minister of the Interior, Overseas France and Local Authorities, and agreed that we would hold a neighbourhood policing seminar in Paris in May.

Community Support Officers: Powers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to review the powers of police community support officers in different parts of the country. [199335]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency is currently conducting a review relating to the PCSO role, including powers.

The review is expected to report this summer and to make recommendations. PCSOs derive their powers from Section 38A of the Police Reform Act 2002. Under the provisions of the Act, the Secretary of State introduced on 1 December 2007 a list of standard powers that apply to all PCSOs in England and Wales. The Home Office has just completed the 2007 audit of current PCSO powers. The results are being analysed and will be placed on the Home Office website in May 2008. A table giving the results of the 2006 PCSO Powers audit may be found on the website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/community-policing

The webpage also provides the list of the standard and discretionary powers available to PCSOs.

Crimes of Violence: Maldon

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person were recorded in Maldon and East Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [201920]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level. The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Crimes of Violence: Wandsworth

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of violence against the person have been recorded in *(a)* Putney constituency and *(b)* the London borough of Wandsworth in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [201557]

Mr. Coaker: Statistics are not collected specifically on a constituency basis. The Home Office does publish statistics at crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) area level (including Wandsworth). The number of offences of violence against the person for each of the last five years by CDRP is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrpog.xls

Also available is a look-up table that identifies which constituencies are associated with CDRPs. In many instances, a CDRP may comprise of more than one

constituency. Conversely, some constituencies will come within two or more CDRPs, either wholly or partially. The look-up table is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/cdrp-constituency-table.xls

Copies of both the statistics table and the look-up table are available in the Library.

Criminal Records

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the population had a criminal record in each year since 1980. [200792]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information which has been requested is not routinely collected.

Figures on the proportions of the population with a criminal history in England and Wales can be found in 'Criminal careers of those born between 1953 and 1978' at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hosb401.pdf

The bulletin gives figures for offenders who have had a court conviction for a 'standard list' offence. 'Standard list' offences include all indictable and certain of the more serious summary offences. This publication follows those born in particular years to analyse the percentage of the population with a criminal history. The years followed are 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973 and 1978. Table 1 of the publication shows that by the age of 45 32.6 per cent. of males and 8.7 per cent. of females born in 1953 had a criminal record in England and Wales.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations she has received on the removal of banners and other materials from Parliament Square; and if she will make a statement; [192532]

(2) on which occasions banners and other materials have been removed by the police from Parliament Square; and if she will make a statement. [192533]

Mr. McNulty: The removal of banners and other materials from Parliament Square is a matter for the Metropolitan Police and the Greater London Authority in as far as Parliament Square Garden is concerned.

We have received representations from a number of Members of Parliament, Peers and members of the public who have expressed concern about the tents, mess and noise from the permanent encampment opposite Carriage Gates.

I am informed by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police that on 23 May 2006 the police took action to seize Mr Haw's banners following his failure to comply with the terms of some of the conditions which had been imposed by the police on his demonstration.

Having consulted widely on managing protests around Parliament and having considered the arguments on how best to balance competing rights in the context of a dynamic security situation, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor announced on 25 March that we are proposing to repeal sections 132 to 138 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. In moving to repeal these provisions, we are also inviting the views of Parliament on whether additional provision is needed to ensure that the operation of Parliament is safeguarded. Our view is that Parliament is well placed to decide what needs to be secured to ensure that Members of both Houses are able freely to discharge their responsibilities. We invite their views on whether additional provisions is needed, for example to keep open the passages leading to the Palace of Westminster and to ensure that excessive noise is not used to disrupt the working of Parliament.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department and its agencies on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertaining in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [188065]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office systems do not separately identify the costs requested and they could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However we do retain records for hospitality provided by both civil servants and Ministers. The spend for 2006-07, the last 12 month period for which there are audited figures, was £91,829.

Home Office expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Hospitality is defined as the provision of food, drink and entertainment of non civil servants where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

For the Department's agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau spend on hospitality was nil and the Identity and Passport Service's spend could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Detention Centres: Children

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were held in immigration removal centres at the latest date for which figures are available. [197676]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office publishes a quarterly snapshot of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter, including the number of people recorded as being under 18 at the time of the snapshot. The latest published information pertains to persons detained as at 29 December 2007 and is published in the quarterly web-based Asylum Statistics bulletin.

Children are detained only in two limited circumstances: first, as part of a family group whose detention is considered appropriate; second, when unaccompanied, while alternative care arrangements are made (and normally only overnight). While the detention of families with children is very regrettable, it

nevertheless remains necessary in appropriate cases in order to maintain an effective immigration control and to tackle abuses of the asylum and immigration system. We are currently piloting an alternative to detention for families with children at an accommodation centre in Kent.

The number of children detained with their families under Immigration Act powers will change from day to day. However, internal management information shows that, as at 26 March 2008, there were 30 children detained with their families under Immigration Act powers. These figures are not broken down into asylum and non-asylum cases. These individuals were all detained as part of families whose detention, as a group was considered necessary.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Driving Offences

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of (i) failure to accord precedence at pedestrian crossings, (ii) failure to comply with traffic signs, (iii) speeding offences, (iv) driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, (v) reckless driving and (vi) driving while disqualified in (A) in each police force area and (B) England and Wales in each year since 1997. [200249]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to answer I gave him on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 664W.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those brought into a police station tested positively for Class A drugs in each year since 1997; and what proportion of those voluntarily agreed to treatment. [200241]

Mr. Coaker: With regard to the percentage of those brought into a police station who test positive for Class A drugs, drug testing of offenders for specified Class A drugs (heroin and cocaine/crack) in police custody came into operation from 2003 across 30 BCUs as part of the drug interventions programme. Since that time the programme has expanded in a phased approach to 66 BCUs in 2004 and some 107 BCUs in 2005.

Only offenders arrested or charged with a "trigger offence"—largely acquisitive crime related offences—are required to provide a sample to be tested for specified Class A drugs.

Between 2003 and 2005 the programme operated drug testing at the point of charge; from 2005 to the present time the programme operated drug testing at the point of arrest. The average rate of positive tests for specified Class A drugs for offenders charged with a trigger offence was:

	Percentage
2003-04	54
2004-05	46
2005-06	45
2006-07	37

The figure for number of offenders entering treatment through DIP includes individuals from both DIP intensive areas (i.e. the 107 BCUs operating drug testing and related interventions) and the non intensive areas of the programme. Offenders from the DIP non intensive BCUs are not drug tested.

The data on the proportion of those who test positive and voluntarily agree to treatment are not available in the format requested. The drug interventions programme does not routinely hold data on those entering treatment only as a result of a positive drug test.

From 2003 the numbers of offenders entering treatment voluntarily through the drug interventions programme are as follows:

	Number
2003-04	1,950
2004-05	16,517
2005-06	24,557
2006-07	39,903

Since the programme began in April 2003 to January 2008, almost 120,000 drug misusing offenders have entered into treatment through DIP.

Entry Clearances: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 796W, on entry clearances: employment, how many dependants of work permit holders who were aged under 16 years were given leave to enter the UK in each year from 1997 to 2003; and how many were from each of the 20 most numerous nationalities in each of those years. [197600]

Mr. Byrne: The requested figures are in the tables provided.

Home Office Statistical publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Passengers recorded as aged under 16, given leave to enter the United Kingdom as dependants of work permit holders, 1997 to 2003

	1997
Country of nationality	*Aged 15 and under*
USA	3,520
Japan	1,685
Korea (South)	690
India	630
Australia	415
South Africa	310
Canada	290
Russia	170
Saudi Arabia	160

Passengers recorded as aged under 16, given leave to enter the United Kingdom as dependants of work permit holders, 1997 to 2003

1997

Country of nationality	*Aged 15 and under*
China	135
Pakistan	130
Israel	100
Nigeria	95
Iran	95
Malaysia	95
Switzerland	90
New Zealand	80
Egypt	80
Brazil	65
Poland	60
Rest of the World	855
Total	9,755

1998

Country of nationality	*Aged 15 and under*
USA	3,590
Japan	1,480
India	815
Australia	540
South Africa	470
Canada	345
Korea (South)	295
China	155
Russia	150
Pakistan	145
Nigeria	120
New Zealand	105
Egypt	95
Israel	90
Malaysia	85
Switzerland	75
Brazil	70
Bulgaria	70
Hungary	70
Turkey	55
Rest of the World	975
Total	9,800

1999

Country of nationality	*Aged 15 and under*
USA	3,720
Japan	1,480
India	1,040
South Africa	625
Australia	570
Canada	370
Korea (South)	365
Russia	255
China	200
Pakistan	180
Nigeria	170
New Zealand	120
Israel	115
Malaysia	95
Egypt	85
Switzerland	80
Iran	70
Bulgaria	65
Trinidad & Tobago	65
Brazil	60
Rest of the World	1,270
Total	10,990

2000

Country of nationality	*Aged 15 and under*
USA	4,015
India	1,375
Japan	1,340
South Africa	650
Australia	605
Canada	390
Korea (South)	275
Russia	225
China	220
Nigeria	220
Pakistan	215
Israel	155
Saudi Arabia	145
New Zealand	140
Philippines	130
Zimbabwe	115
Bulgaria	105
Malaysia	105
Egypt	95
Hungary	85
Rest of the World	1,555
Total	12,175

2001

Country of nationality	*Aged 15 and under*
USA	2,795
India	1,985
Japan	1,145
South Africa	985
Australia	845
Philippines	735
Pakistan	330
Canada	320
Zimbabwe	305
Nigeria	290
Korea (South)	240
China	215
New Zealand	190
Malaysia	155
Israel	145
Russia	145
Zambia	120
Egypt	110
Jamaica	105
Saudi Arabia	100
Rest of the World	1,870
Total	13,130

2002

Country of nationality	Aged 15 and under
USA	2,555
India	2,385
Philippines	1,630
Japan	1,080
South Africa	970
Australia	715
Zimbabwe	395
Pakistan	380
Nigeria	365
China	325
Canada	310
Korea (South)	220
Zambia	185
Malaysia	175
New Zealand	170
Russia	160
Ghana	140
Kenya	125
Israel	125
Bulgaria	110
Rest of the World	2,020
Total	14,535

2003

Country of nationality	Aged 15 and under
India	3,155
USA	2,150
Philippines	1,900
Japan	855
South Africa	795
Zimbabwe	750
Australia	575
Pakistan	565
Nigeria	500
China	425
Canada	285
Zambia	255
Ghana	200
Malaysia	195
Korea (South)	190
Bulgaria	185
Poland	140
New Zealand	125
Russia	120
Kenya	105
Rest of the World	2,140
Total	15,615

Notes:
1. Data rounded to the nearest five, therefore they do not sum to the total shown.
2. Includes nationals of Switzerland before 1 June 2002, but excludes them from this date.
3. This information is not published as National Statistics. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

Entry Clearances: Kenya

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place for checking for tuberculosis in people seeking to enter the UK from *(a)* Kenya and *(b)* South Africa. [197736]

Mr. Byrne: Since February 2007 Kenyan nationals travelling from Kenya, seeking entry to the UK for more than six months, have been required to undergo tuberculosis screening in Kenya before applying for a visa. Those found to have infectious tuberculosis must complete a course of treatment before being issued with a visa.

Nationals from countries where there is a high incidence of tuberculosis, who are seeking entry for more than six months, are referred to the Port Medical Inspector at major ports, who will screen them for tuberculosis by means of an x-ray. This includes passengers from South Africa. If their x-ray is positive then they would be referred to their local community unit for further diagnosis and treatment.

Institute for Animal Health: Pirbright

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are any on-going police investigations relating to the escape of foot and mouth virus from Pirbright Laboratory which are not related to any on-going legal proceedings. [198120]

Mr. McNulty: Any ongoing police investigations relating to the escape of foot and mouth virus from Pirbright Laboratory, whether or not they are related to any ongoing legal proceedings, are a matter for Surrey police.

Metropolitan Police: Recruitment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* new recruits, *(b)* graduate recruits and *(c)* graduate recruits with first or upper second class degrees there were to the Metropolitan police in each of the last five years; [198523]

(2) how much the Metropolitan police spent on *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* other advertising in each of the last five years; and what the budget is for 2008-09. [198526]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally. This is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were recruited to the Metropolitan Police in each year since 1997; and what proportion were recruited directly from other police forces in each year. [198579]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 759W.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Thames Valley, *(c)* Hertfordshire, *(d)* Bedfordshire, *(e)* Kent, *(f)* Suffolk, *(g)* Sussex, *(h)* Surrey and *(i)* Hampshire sought application forms to

join the Metropolitan Police Force in each of the last three years and subsequently made a formal application; and how many Metropolitan Police Force officers (i) sought application forms to join each of these forces and (ii) subsequently made a formal application, in the same period. [199578]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally within the police personnel statistics series.

The numbers of officers who transfer between specific police forces cannot be derived from the centrally collected data.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the replies of the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency to questions 36 to 38 of her evidence session before the Home Affairs Committee on 15 January 2008, how many prisoners are held in detention awaiting deportation or removal following the completion of their custodial sentence; how many have *(a)* served a sentence of more than four years and *(b)* received their sentence for an offence of a violent or sexual nature; if she will break down these prisoners by nationality; and what the longest period spent in detention following completion of sentence is for which such a prisoner currently held in detention has been held. [181850]

Mr. Byrne: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has written to the Home Affairs Committee on several occasions over the past 18 months and provided the most robust and accurate information available on the detention of foreign national prisoners. She explained in her letter of 20 November 2007 that there were around 1,500 foreign prisoners detained past completion of their custodial sentence awaiting deportation and also confirmed in her letter of 17 December 2007 that 1,200 of these were detained within the UK Border Agency's detention estate.

She also explained in her letter of 18 February that there are currently around 250 sentence-expired foreign prisoners from countries where we encounter difficulties in enforcing removal who have been detained under immigration powers beyond nine months. At the session of 15 January she explained that a significant number of foreign criminals come from Jamaica, Nigeria, China and Vietnam. Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

Police National Computer: Personal Records

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from the Data Protection Commissioner on the accuracy of criminal records held on the Police National Computer; and what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of criminal records held on the Police National Computer which contain significant inaccuracies or errors. [198468]

Mr. McNulty: The Data Protection Commissioner was superseded by the Information Commissioner on 30 January 2001, as a consequence of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am not aware of any representations received from the Information Commissioner on the accuracy, number and percentage of criminal records with inaccuracies held on the police national computer. Each criminal record is owned by the originating police force and as such is responsible for the accuracy of the content of the data.

Police Stations

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police stations there were per 1,000 head of population in *(a)* non-rural and *(b)* rural areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement; [198535]

(2) how many police stations were operational in each police force area *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [198587]

Mr. McNulty: The Department does not hold the information requested centrally, and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police Stations: Greater London

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police stations in the Metropolitan Police force area *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in each of the last 10 years. [198595]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the Metropolitan Police estate and allocation of resources is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Civil Proceedings

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful cases were brought by members of the public against the police force for (i) malicious prosecution, (ii) false imprisonment and (iii) assault in each year since 1997; and how much compensation was paid in respect of each case successfully brought. [195696]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally.

Police: Dismissal

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what statutory power the Government have to require the dismissal of chief constables. [198462]

Mr. McNulty: Under section 11 of the Police Act 1996 as amended a Police Authority can require a chief officer to retire or resign in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness, provided the police authority has the approval of the Home Secretary. Under section 42 of the Act the Home Secretary can require a police authority to exercise this power.

Police: Evidence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers are trained to handle digital evidence; and how many police officers are (*a*) serving with computer crime units and (*b*) have higher level forensic skills. [198533]

Mr. McNulty: All police officers receive basic level training in the handling of digital evidence. The number of police officers serving with computer crime units and who have higher forensic skills is not held centrally.

Police: Females

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police officers in each police force area were women in each of the last five years. [198527]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales." The bulletins are available in the Library of the House, and can be downloaded from the publications link within the Research Development and Statistics directorate website located at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.html

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much and what proportion of (*a*) Government spending and (*b*) gross domestic product was spent on policing in each year since 1997. [195693]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Table 1 Government spending on policing

Percentages

Financial year	*As a proportion of total general government expenditure*[1]	*As a proportion of GDP*
1997-98	5.5	1.0
1998-99	5.6	1.0
1999-2000	5.4	1.0
2000-01	5.2	1.0
2001-02	5.3	1.0
2002-03	5.2	1.0
2003-04	5.2	1.1
2004-05	5.1	1.1
2005-06	5.2	1.1
2006-07	5.3	1.1

[1] Local and central Government final consumption expenditure for police as a share of total general government final consumption expenditure.

Source

National Accounts 2007, The Blue Book (Office of National Statistics (ONS)), GDP Deflators at Market Prices, and Money GDP March 2008 (ONS).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average Band D council tax police precept is in (*a*) England, (*b*) Wales and (*c*) England and Wales for 2008-09; [199680]

(2) what the Band D council tax precept of each police authority in England and Wales is for (*a*) 2007-08 and (*b*) 2008-09; and what the average Band D precept for (i) England, (ii) Wales and (iii) England and Wales is for each of those two years. [199679]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Police precept - Band D - set by police authorities in 2007-08 and 2008-09

£

Police authority	*2007-08 precept - Band D*	*2008-09 precept - Band D*
Avon and Somerset	147.17	154.32
Bedfordshire	123.43	135.78
Cambridgeshire	149.40	156.87
Cheshire	136.03	135.75
Cleveland	158.16	171.67
Cumbria	171.09	179.46
Derbyshire	141.91	148.44
Devon and Cornwall	131.73	142.14
Dorset	156.51	164.25
Durham	135.72	142.47
Essex	119.46	122.22
Gloucestershire	179.40	188.45
Greater Manchester	116.14	124.90
Hampshire	125.17	133.58
Hertfordshire	130.17	136.67
Humberside	149.58	156.31
Kent	122.18	129.25
Lancashire	125.95	135.96
Leicestershire	138.96	160.40
Lincolnshire	131.58	215.35
Merseyside	127.51	133.91
Metropolitan	223.60	227.02
Norfolk	164.88	178.56
Northamptonshire	170.21	178.62
Northumbria	74.62	78.27
North Yorkshire	185.40	193.17
Nottinghamshire	138.78	145.62
South Yorkshire	118.92	124.56
Staffordshire	160.15	166.16
Suffolk	137.34	149.67
Surrey	171.27	187.92
Sussex	122.67	128.70
Thames Valley	139.19	144.76
Warwickshire	145.90	164.68
West Mercia	157.66	165.45
West Midlands	91.47	94.67
West Yorkshire	118.02	123.62
Wiltshire	139.35	145.34
England average	147.90	156.69
Dyfed-Powys	157.68	165.51
Gwent	159.94	167.14
North Wales	178.16	186.18
South Wales	132.74	139.38
Wales average	153.03	160.32
England and Wales average	148.21	156.91

Source

English Police Authorities - DCLG

Welsh Police Authorities - WAG

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average (*a*) total direct staff cost, (*b*) total operational support cost, (*c*) total business support cost, (*d*) total cost excluding sustaining overhead was under activity-based costing analysis for providing police assistance for (i) a road traffic accident, (ii) public disorder, (iii) a missing person and (iv) a sudden or suspicious death in each financial year since 2004. [200336]

Mr. McNulty: Data on the average cost of police assistance in dealing with non-crime incidents are not currently available, but will become available for the first time later this year.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the police of (*a*) protecting (i) the British Royal Family, (ii) foreign royals and Heads of State, (iii) Ministers, (iv) members of foreign governments, (v) other British VIPs and (vi) other foreign VIPs and (*b*) of anti-terrorism, Special Branch duties and other national policing was under activity-based costing analysis in each financial year since 2004. [200337]

Mr. McNulty: In relation to question (*a*), the Home Office Dedicated Security Posts (DSP) Grant provides the central contribution to the policing costs for the protection of the Royal Family and VIPs, including visiting VIPs. This annual grant also covers the cost of protecting the residences of the Royal Family and VIPs as well as wider counter terrorism protective security functions including Special Branch policing at ports. The grant is currently allocated based on projected requirements at the beginning of the financial year.

The DSP grant between 2004-05 and 2007-08 was £212.4 million. In 2008-09 it increased to £224,815,322.

For security reasons, we do not provide a breakdown of this grant in respect of Royalty and VIP protective security functions. This is because to do so could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of those concerned.

In relation to question (*b*), the Government make specific grants to the police in respect of counter terrorism policing in addition to the Dedicated Security Posts (DSP) grant. In the years requested these grants have more than trebled as the following table shows:

	Total (£ million)
2004-05	84
2005-06	105
2006-07	197
2007-08	251

However, the Home Office does not hold information centrally on the total cost to the police service for counter-terrorism and other national policing work in the format requested. Such data could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average (*a*) total direct staff cost, (*b*) total operational support cost, (*c*) total business support cost and (*d*) total cost excluding sustaining overhead under activity-based costing analysis was for a police investigation of a (i) violence against the person offence, (ii) sexual offence, (iii) robbery, (iv) deception or fraud, (v) drugs offence, (vi) criminal damage and (vii) other crime in each financial year since 2004. [200339]

Mr. McNulty: Information is collected by the Home Office on (*a*) the total direct staff costs, (*b*) the total operational support costs, (*c*) the total business support costs and (*d*) the total policing costs excluding sustaining overheads for dealing with crime incidents. Values for the offences laid out in the question for England and Wales are set out in the following tables. Table A contains data for the financial year 2006-07, table B for 2005-06 and table C for 2004-05.

Table A 2006-07: national average of the total policing cost (£), excluding sustaining overheads, of dealing with an incident, broken down by crime and cost type

	Direct staff costs	*Operational support costs*	*Business support costs*	*Total costs excluding sustaining overheads*
Violence Against the Person	491	303	181	976
Sexual Offences	2,491	1,677	943	5,110
Robbery	1,156	842	423	2,421
Deception/Fraud	450	293	175	919
Drugs	921	565	352	1,838
Criminal Damage	102	73	40	215
Other Crime	305	239	123	667

Table B 2005-06: national average of the total policing cost (£), excluding sustaining overheads, of dealing with an incident, broken down by crime and cost type

	Direct staff costs	*Operational support costs*	*Business support costs*	*Total costs excluding sustaining overheads*
Violence Against the Person	488	319	181	987
Sexual Offences	2,441	1,576	908	4,925
Robbery	1,176	862	480	2,519
Deception/Fraud	440	260	168	868
Drugs	1,059	670	388	2,117
Criminal Damage	98	72	41	211
Other Crime	302	233	130	666

Table C 2004-05: national average of the total policing cost (£), excluding sustaining overheads, of dealing with an incident, broken down by crime and cost type

	Direct staff costs	Operational support costs	Business support costs	Total costs excluding sustaining overheads
Violence Against the Person	405	284	178	867
Sexual Offences	2,112	1,411	900	4,423
Robbery	1,034	755	475	2,263
Deception/Fraud	308	196	134	638
Drugs	1,085	654	412	2,071
Criminal Damage	86	66	39	191
Other Crime	266	207	121	594

Note:
This data excludes Cambridgeshire which did not return activity based costing data in 2004-05.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were found guilty of unlawful killing using firearms in each of the last 20 years. [198469]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not available centrally.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were *(a)* shot at, *(b)* injured by shootings and *(c)* killed in shootings in each police force area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [198582]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 765W.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent projection is of total police service strength in England and Wales from 31 March 2007 to 31 March 2011. [199579]

Mr. McNulty: Information on police authority projections of police service strength is not routinely collected. It is for chief constables and police authorities to decide how best to use the resources available to them when setting levels of police officers, staff and PCSOs.

Police: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on performance related pay for police officers; and if she will make a statement. [198490]

Mr. McNulty: Effective pay arrangements for police officers are essential for a modern police service which delivers high standards of community safety and security to the public. Police officers should be fairly and appropriately recognised for the work they do. Superintendent, Chief Superintendent and chief officer pay includes an element related to performance.

Officers are also eligible for bonus payments for specific pieces of work. The Home Office together with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities are considering the issue of police pay structural reform. This work is at a very early stage looking at what the objectives should be for any reform of this nature.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last met the *(a)* Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* Prime Minister to discuss police pay arrangements; and if she will make a statement. [200359]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary is in regular communication with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and other Ministers.

Police: Research

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission a research study similar to that which resulted in the publication of the 2001 study A Diary of a Police Officer. [198619]

Mr. McNulty: There are no plans to commission another study similar to A Diary of a Police Officer. The terms of reference for Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Independent Review of Policing, published in February this year, were designed to identify the drivers of unnecessary bureaucracy in the Police Service and will contribute strongly to the ongoing initiatives and reforms to combat this issue.

Police: Sick Leave

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sick days were taken by police officers taken as a result of assault in each police force in England and Wales in each year since 1997; what the average number of days lost per police officer due to assault was in each year; and what the cost was to each police force of such absences in each year. [198577]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1514-15W.

Police: Statistics

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what way the Office for National Statistics is involved in the planning, production and presentation of statistical information relating to the performance of the *(a)* police, *(b)* probation and *(c)* prison services. [198471]

Mr. McNulty: The planning, production and presentation of Home Office national statistics outputs is directly managed by the Home Office Chief Statistician, who as Head of Profession for statistics in the Home Office is directly answerable for professional matters to the National Statistician (who is Head of the Government Statistical Service and is chief executive of the Office for National Statistics).

Performance information used by the department is in most cases based on these national statistics sources as well as other relevant management information. There is a well developed process of consultation with stakeholders both with respect to the Annual Data Requirement for the police and statutory performance indicators used in assessing police performance.

Similar arrangements apply in the Ministry of Justice which is responsible for statistics on probation and prison. National statistics within the Home Office, and across the Government Statistical Service as a whole, are produced in conformance with the National Statistics Code of Practice and its 12 supporting Protocols. These set out all the professional standards which official statistics must meet including those relating to the planning, production and presentation of statistical information. The Home Office's statement of compliance with the Code and Protocols can be accessed at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/statsprog1.html

The UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) began operating on 1 April 2008 as a statutory independent body reporting directly to parliament. This body not only has executive control over the Office for National Statistics, but also has oversight of all UK official statistics. It will conduct a comprehensive programme of assessment of national statistics against a revised code of practice that it is now in the process of being developed. The UKSA also has established the new Publication Hub live from 1 April on www.statistics.gov.uk, which will be a one-stop shop for first releases of national statistics, providing statistics which are accessible, clear, and free from political commentary. The existing code of practice can also be downloaded at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/about_ns/cop

Police: Training

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to chief constables on *(a)* the provision of health and safety training for police officers and *(b)* the risks of (i) criminal prosecution and (ii) civil action resulting from insufficient training. [198611]

Mr. McNulty: The Police Health and Safety Benchmarking Standard was funded by the Home Office and published by the Association of Chief Police Officers in May 2007. It builds on previously issued guidance and serves to raise awareness of the need for sufficient health and safety training.

The management of health and safety services, including training, provided for police officers and police staff is the responsibility of individual chief officers and police authorities. These have clearly set out liabilities and duties of care to their personnel in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation and, where it is found that the required duty of care has not been maintained, are liable for prosecution.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is given to police officers to ensure that suspects are charged appropriately. [199325]

Mr. McNulty: As laid out in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, it is the responsibility of the Custody Officer and/or the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to charge suspects and to ensure that there is sufficient evidence to support that charge.

It is the responsibility of the officer dealing with the suspect to present the relevant evidence to the custody officer or to CPS. All police officers undertake legal training as part of the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme, which includes gathering information and intelligence.

Police: Vehicles

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines her Department provides to chief constables on the purchasing of *(a)* police vehicles and *(b)* environmentally-friendly police vehicles. [198458]

Mr. McNulty: The Efficiency and Productivity Strategy for the Police Service 2008-11, which has been agreed jointly with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, recognises that the police service could obtain better value from expenditure on goods and services, for example through increased collaborative procurement.

The National Policing Improvement Agency has worked with the police service to develop national frameworks for the purchase of vehicles under which forces are offered significant discounts on manufacturers' prices. These have been in place since 1992 and are regularly re-tendered. The arrangements are strongly encouraged by the Association of Chief Police Officers and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary. The most recent version (spring 2005) was designed to assist forces in rationalising the variety of models in use, to encourage standardisation and deliver further increases in value for money.

Police forces continue to evaluate the use of alternative fuels and indeed the National Association of Police Fleet Managers (NAPFM) is taking environmental issues increasingly into account in vehicle procurement on a national scale.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police authorities have converted their fleets, in whole or in part, to run on compressed natural gas, liquid petroleum gas or electricity. [198510]

Mr. McNulty: Police forces continue to evaluate the use of alternative fuels and indeed the National Association of Police Fleet Managers is applying environmental issues increasingly to future vehicle procurement on a national scale. The general trend is to move away from high carbon emission engines, including high performance vehicles. Currently, there are selective uses where non-fossil fuel vehicles can be used but these are very limited at present and are dependent on individual police force operational activities.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she gives to police *(a)* forces and *(b)* authorities on the (i) purchase and (ii) lease of vehicles manufactured in the United Kingdom. [198594]

Mr. McNulty: The police service procures vehicles using framework arrangements managed by National Policing Improvement Agency and the National Association of Police Fleet Managers. It is a legal requirement that such frameworks are procured in accordance with European Union procurement directives and United Kingdom public procurement regulations that prevent discrimination on national grounds. These framework arrangements enable police fleet managers to order vehicles and parts efficiently, thus delivering best value for money to the taxpayer. Since the safety of police officers and the public is paramount, all vehicles procured in this manner must meet demanding police specifications and are subjected to rigorous testing, including EuroNCAP safety ratings.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was recovered under the Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003 *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each police authority area in descending order of amount recovered in each year since its introduction; and how much is in the process of being recovered. [200482]

Mr. Coaker: I would refer the hon. Member to my reply of 8 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 460W. The total amount of confiscation orders and cash forfeiture orders obtained by all agencies in April-December 2007 is £183.9 million. Data for 2007-08 is currently being finalised and validated. It should be available in May.

Terrorism

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will remove the proscription of Hamas under terrorism legislation to enable discussions between the Government and Hamas representatives on the political situation in the Middle East to take place. [192521]

Mr. McNulty: The military wing of Hamas (the Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades) was proscribed in 2001 due to its concern in terrorism. Other parts of Hamas, such as those which deal with its political and social and humanitarian activities, are not proscribed. The proscription of the Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassem Brigades would not therefore preclude discussions with the political leadership of Hamas should circumstances favour such contact.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Office of the Third Sector: Expenditure

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will provide a breakdown by main budget heading of the expenditure of the Office of the Third Sector in 2006-07. [201828]

Phil Hope: The expenditure of the Office of the Third Sector in 2006-07 is set out in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2006-07. This is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/reports/annualreport/resourceaccounts0607.pdf

Copies are also available in the Library of the House.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will provide a breakdown by main budget heading of the £515 million funding announced as part of the publication of the conclusions of the Third Sector review. [201825]

Phil Hope: The £515 million funding announced in the final report of the third sector review includes:

£130 million for the Grassroots Grants programme to provide small grants for community action and voice and endowments for local funders;

£117 million for the youth volunteering organisation, v;

£88.5 million for Capacitybuilders to build infrastructure for the third sector.

An additional £65 million for the Futurebuilders Fund;

£10 million for a community anchors programme;

£6 million for the Commission for the Compact;

£5.4 million for the Regional Development Agencies to improve business support for social enterprise

£5 million for a new national third sector research centre.

£4 million for a programme of training for volunteers and volunteer managers

£2 million for an Access to Volunteering fund to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to volunteer

The remaining funding will be used for a number of other third sector programmes, set out in the third sector review, including the strategic partners programme, work to promote social enterprise and work to enable the transformation of public services by third sector organisations.

Written Questions: Government Responses

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to provide a substantive answer to Question 187174, on correspondence in relation to freedom of information requests to Government departments, tabled on 15 February 2008. [201883]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Secretary replied today and a copy of his response has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefit: Standards

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants were underpaid council tax benefit in 2006-07. [200840]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* linkages and *(b)* cross checks (i) exist and (ii) are planned between the data records of individuals whose data is stored on databases maintained by (A) his Department and (B) other departments. [200101]

Mr. Timms: The Department carries out many large and small scale data cross-checks and matches between its own various systems and between its systems and those of other Government Departments, as the law allows. This is in order to deliver effective services to many different types of customers.

However, detail of the individual linkages and checks is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on IT projects since 2005; and what estimate he has made of its total expenditure on IT projects between 2005 and 2010. [200070]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is as follows.

Project	*Purpose*	*Actual expenditure since 2005 (April 2005 to March 2008) (£ million)*	*Estimate of total expenditure 2005-10 (April 2005 to March 2010) (£ million)*
Pensions transformation project	The programme will transform the Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies.	352	417
Customer information system	This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. Personal Details Computer System and Departmental Central Index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by Other Government Departments.	54	61
Document repository service	This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation.	5	9
Central payments system (formerly part of payment modernisation)	A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/pension payments, reduce risks of service failure, increased speed and efficiency, and information for improved customer service and reduced fraud and error.	45	138
Customer management system (previously known as working age services modernisation project (WASMP)	CMS system is a front-end data gathering system for primary Jobcentre Plus benefit processing systems, including auto-transfer of data. Subsequent releases of the system have updated and improved efficiency.	42	42
Employment and support allowance	The project delivers the system and processes to implement the new ESA allowance.	108	295
HR IS/IT programme	Following the merger of the Employment Service and the Benefits Agency human resources functions in the DWP, HR organisation underwent modernisation. Moving from a centralised, old-style personnel function to a new outward facing HR Group. This included changing how DWP delivers policies and services. The HR IS/IT Programme contributed to the delivery of these improvements ensuring its operation is efficient and effective and supports Departments learning and leadership objectives.	29	29
On time solution	Provide a range of improved information services to DWP businesses, including improved quicker management information, fraud and error intervention and analysis.	7	11
Operational improvement plan[1]	Operational and organisational restructuring of the Child Support Agency to deliver more money to more children.	85	110
Provider referrals and payment project	Deploy an IT system to automate and e-enable transactions between Jobcentreplus and external training providers.	0	17
Web enabled local service system	Provide a solution to replace the existing standalone IT used by Local Services (LS) providing LS flexibility	1	5

Project	Purpose	Actual expenditure since 2005 (April 2005 to March 2008) (£ million)	Estimate of total expenditure 2005-10 (April 2005 to March 2010) (£ million)
Pension reform delivery programme	To co-ordinate, manage and deliver a range of measures and consequential impacts which will establish a new structure for the UK pension system long term.	13	95
Fraud referral and intervention management system	This project develops and delivers a core IT platform that provides a lasting foundation for modern flexible IT support of business priorities, by introducing a new system to provide the Programme Protection Community with a single national data store of all fraud, compliance and risk cases.	28	29
DWP change programme	This programme brigades a number of complementary initiatives to deliver the DWP business vision. Including major projects to, bring in continuous improvement using Lean techniques which should allow greater customer focus and efficiency in our process and business change projects to allow greater access to information.	24	203
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission[2]	To establish a new child maintenance system that delivers more money to more children and better value for money to the taxpayer.	14	222
Real time pensions forecasts (RTPF) – strategic alignment	To strategically align the RPTF e-service by utilising the Retirement Planner Project (RPP) solution (with RTPF service 'ring-fenced') and moving to the Corporate Integration Backbone (GIB) and Distributed Known Facts model.	1	1
State pension deferral project	To identify, co-ordinate, assure, communicate and deliver changes to business systems and process, within timescales, to secure the introduction of changes to state pension deferral rules.	5	5
Resource management	This programme provided modernised HR, financial and procurement functions for DWP staff. It introduced significant business process change, enabling departmental resources to be managed more effectively.	111	111
Benefits processing replacement programme (BPRP)	The Benefits Processing Replacement Programme (BPRP) was formally launched in November 2004 to consider a replacement for existing IT legacy systems to calculate benefit payments in Jobcentre Plus (JCP) and the Disability and Carers Service (DCS). The Programmes' delivery activities were suspended in May 2006, and work commenced to bring the programme to an early closure and to consider re-alignment of the IS/IT Strategy.	106	106
Debt management	To bring increased focus to the management, recovery and accounting of benefit debt owed to the department.	20	20

[1] The Child Support Agency Operational Improvement Plan is a business recovery programme and is not a business change project in the normal sense. The focus of the programme is the organisational and operational restructuring of the agency to deliver significant performance improvements, getting more money to parents. It specifically aims to tackle the key area of debt, compliance and enforcement. Over a three year period the programme will design, develop and implement process and organisational change underpinned by continuing remediation of existing computer systems and the introduction of further IT enhancements in preparation for the new CMEC organisation.

[2] At this stage, with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission yet to be established, these costs are best viewed as planning assumptions. They will depend ultimately on how C-MEC will configure its services; the details and timing of the transitional arrangements to the new scheme; and the choices that parents will make. All of these factors are subject to significant uncertainties. It should also be noted that estimated IT costs account for less than 20 per cent of the overall costs.

Notes:

1. These costs represent the investment costs of implementing the particular project and programme. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included above as in the vast majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial and non financial benefits they generate. These savings are demonstrated in the NAO report 'The Efficiency programme: A Second Review of Progress'.
2. Initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of business as usual have not been included.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by Senior Civil Service staff in his Department and its agencies in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [187549]

Mrs. McGuire: The amount claimed by senior Civil Service staff within the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies for the 12 month period ended 31 March 2008 was £887,000.

Departmental Risk Assessment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what risk management measures his Department has put in place in the last three years. [200469]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has in place a comprehensive set of risk management arrangements. These are subject to ongoing review/revision so that they continue to meet current and future needs. At all times the Department has seen risk management as integral to managing its business and to the successful achievement of its aims, targets and objectives.

Since 2005 the Department has introduced and/or enhanced a number of risk management measures. These are:

(i) The Department's strategy for managing risk is outlined in its Risk Management Framework (RMF), which was re-launched in September 2006 to reflect departmental and external best practice. In accordance with the Orange Book, the Framework sets out the policy, principles and concepts of risk management that have been endorsed by the Permanent Secretary's Executive Team (ET) and also introduced a common approach and language to risk management that promotes the communication, shared understanding and reporting of risk. This has aided the sharing and communication of risk information. Further updates to the RMF were issued in July 2007 and January 2008.

(ii) During the 2004 Spending Review period members of the Permanent Secretary's ET were individually accountable for the management of risks to the achievement of Public Service Agreement targets and supporting him in the management of the strategic risks that the Department faced to the delivery of its key outcomes. This will also be taken forward in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review period.

(iii) Each quarter, the ET Planning Performance and Risk Sub-Committee (PPRC) discuss the management of the Department's strategic risks. Specifically, they:

take decisions on which (if any) risks need to be escalated from business to strategic level for ET's attention;

focus on cross-cutting or strategic issues which require a corporate approach;

make recommendations to ET for their resolution, and;

consider the departmental risk in the context of overarching business performance.

This committee was established in September 2005 with board level representation from businesses across the Department and is chaired by the Finance Director General.

At their subsequent meetings, the ET formally review recommendations made by PPRC. Management of strategic risk is also subject to independent review and challenge by the departmental board. Additionally, the departmental Audit Committee is briefed on the Department's risk management arrangements.

A set of mandatory risk categories was introduced in 2007. These categories support a common language that promotes discussion, identification and analysis of common themes and aggregation of risks that can help identify possible common mitigation actions.

Risk related information has been brought together within a dedicated DWP intranet site that gives details of products and links to further information. These include:

Details of departmental risk management training courses (these courses subject to continual review)

Internal guidance and toolkits

External risk internet sites

Examples of good practice.

In January 2007 a new Risk Assurance Director was appointed from the banking industry. This external appointment has brought added value and private sector expertise into DWP which has led to improvements in internal audit practice and an increased strategic approach to risk management.

Disability Living Allowance: Appeals

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the maximum time is which has elapsed between a claim being made for disability living allowance and a claimant's appeal against a refusal of such an application being upheld since the allowance was introduced; [198700]

(2) what percentage of appeals brought by unsuccessful claimants of disability living allowance have been upheld in each of the last five years. [198701]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 21 April 2008]:* The information is not available to answer the hon. Member' first question.

With regard to the second question such information as is available is given in the following table.

Disability living allowance appeals

	Percentage decided in favour of customer	*Appeals to the Tribunal Service as percentage of DLA live case load*
2003-04	50.8	3.2
2004-05	50.0	3.2
2005-06	49.4	3.0
2006-07	47.1	2.7
2007-08	45.3	2.4

Source:
DLA Legacy systems.

The table shows the proportion of disability living allowance appeals that have been decided in the customer's favour by the Tribunals Service for the last five years. The numbers include customers who received an increase (including an increase from nil entitlement) in the level of, or period of entitlement to, benefit, compared to the original decision by the Disability and Carers Service.

No information is available differentiating between appellants whose claim was initially disallowed and those whose claim led to some entitlement prior to appeal.

To provide an indication of the incidence of appeals, the table also shows that the number of appeals submitted to the Tribunals Service, as a percentage of the total DLA live case load, has decreased over the last five years.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, Official Report, column 327. [200225]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has no intention of duplicating NHS health or social care services provided for the general public out of public funds.

Housing Benefit

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what guidance he has given to the Rent Service on determining the extent of broad rental market areas for the purposes of local housing allowance; [201971]

(2) if he will publish the methodology adopted by the Rent Service in determining broad rental market areas. [201972]

Mr. Timms: It is the responsibility of the rent officer, an independent statutory officer, to determine the broad rental market areas for local housing allowance purposes. Guidance for the rent officer in England in that role is provided by The Rent Service, an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions.

A copy of the guidance for the rent officer in determining the broad rental market areas has been placed in the Library.

This guidance is also available on The Rent Service website:

www.therentservice.gov.uk

Incapacity Benefit

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there will be any differences in the amount paid to people in receipt of incapacity benefit and those to receive employment support allowance. [199259]

Mrs. McGuire: Employment and Support Allowance is an entirely new benefit with a new rate structure. So there will be differences in the amount paid to people in receipt of incapacity benefits compared to those who receive the new Employment and Support Allowance.

The key Employment and Support Allowance main phase rates are £84.50 a week for those in the Work Related Activity Group and £89.50 a week for those in the Support Group. The poorest among the most severely disabled in the Support Group will also receive an automatic passport to the Enhanced Disability Premium, taking their benefit to £102.10 a week. Main phase rates are awarded to those who satisfy the Work Capability Assessment at the end of the 13-week assessment phase.

Industrial Health and Safety: Public Buildings

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* regulatory framework and *(b)* accreditation system is for those offering third party advice on health and safety issues in relation to sites or buildings used by members of the public, with particular reference to risk assessments. [200413]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The regulatory framework for those offering third party advice to employers on health and safety at work matters, including on risk assessment in relation to sites or buildings used by members of the public, is provided by Regulation 7 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. This Regulation requires such advice to be provided by 'competent' persons, and regards a person as competent where 'he has sufficient training and experience or knowledge and other qualities to enable him to properly assist' the employer.

There is no statutory accreditation system for those offering third party advice on health and safety issues.

Jobseekers Allowance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average and *(b)* target times were for processing (i) on-line and (ii) paper applications for jobseekers allowance in each of the last five years. [200585]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 April 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the average and target times for processing on-line and paper applications for Jobseekers Allowance in each of the last five years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information is not available in the format requested. We cannot identify the time taken to process claims by method of application.

The information that is available is contained in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance—average processing times and target times 2003-04 to 2007-08

Days

Reporting year	*Average processing time*	*Target time*
2003-04	11.1	12.0
2004-05	12.1	12.0
2005-06	14.5	12.0
2006-07	14.3	12.0
2007-08	10.6	12.0

Jobseekers Allowance: Internet

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for jobseekers allowance were made using the on line application form in each of the last five years. [200583]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 April 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the number of on-line applications made for jobseekers allowance. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

E-claims are the online application forms used for customers to register an intent to claim working age benefits.

The e-service was introduced in the 2006/07 operational year. We do not currently hold data breaking down e-claim applications by benefit type. The available information set out in the table below details the total volume of e-claim applications received in Jobcentre Plus.

	Volume of E-claims received
2007/08	163,402
2006/07	34,848

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent assessment is of the efficiency of the on line application option for jobseekers allowance; and with what regularity such assessments are made. [200584]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 23 April 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 April 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about his most recent assessment of the efficiency of the on-line application option for jobseeker's allowance; and the regularity with which such assessments are made. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Enabling customers to initiate their claim for Jobseekers Allowance online offers customers the choice of channel and the opportunity to access the service at a time that suits them. The development of self service channels also allows Jobcentre Plus to focus our more resource-intensive face to face activity on customers who need more help.

Currently the online service allows customers to register their intention to claim, to which we respond with a telephone call to the customer to take full claim details. We have undertaken a technical review to investigate how we can improve the service, which will complement the longer term strategy of allowing customers to submit full claim details over the internet.

Over the next three years we will be developing further self service telephony and internet options, informed by better customer insight to ensure that they are easy and convenient for customers to use.

Maternity Benefits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of maternity allowance was in each year since it was introduced. [200577]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those completing participation in the *(a)* New Deal for Young People, *(b)* New Deal 25 Plus, *(c)* New Deal 50 Plus, *(d)* New Deal for Lone Parents, *(e)* New Deal for Disabled People and *(f)* New Deal for Partners were doing so for the (i) first, (ii) second, (iii) third, (iv) fourth and (v) fifth or more times in each month since each such programme was established. [190581]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 29 February 2008]:* Participants on New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 plus who are claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) are expected to follow a structured routeway through New Deal which they are expected to follow. However, people can leave JSA and thus leave New Deal at any point and there is no strict definition of "completing" these programmes. People on the four voluntary New Deals can leave them at any point and there is also no definition of completing these programmes.

New Deal repeaters are more likely to enter employment from their second spell on the programme than their first, and from their third spell than their second. Each period on New Deal moves participants closer to the labour market.

The available information on the number of people who have started each New Deal, and the number of times they have started, has been placed in the Library.

Osteopathy

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to encourage the use of osteopathy to assist people in becoming fit to work. [199824]

Mrs. McGuire: We recognise that osteopathy has the potential to contribute to our welfare reform agenda, in particular by helping incapacity benefit claimants suffering from musculoskeletal disorders to manage or overcome their conditions. However, we currently have no plans to develop specific proposals on the use of osteopathy.

Following receipt of Dame Carol Black's review, "Working for a healthier tomorrow", the Government are currently considering what they need to do more widely to improve the health of the working age population and help more people with health conditions manage their condition and retain or move into work. A formal response to this review is planned for later in the year.

Remploy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* disabled and *(b)* non-disabled employees of closed Remploy factories have (i) been placed in sheltered employment, (ii) been placed in mainstream employment, (iii) taken voluntary redundancy pay and (iv) taken compulsory redundancy pay. [198242]

Mrs. McGuire: At 10 April 2008, nine disabled employees of Remploy have been placed in sheltered employment. 185 disabled employees have opted to stay on Remploy terms and conditions in mainstream employment. To date 11 disabled employees have been placed into permanent work, 33 disabled employees have been placed into work trials which should lead to a permanent job and six disabled employees are currently in training. Remploy is working actively with the other employees to assist them into mainstream employment.

349 disabled employees opted for early retirement with voluntary redundancy. 630 disabled employees took voluntary redundancy, but were too young to retire. Around 104 of these have already found new jobs in mainstream employment. There were no compulsory redundancies for disabled people as part of the modernisation programme.

No non disabled employees have been placed at a sheltered workshop or placed by Remploy into mainstream employment. 98 non disabled employees took compulsory redundancy. None took voluntary redundancy.

Remploy: Wisbech

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the decision to close the Wisbech Remploy factory was taken; who took the decision; what effect on his Department's expenditure there will be as a result of the closure; and what the estimated site value of the factory is. [194114]

Mrs. McGuire: All 11 employees and the Manager at the Wisbech Remploy factory volunteered for redundancy. In the absence of any quality work for the factory the company accepted the redundancy applications. Remploy advised stakeholders on 25 February that the Wisbech factory would close.

There will be no effect on the Department's planned expenditure of £555 million over the five years of the modernisation plan, as a result of the closure. The site has no commercial value to Remploy because it is on short term rental from the local council.

Social Security Benefits: Polygamy

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in recognised polygamous marriages were claiming state benefits in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by type of benefit. [201696]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of children lived in workless households in each year since 2005. [200808]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking what proportion of children lived in workless households in each year since 2005. [200808]

Estimates are provided from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). There are currently no annual household datasets available, so the figures are given for the April-June quarter to be consistent with those published in the 'Work and worklessness among household First Release' (see web link

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/work0807.pdf).

The proportion of children in UK working-age workless households was 15.8 per cent. in 2005, 15.6 per cent. in 2006 and 15.9 per cent. in 2007.

The data on the proportion of children living in UK working-age workless households from 1997 can be found at the following we link

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/worklessness/Table_3i_Calendar_Qtrs.xls

The household datasets (like the main quarterly LFS microdatasets) are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in February and March 2003. They do not incorporate the more recent population estimates used in the headline LFS series.

A workless household is defined as a household that includes at least one person of working-age (a woman aged 16 to 59 or a man aged 16 to 64) where no-one aged 16 or over is in employment.

The LFS is a sample survey covering over 52,000 households in the United Kingdom in each three month period. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

JUSTICE

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what criminal offences have been created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since July 2007; [198282]

(2) what criminal offences have been abolished by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since its creation. [198320]

Mr. Straw: The offences created, and the offences which have been repealed, in primary legislation sponsored by my Department, are contained in the following table. This includes the offences in Part 2 of the Serious Crime Act, although the legislation as a whole was sponsored by the Home Office. Some of the legislation is not yet in force. There is some additional information about offences, which due to an oversight, was not included in my answer to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 163-65W. I am writing to the right hon. Member about this.

Act of Parliament	*Date of Royal Assent*	*Offence(s) created*	*Offences repealed*
Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007	26 July 2007	Manslaughter by an organisation caused by gross failure of the organisation's management or organisation	The common law offence of manslaughter by gross negligence in its application to corporations

Act of Parliament	*Date of Royal Assent*	*Offence(s) created*	*Offences repealed*
Legal Services Act 2007	30 October 2007	Carrying on a reserved legal activity if not entitled, or through a person not entitled; Pretending to be entitled to carry out a reserved legal activity; Pretending to be a Barrister; Failing to identify a non-authorised person in a licence application or when that information becomes available; notifying anon-authorised person of the disclosure; Knowingly providing false information or documents to a licensing authority; Breaching duty of notification to a licensing authority; Failing to comply with a Notice Prohibiting Payment; Failing to comply with a notice to produce or deliver documents; Falsifying, Concealing destroying or disposing of documents or causing that offence; Knowingly or recklessly providing false or misleading information; Failing to comply with an Order made by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.	Doing any act in the purported exercise of any right granted to an authorised practitioner when not an authorised practitioner; Unauthorised person acting as a notary for gain; Unqualified person drawing or preparing any instrument relating to real or personal estate or lodging any document for land registration; Unqualified person drawing up instruments or taking instructions for grant of probate or administration for a fee; Commencing a prosecution or defending an action for bankruptcy while in jail; Contravening rules about qualification of partnerships and bodies corporate; Intentionally altering, suppressing or destroying documents required by the OFT; Breaching conditions of control or publicity within the Trade Marks Act 1994.
Offender Management Act 2007	26 July 2007	Modified offences of conveying prohibited articles into or out of prison. Created offences of the unauthorised use of certain articles in prison, and of conveying restricted documents out of prison.	
Serious Crime Act 2 07 (Home Office sponsored Act but Ministry of Justice sponsorship for Part 2)	30 October 2007	Offences of assisting and encouraging crime to modernise and reform the law in this area.	Offence of incitement to commit criminal offence.
Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007	19 July 2007	Unauthorised use or disclosure of debtor information; Purporting to act as an enforcement agent without being authorised; Intentionally obstructing a person lawfully acting as an enforcement agent; Intentionally interfering with controlled goods without lawful excuse.	

Driving Under Influence: Drugs or Alcohol

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were convicted of driving while impaired through drugs or other substances, excluding alcohol, in *(a)* Chorley borough and *(b)* Lancashire in 2006-07; [200431]

(2) how many people were convicted of driving while impaired through alcohol in *(a)* Chorley Borough and *(b)* Lancashire in 2006-07. [200432]

Maria Eagle: Within the Lancashire police force area in 2005 (latest available) there were 2,723 findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs. 2006 data will be available later this year; 2007 in 2009.

The figure provided covers both drink and drugs offences combined, as volumes of prosecutions and convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established.

Information is available at police force area level only.

Drugs: Sentencing

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 890-2W, on drugs, what the average custodial sentence given to those convicted of dealing *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* LSD, *(d)* ecstasy and *(e)* cannabis was in each of the last five years. [200628]

Mr. Straw: The requested information is contained in the following table:

Average determinate custodial sentence length[1] for persons sentenced to immediate custody for supplying a controlled drug, all courts, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006 England and Wales

	Average custodial sentence length (months)				
Controlled drugs	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Heroin	41.1	39.4	40.2	36.4	36.6
Cocaine	43.1	44.1	43.6	41.5	38.3
LSD	28.0	29.2	30.5	39.6	44.8
Ecstasy	30.7	31.2	30.9	29.2	29.0

Average determinate custodial sentence length[1] for persons sentenced to immediate custody for supplying a controlled drug, all courts, England and Wales, 2002 to 2006, England and Wales

	Average custodial sentence length (months)				
Controlled drugs	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cannabis[2]	16.5	14.8	8.0	11.4	13.8

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.
[2] In January 2004 Cannabis was reclassified from a Class B to a Class C drug.

Notes

1. All figures are for the offences of supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug and for having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source

Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice 22 April 2008

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department provides health or social care services out of public funds, with reference to the Statement by the Minister of State, Department of Health, in the Health and Social Care Bill Committee, of 17 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 327. [200221]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice does not provide any such services directly. However, contracted prisons are provided with a single contract price to provide all the services specified in their contract. This includes health services. Similarly, it is a requirement in contracts with providers of secure training centres and places in secure children's homes that these providers commission health services.

High Court: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many High Court Judge sitting days there were in Birmingham for (*a*) criminal cases, (*b*) the Family Division, (*c*) the Chancery Division, (*d*) the Mercantile Court, (*e*) the Technology and Construction Court and (*f*) the other areas of the Queen's Bench Division in each of the last four years. [200348]

Maria Eagle: Figures for the number of High Court judge sittings in Birmingham for the last four years are shown in the following table:

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Crime	352	397	375	474
Family	168	180	211	215.5
Chancery and Mercantile	318	406	385.75	376
Technology and Construction	179	167.5	171.5	187.5
Other Queen's Bench	426	386.5	467	445.5
Total	1,443	1,537	1610.25	1698.5

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to answer the letter to him dated 7 March 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. D. Carroll. [201121]

Mr. Straw: I replied to the right hon. Member on 22 April. I apologise for the delay.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 4 March 2008, on the transcript of an appeal proceeding (reference: 192972/43442); [201509]

(2) when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 29 February 2008, transferred from the Attorney-General, on Jewish courts; [201512]

(3) when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 6 March 2008, on the Electoral Reform Campaign (reference: 193307). [201513]

Bridget Prentice: The Under-Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) replied on 22 April to the hon. Member's letter of 4 March, and the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) replied on 17 April to the hon. Member's letter of 6 March. I replied on 22 April to the hon. Member's letter of 29 February. I apologise for the delay.

Powers of Attorney

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times the Court of Protection suspended an individual's power of attorney over another in each year for which figures are available. [201288]

Bridget Prentice: Prior to October 2007 and the introduction of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Court of Protection could rule on whether the existing registration of an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) was to be cancelled, or whether an objection to the registration of a currently unregistered EPA was to be upheld and the instrument not registered.

Since October 2007, the Public Guardian is responsible for registering both the old EPAs and the new Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) that came into force with the new Act. The court, on an application, can still similarly direct the cancellation of the registration of a power of attorney or direct the Public Guardian not to register a power.

Both prior to October 2007, and since the new regime came into force from October, the court has not recorded statistics relating to the cancellations of

existing registrations of either EPAs or LPAs and this information is therefore not readily available.

I have asked my officials to see whether it may be possible to extract some information in this area from the IT systems that record registrations of powers of attorney. It may be possible to provide further data on the number of powers that remain unregistered following an application to the Court of Protection objecting to the registration. I will write to the hon. member shortly with the results of this exercise.

Prison Service

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers left each prison due to (*a*) retirement, (*b*) resignation, (*c*) transfer to another prison and (*d*) other reasons in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [199962]

Maria Eagle: Information on the total number of officer grade staff (*a*) retiring, (*b*) resigning (*c*) transferring and (*d*) leaving for other reasons, from all Prison Service establishments since 2001 are contained in the following tables. A breakdown for each prison has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Prison officers, senior officers and principal officers leaving public sector establishments, 2001 to 2007

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Retirements	494	415	428	399	374	334	287
Resignations	526	488	546	558	558	571	532
Transfer to other establishment	768	1,833	1,228	1,254	1,102	1,236	1,205
Other leavers	299	334	455	372	348	351	352

Prison custody officers leaving private sector establishments, 2001 to 2007 (partial data)[1]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Retirements	0	1	2	0	0	2	1
Resignations	75	62	131	225	377	344	316
Transfer to other establishment	11	8	7	1	4	8	9
Other leavers	18	3	17	51	80	78	46

[1]This table is said to contain partial data because information was not supplied by all contractors. The details of where data was not provided is contained in the individual tables available from House Libraries.

Prisoners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) at what average distance from their homes (*a*) all male offenders, (*b*) adult male offenders, (*c*) young adult male offenders and (*d*) juvenile male offenders were held in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [199910]

(2) at what average distance from their homes (*a*) all female offenders, (b) adult female offenders, (*c*) young adult female offenders and (*d*) juvenile female offenders were held in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [199911]

(3) how many (*a*) male offenders, (*b*) adult male offenders, (*c*) young adult male offenders and (*d*) juvenile male offenders were held over 100 miles away from their home in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [199912]

(4) how many (*a*) all female offenders, (*b*) adult female offenders, (*c*) young adult female offenders and (*d*) juvenile female offenders were held over 100 miles away from their home in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [199913]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the average distance from home for male and female prisoners (including young offenders for each gender) in each of the last five years.

Miles

	Male			*Female*		
	Average distance from home for all male prisoners	*Average distance from home for adult male prisoners*	*Average distance from home for male young offenders aged under 21*	*Average distance from home for all female prisoners*	*Average distance from home for adult female prisoners*	*Average distance from home for female young offenders aged under 21*
2003	52	52	48	68	69	65
2004	51	51	50	62	61	66
2005	49	49	50	58	55	56
2006	50	49	50	58	58	58
2007	49	50	50	55	59	54

The following table shows how many offenders were held over 100 miles away from their homes for male and female offenders (including young offenders for each gender) in each of the last five years.

Number

	Male			Female		
	All male prisoners held over 100 miles from home	Adult male prisoners held over 100 miles from home	Male young offenders held over 100 miles from home	All female prisoners held over 100 miles from home	Adult female prisoners held over 100 miles from home	Female young offenders aged under 21 held over 100 miles from home
2003	11,900	10,900	1,000	1,250	1,100	100
2004	10,150	9,200	950	1,083	900	100
2005	9,750	8,800	950	700	600	100
2006	11,150	10,000	1,150	850	800	50
2007	11,350	10,100	1,250	850	800	50

Figures for both tables are taken from sample data, not necessarily in the same month each year. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. For data relating to offenders held over 100 miles from home, the data have been rounded.

Where no home address is listed for a male or female prisoner or young offender the committal court is used as a proxy address for their home.

The definitions for young offenders and juvenile offenders have changed within the last five years and so these have been grouped together to include all offenders under 21 years old.

Prisoners: Females

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of female offenders were placed in prison on remand in (*a*) each of the last 10 years and (*b*) in 2008 to date; and if he will make a statement. [199907]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of females received into prison establishments on remand for the years 1997 to 2006 (latest available) can be found in table 1. These data are taken from the Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

It is not possible to provide information on the proportion of female offenders who are remanded in custody, as data on the number of female offenders come from a separate system, the Court Proceedings Database, and therefore are not comparable with the prison receptions data. However, the number of females found guilty at all courts for 1997 to 2006 (latest available), on a principal offence basis, is given in table 2. Data for 2008 are not yet available.

Table 1: Number of females received into prison establishments on remand: 1997 to 2006, England and Wales

Number of females

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Prisoners on remand	5,124	6,258	6,721	6,584	7,191	8,690	9,032	7,978	7,660	7,498
Untried[1]	3,974	4,540	4,587	4,026	4,122	4,954	5,238	4,726	5,173	5,361
Convicted unsentenced[2]	2,436	3,442	3,935	3,793	4,349	5,450	5,659	4,860	4,634	4,327

[1] Awaiting commencement or continuation of trial prior to verdict.
[2] Awaiting sentence.

Note:
Data Sources and Quality: These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, but the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and so although shown to the last individual, the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Source:
Offender Management Caseload Statistics.

Table 2: Number of females found guilty at all courts, 1997 to 2006, England and Wales

Number of females

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Convictions	217,137	235,578	219,980	256,018	237,622	258,756	260,672	279,583	282,732	277,629

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences at the same court proceeding, they have only been counted once in this table.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Court Proceedings Database

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of women released from prison were reconvicted within two years in each of the last five years, broken down by the length of the original sentence; and if he will make a statement. [199908]

Maria Eagle: The number of female offenders and the actual two-year rate of re-offending for females released from prison between 2000 and 2004 is show in the following table.

	Total number of females discharged from prison	Actual rate of re-offending (percentage)	Number of female re-offenders
2000	1,259	58.2	733
2001	[1]	[1]	[1]
2002	1,222	64.6	789
2003	1,199	63.4	760
2004	1,408	64.3	906

[1] No data available

We do not publish this data broken down by length of original sentence.

For each year, statistical records on individual prison discharges and community sentence starts are matched to the Police National Computer to extract criminal history and re-offending information used to produce the published re-offending figures which cover probation and prison combined. The 2001 re-offending results are not available, because the probation data archive file for that year is corrupt and we have not matched prison discharges alone as re-offending figures for the combined dataset are the main performance measure used.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of women prisoners had dependent children in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [200113]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service does not routinely keep information on the number of prisoners that have dependent children. However, the 2003-04 resettlement survey commissioned by the then Prison Service Custody to Work Unit showed that half of all female prisoners had dependent children (including stepchildren), and that 46 per cent. of those women had lived with at least one dependent child before custody.

Prisoners: Training

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours a week of vocational training was provided on average to prisoners and juvenile offenders in each of the last five years, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [199935]

Maria Eagle: Vocational training data are included within the data collated for purposeful activity and are collated at the level of prison establishment. The following tables show the average number of hours of vocational training per week in prisons which predominately hold non juvenile prisoners and prisons which predominately hold juvenile prisoners in each of the last five full financial years.

Average number of vocational training hours per week for prisoners in non juvenile prisons

Operational area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
East Midlands	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.3	5.5
Eastern	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.8
High Security	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1
Kent and Sussex	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.8
London	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.3	2.0
North East	3.7	3.6	3.3	2.7	2.9
North West	5.2	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6
Contracted Out	5.0	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.3
South Central	2.5	1.9	3.0	3.5	3.5
South-West	3.8	3.4	4.0	3.9	3.7
Wales	2.7	2.9	3.9	3.9	4.6
West Midlands	3.6	3.3	3.6	4.2	5.8
Yorkshire and Humberside	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.0	4.3

Average number of vocational training hours per week for prisoners in juvenile prisons

Operational area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Eastern	[1]	1.6	1.2	[1]	1.0
South Central	2.9	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.0
West Midlands	6.4	5.9	6.3	5.8	5.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	3.4	3.2	2.8	4.1	3.6

[1] No data available

Prisons: Capacity

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on how many occasions the prison population exceeded its operational capacity in each of the last five years, broken down by prison; and if he will make a statement; [199932]

(2) how many days the prison service operated with a prison population above its operational capacity in 2007-08, broken down by prison; and if he will make a statement. [199958]

Mr. Straw: Every Friday the Ministry of Justice publishes figures for the overall prison population and useable operational capacity in England and Wales.

Prison population exceeded useable operational capacity on only two occasions in the last five years. The first time was on Friday 22 February 2008. It exceeded it again on Friday 29 February 2008.

Individual establishments have an operational capacity set by the Prison Service Area Manager (or Regional Offender Manager in the case of a contracted prison) taking into account control, security and the proper operation of the planned regime. The information requested about establishments exceeding their operational capacity cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. However, prison instructions are clear that operational capacity is not to be exceeded other than on an exceptional basis to accommodate pressing operational need.

Prisons: Construction

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places were built in each of the last 10 years; at what average cost in each year; and if he will make a statement. [199934]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of new public and private prison places built in each of the last 10 financial years and the average capital building cost per place, including ancillary costs.

Financial year	Number of new prison places[1]	Average capital building cost per place[2] £
1998-99	1,222	67,000
1999-2000	1,646	65,000
2000-01	640	61,000
2001-02	920	79,000
2002-03	1,780	57,000
2003-04	1,376	77,000
2004-05	2,570	100,000
2005-06	940	119,000
2006-07	180	150,000
2007-08	2,111	[3]153,000

[1] The number of new places includes places in new prisons as well as places provided by expansion at existing prisons. It does not take into account any places provided through prisoners sharing cells, nor any places that have been taken out of use.
[2] The costs shown only cover the capital building costs of each new place. No adjustment has been made for inflation. Variations between sites and across the period may reflect a number of factors including for example the inclusion of ancillary work and the category of prison.
[3] Estimated cost.

Probation Officers

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation officers left each area probation service *(a)* upon retirement, *(b)* upon resignation, *(c)* upon transfer to another probation service and *(d)* for other reasons in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [199956]

Maria Eagle: Information for the full period requested is not available. Data collected before 2006 were not broken down into the categories required to answer this question and is therefore not directly comparable with the figures collected since then. The following table details the number of staff in probation officer roles leaving their posts during 2006-07 by area and their leaving destinations.

Leaving destination: Probation officers[1] financial year 2006-07

Probation area	Transferred to another probation area[2]	Other employment	No other employment	Retirement[3]	Other[4]	Unknown	Total
Avon and Somerset	7.00	1.20	0.00	1.80	0.00	11.00	21.00
Bedfordshire	2.40	0.00	3.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	7.40
Cambridgeshire	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	6.00
Cheshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.61	0.00	5.77	6.38
Cumbria	1.00	0.20	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.70
Derbyshire	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	3.00	7.50
Devon and Cornwall	0.00	3.00	0.00	2.00	0.50	5.50	11.00
Dorset	1.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	1.00	9.00
Durham	3.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00
Dyfed Powys	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.40	0.00	2.10	4.50
Essex	3.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	6.50
Gloucestershire	2.00	2.00	5.00	0.00	1.00	8.00	18.00
Gwent	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	1.00	5.00	9.00
Hampshire	3.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	22.10	26.10
Hertfordshire	6.00	3.00	1.00	7.50	0.00	2.00	19.50
Humberside	0.00	3.00	0.00	3.00	2.50	3.50	12.00
Kent	3.00	0.00	4.00	11.00	3.00	0.00	21.00
Lancashire	0.00	10.00	3.00	1.50	4.00	5.90	23.30
Leicestershire	3.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	7.00	12.00
Lincolnshire	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	6.00
London	3.80	0.00	0.00	9.30	10.80	54.79	78.69
Greater Manchester	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	1.00	47.00	60.00
Merseyside	3.00	3.00	18.00	13.00	0.00	2.00	39.00
Norfolk	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00	1.00	7.00
North Yorkshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Wales	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	10.00
Northamptonshire	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	4.00
Northumbria	6.00	0.00	2.50	0.60	0.00	5.20	14.30
Nottinghamshire	3.00	0.90	0.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	9.90
South Wales	4.00	3.00	0.00	9.00	4.00	1.00	21.00
South Yorkshire	1.00	1.40	3.00	0.00	0.00	7.20	12.60
Staffordshire	0.00	2.00	0.50	4.00	0.00	0.00	6.50
Suffolk	0.00	3.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
Surrey	5.00	0.00	2.70	0.00	0.00	6.00	13.70
Sussex	0.00	0.00	3.00	11.00	1.00	2.00	17.00
Teesside	2.40	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	12.40
Thames Valley	5.00	1.50	3.80	4.80	1.00	1.00	17.10
Warwickshire	7.40	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	2.40	17.80
West Mercia	0.00	0.00	3.26	7.50	0.00	2.40	13.16
West Midlands	6.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	27.00

Leaving destination - Probation officers[1] financial year 2006-07[2]

Probation area	Transferred to another probation area[3]	Other employment	No other employment	Retirement[4]	Other[5]	Unknown	Total
West Yorkshire	0.00	5.00	0.00	4.00	2.00	29.00	40.00
Wiltshire	4.00	6.00	3.00	0.00	1.80	1.00	15.80

[1] Includes senior practitioners, probation officers, trainee probation officers, senior probation officers and practice development assessors.
[2] Figures provided are full time equivalent (FTE)
[3] Does not include those transferring within the same area, as this information is not collected
[4] Includes those retiring on ill-health grounds
[5] Includes those leaving as a result of dismissal, those leaving for education/training purposes and death in service

Witness Service: Vetting

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the adequacy of the security checks which members of the Witness Service are obliged to undergo on entering court buildings; and if he will make a statement. [200672]

Maria Eagle: The volunteers of the Witness Service are subject to the same security checks as all other court users when entering court buildings.

The search regime is applied uniformly in order to avoid the vulnerabilities created by applying different measures to different groups.

Young Offenders

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders were sentenced in courts in each criminal justice area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; [200139]

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders were sentenced in courts in each criminal justice area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [200209]

Mr. Straw: A persistent young offender is a young person aged 10-17 who has been sentenced by any criminal court in the UK on three or more separate occasions for one or more recordable offence, and within three years of the last sentencing occasion is subsequently arrested or has an information laid against them for a further recordable offence.

Overall timeliness statistics and caseloads counts on Persistent Young Offenders (PYOs) are available from 1997 to 2007. These statistics are used to monitor the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days.

Counts of offenders split by the Criminal Justice System (CIS) areas of the sentencing court are not readily available. Instead; the following table presents figures split by the CIS areas where offenders were first arrested or reported. This is because local area figures are most accurately derived from the Police National Computer on this basis.

The following table shows the number of PYOs assigned to the police forces in 1997 and 2007. The increase in the number of PYO convictions is broadly consistent with the increase we have seen in recent years in the number of all offences brought to justice. In the year to September 2007 there were 1.44 million offences brought to justice—an increase of 44 per cent. on 2001-02. This reflects improvements in the performance of the CJS, rather than an increase in the level of crime. Recorded crime has been falling since 2003-04. The increase in those meeting the PYO definition is partly a consequence of improvements in the timeliness of dealing with such offenders.

The definition of a PYO relies on counting successive sentencing occasions for a single offender during a limited time period. Speedier operation of the youth justice system has markedly reduced the average time taken from arrest to sentence, and as a result the number of offenders who fall within scope of the PYO definition has increased. This was a particular issue from 1997 to 2002, the period during which these timeliness improvements were taking effect.

Statistics on persistent young offenders (PYOs) by criminal justice areas, 1997-2007

	Number of PYOs		Arrest to sentence interval (days)	
	1997	2007	1997	2007
England and Wales	9,868	16,512	141	65
Avon and Somerset	179	354	184	69
Bedfordshire	59	109	150	75
Cambridgeshire	111	200	145	63
Cheshire	166	268	169	50
Cleveland	322	280	122	65
Cumbria	148	240	109	63
Derbyshire	144	281	149	56
Devon and Cornwall	127	356	110	66
Dorset	53	144	135	69
Durham	191	278	120	58
Dyfed-Powys	91	116	124	46
Essex	155	432	144	52
Gloucestershire	113	155	137	65
Greater Manchester	817	1,251	120	68
Gwent	122	206	135	74
Hampshire	234	688	165	64
Hertfordshire	104	228	178	66
Humberside	215	397	129	65
Kent	198	362	121	71
Lancashire	274	642	124	62
Leicestershire	145	281	176	76
Lincolnshire	119	122	143	56
Merseyside	377	520	153	63
Metropolitan	864	1,769	160	70
Norfolk	97	160	107	58
North Wales	108	204	124	59
North Yorkshire	120	252	125	59
Northamptonshire	102	153	136	68
Northumbria	588	908	120	72
Nottinghamshire	351	383	153	65

Statistics on persistent young offenders (PYOs) by criminal justice areas, 1997-2007

	Number of PYOs		Arrest to sentence interval (days)	
	1997	2007	1997	2007
South Wales	412	348	147	75
South Yorkshire	333	385	134	64
Staffordshire	192	292	135	59
Suffolk	74	230	154	50
Surrey	71	138	156	58
Sussex	99	432	147	63
Thames Valley	254	442	145	72
Warwickshire	63	123	115	55
West Mercia	173	323	155	61
West Midlands	762	808	141	60
West Yorkshire	542	904	149	62
Wiltshire	71	131	122	76

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) publishes the data in the above table as National Statistics. Further information on persistent young offenders can be found on the dedicated page of the MOJ website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

Young Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children assessed as vulnerable by the Youth Justice Board were in *(a)* young offender institutions and *(b)* secure training centres at the latest date for which figures are available. [201649]

Mr. Hanson: Youth Offending Teams' assessments no longer make a simple distinction between "vulnerable" and "not vulnerable". The Youth Justice Board found that these terms were too general to provide a sound basis for decision-making. Instead, risk factors such as previous self-harm, mental health or drug dependency issues are recorded. This information is used by the Board's Placement Team to decide on the most appropriate type of accommodation for the young person in question.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those in custody *(a)* between 10 and 13 years old, *(b)* between 14 and 16 years old and *(c)* aged 17 or 18 years old were being held (i) less than 30, (ii) between 31 and 50, (iii) between 51 and 100 and (iv) more than 100 miles from home at the latest date for which figures are available. [201650]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the available information, supplied by the Youth Justice Board, about distance from home of young people in custody, as at 29 February 2008. Details of home addresses are held for 92 per cent. of the under-18 custodial population: information about the remaining 8 per cent. is not available. Address information for 18-year-olds is not collated centrally.

Age group	Less than 30 miles	31 to 50 miles	51 to 100 miles	More than 100 miles
10-13	11	3	13	4
14-16	477	341	327	132
17	528	388	307	131

Source: Data supplied by the Youth Justice Board from administrative computer systems.

Young Offenders: Greater London

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in Greater London aged 10 to 17 years were sentenced for *(a)* robbery and *(b)* violence against the person in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [200137]

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in Greater London aged 10 to 17 years were sentenced for *(a)* robbery and *(b)* violence against the person in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [200207]

Mr. Straw: The available information is contained in the table. The data are for 1997 and 2006, the latest year for which annual published statistics are available.

Statistics for 2007 will be published in the autumn.

Number of persons aged 10 to 17 sentenced[1] in Greater London, all courts, 1997, 2006

Offence group	Number of persons 1997	2006
Greater London[2]		
Robbery	676	1,544
Violence against the person	752	1,093

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Includes Metropolitan and City of London Police Force Areas.

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders were sentenced in courts in Greater London in each year since 1997. [200138]

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders were sentenced in courts in Greater London in each year since 1997. [200208]

Mr. Straw: A persistent young offender is a young person aged 10 to 17 who has been sentenced by any criminal court in the UK on three or more separate occasions for one or more recordable offence, and within three years of the last sentencing occasion is subsequently arrested or has an information laid against them for a further recordable offence.

Overall timeliness statistics and caseloads counts on Persistent Young Offenders (PYOs) are available from 1997 to 2007. These statistics are used to monitor the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days.

Counts of offenders split by the Criminal Justice System (CIS) areas of the sentencing court are not readily available. Instead, the table presents figures for offenders first arrested or reported in the Metropolitan police area. This is because local area figures are most accurately derived from the Police National Computer on this basis.

The table shows the number of PYOs assigned to the Metropolitan police force in each year since 1997. The increase in the number of PYO convictions is broadly consistent with the increase we have seen in recent years in the number of all offences brought to justice. In the year to September 2007 there were 1.44 million offences brought to justice—an increase of 44 per cent. on 2001-02. This reflects improvements in the performance of the CJS, rather than an increase in the level of crime. Recorded crime has been falling since 2003-04. The increase in those meeting the PYO definition is partly a consequence of improvements in the timeliness of dealing with such offenders.

The definition of a PYO relies on counting successive sentencing occasions for a single offender during a limited time period. Speedier operation of the youth justice system has markedly reduced the average time taken from arrest to sentence, and as a result the number of offenders who fall within scope of the PYO definition has increased at national level. This was a particular issue from 1997 to 2002, the period during which these timeliness improvements were taking effect.

Key statistics on persistent young offenders (PYOs) in the Metropolitan police force area, 1997-2007

	Number of PYOs	*Arrest to sentence interval (days)*
1997	864	141
1998	1,003	125
1999	1,091	108
2000	1,100	93
2001	1,297	100
2002	1,325	83
2003	1,251	77
2004	1,324	85
2005	1,329	86
2006	1,486	85
2007	1,769	70

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) publishes the data in the above table as National Statistics. Further information on persistent young offenders can be found on the dedicated page of the Ministry of Justice website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

HEALTH

Abortion: Drugs

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1312, how many deaths attributed to adverse reactions to RU486 other than those reported to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency there have been since 1993. [200425]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1312.

Alcoholic Drinks: Counselling

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were referred to alcohol counselling services in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* sex and *(c)* those aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 18 and (iii) over 18 years. [199942]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of people referred to alcohol counselling services have not been collected centrally, however, the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System has been expanded to include a formal National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System to collect alcohol treatment data, starting from 1 April 2008.

Drugs: Misuse

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there were where the primary or secondary diagnosis was drug-related, in each of the last five years, broken down by age of patient. [196842]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of finished admission episodes (FAEs) in which the primary or secondary diagnosis of the patient was drug[1] related broken down by age. 2006-07 is the latest period for which figures are available.

Year (of end of first period of care in patient's hospital stay)

Age	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Under 15	13,976	14,449	14,077	14,612	14,134
15 to 64	162,294	160,065	142,999	131,703	118,119
65+	38,804	37,130	34,002	32,238	28,556
Unknown	373	261	342	405	552

Notes:
FAEs:
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Data quality:
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

All Diagnoses count of episodes—primary and secondary-drug related

These figures represent a count of all FAEs where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 codes used to identify a drug related diagnosis are as follows.

'A 'drug' can be defined, broadly speaking, as any substance that alters normal bodily function. Therefore, all codes relating to noxious substances and solvents have been included. It is not possible to identify in ICD-10 all diseases caused by drugs (legal or illegal) and there is no way to guarantee, that the admission was drug related. For example, a patient admitted for inguinal hernia surgery may also be dependent on a drug.

F11.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids
F12.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cannabinoids
F13.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics
F14.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of cocaine
F15.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of other stimulants, including caffeine
F16.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of hallucinogens
F18.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of volatile solvents
F19.- Mental and behavioural disorders due to multiple drug use and use of other psychoactive substances
F55.- Abuse of non-dependence-producing substances
K71.0 Toxic liver disease with cholestasis
K71.1 Toxic liver disease with hepatic necrosis
K71.2 Toxic liver disease with acute hepatitis
K71.3 Toxic liver disease with chronic persistent hepatitis
K71.4 Toxic liver disease with chronic lobular hepatitis
K71.5 Toxic liver disease with chronic active hepatitis
K71.6 Toxic liver disease with hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K71.7 Toxic liver disease with fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
K71.8 Toxic liver disease with other disorders of liver
K71.9 Toxic liver disease, unspecified
T36.- Poisoning by systemic antibiotics
T37.- Poisoning by other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics
T38.- Poisoning by hormones,and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
T39.- Poisoning by nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
T40.- Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens]
T41.- Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
T42.- Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism drugs
T43.- Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
T44.- Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system
T45.- Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified
T46.- Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
T47.- Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
T48.- Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system
T49.- Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by ophthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs
T50.- Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
T52.- Toxic effect of organic solvents
T53.- Toxic effect of halogen derivatives of aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons
T54.- Toxic effect of corrosive substances
T55.- Toxic effect of soaps and detergents
T56.- Toxic effect of metals
T57.- Toxic effect of other inorganic substances
T58.- Toxic effect of carbon monoxide
T59.- Toxic effect of other gases, fumes and vapours
T60.- Toxic effect of pesticides
T61.- Toxic effect of noxious substances eaten as seafood
T62.- Toxic effect of other noxious substances eaten as food
T63.- Toxic effect of contact with venomous animals
T64.- Toxic effect of aflatoxin and other mycotoxin food contaminants
T65.- Toxic effect of other and unspecified substances
X40.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
X41.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
X42.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], not elsewhere classified
X43.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system
X44.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X46.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to organic solvents and halogenated hydrocarbons and their vapours
X47.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapours
X48.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to pesticides
X49.- Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances
X60.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
X61.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
X62.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens], not elsewhere classified
X63.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system
X64.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X66.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to organic solvents and halogenated hydrocarbons and their vapours
X67.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other gases and vapours
X68.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to pesticides
X69.- Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances
Y40.- Systemic antibiotics
Y41.- Other systemic anti-infectives and antiparasitics
Y42.- Hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
Y43.- Primarily systemic agents
Y44.- Agents primarily affecting blood constituents
Y45.- Analgesics, antipyretics and anti-inflammatory drugs
Y46.- Antiepileptic and antiparkinsonism drugs
Y47.- Sedatives, hypnotics and antianxiety drugs
Y48.- Anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
Y49.- Psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
Y50.- Central nervous system stimulants, not elsewhere classified
Y51.- Drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system

Y52 - Agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
Y53 - Agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
Y54 - Agents primarily affecting water-balance and mineral and uric acid metabolism
Y55 - Agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory system
Y56 - Topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and ophthalmological, oforhinolaryngological and dental drugs
Y57 - Other and unspecified drugs and medicaments
Y58 - Bacterial vaccines
Y59 - Other and specified vaccines and biological substances
T80.0 Air embolism following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.1 Vascular complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.2 Infections following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.8 Other complications following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T80.9 Unspecified complication following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection
T88.0 Infection following immunization
T88.1 Other complications following immunization, not elsewhere classified
T88.2 Shock due to anaesthesia
T88.3 Malignant hyperthermia due to anaesthesia
T88.5 Other complications of anaesthesia
T88.6 Anaphylactic shock due to adverse-effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered
T88.7 Unspecified adverse effect of drug or medicament
Z71.5 Drug abuse counselling and surveillance
T96.X Sequelae of poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
T97.X Sequelae of toxic effects of substances chiefly nonmedicinal as to source
Z50.3 Drug rehabilitation
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed)
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Food Standards Agency: Pensions

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cash equivalent transfer value is of the public sector pension of the Chief Executive of the Food Standards Agency. [198443]

Dawn Primarolo: The cash equivalent transfer value of the chief executive's public sector pension is reported in Remuneration Reports in the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) Resource Accounts. Copies of the resource accounts for the year ending 31 March 2007 are available in the Library and are also available on the FSA website at:

www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/annualconsolidated0607.pdf

Injuries: Sports

Mr. Caborn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will direct Hospital Episode Statistics to start collecting data on the number of people attending accident and emergency departments as a result of sport injuries. [200430]

Dawn Primarolo: Plans are already in place for the Information Centre for health and social care to make an accident and emergency dataset available within Hospital Episode Statistics, which will include some information around reason for attendance.

Malnutrition: Death

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths from malnutrition occurred in *(a)* residences, *(b)* private care homes, *(c)* state care homes and *(d)* hospitals in London in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [200367]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated April 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from malnutrition occurred in *(a)* residences, *(b)* private care homes, *(c)* state care homes and *(d)* hospitals in London in each of the last 10 years. (200367)

The attached table provides the numbers of deaths where malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, for persons dying in *(a)* private residences, *(b)* private care homes, *(c)* state care homes *(d)* hospitals, or *(e)* in other places, in the London government office region, for the years 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger,[1] by place of death[2]. London government office region,[3] 1997-2006[4]

Deaths (persons)

Place of death	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Private residences	5	6	5	4	3	1	6	1	2	5
Private care home	2	1	5	1	2	0	2	1	2	2
State care home	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	22	27	27	22	18	21	19	14	11	17
Other	7	1	5	3	0	0	0	1	1	1

Table 1: Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger,[1] by place of death[2], London government office region,[3] 1997-2006[4]

Place of death	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
										Deaths (persons)
Total	36	38	43	32	23	22	27	17	16	25

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Deaths in private residences are those occurring at the usual residence of the deceased (according to the informant), where this is not a communal establishment. 'Private care home' includes non-NHS private nursing homes and private residential homes. 'State care home' includes NHS private nursing homes and local authority residential homes. 'Hospital' includes NHS and non-NHS hospitals, or multifunction sites. Deaths occurring in places not defined above, including hospices, are included in the 'other' category.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Multiple Births: Hampshire

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many multiple births there were in (*a*) Basingstoke constituency and (*b*) Hampshire to mothers aged (i) below 18, (ii) between 18 and 24, (iii) between 25 and 29 and (iv) above 30 years, in each year since 1997. [200519]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 25 April 2008:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many multiple births there have been in (a) Basingstoke and (b) Hampshire to mothers aged (i) below 18, (ii) between 18 and 24, (iii) between 25 and 29, (iv) above 30 years of age, in each year since 1997.

The latest year for which figures are available is 2006. The attached tables show the number of women experiencing a multiple maternity in Basingstoke and Deane local authority and Hampshire county, in each year from 1997 to 2006. A multiple maternity occurs when a woman gives birth to two or more children at the same time, including both live and stillborn children.

Due to very small numbers at ages below 18 and between 18 and 24 in Basingstoke and Deane, these two age groups have been combined with the age group 25 to 29 to preserve the confidentiality of individuals. For the same reason, ages below 18 and between 18 and 24 have been combined for Hampshire.

Number of multiple maternities in Basingstoke and Deane local authority and Hampshire county by age group for each year from 1997 to 2006

	Age of mother		
	Under 30	30 and over	All
Basingstoke and Deane local authority			
1997	12	19	31
1998	16	13	29
1999	13	13	26
2000	9	19	28
2001	7	13	20
2002	7	18	25
2003	6	16	22
2004	9	22	31
2005	10	28	38
2006	10	14	24

	Age of mother			
	Under 25	25 to 29	30 and over	All
Hampshire county				
1997	38	68	134	240
1998	21	65	107	193
1999	25	57	135	217
2000	22	43	143	208
2001	23	52	128	203
2002	19	28	117	164
2003	17	42	135	194
2004	31	28	139	198
2005	22	53	134	209
2006	27	47	135	209

Note:
A multiple maternity occurs when a woman gives birth to two or more children at the same time, including both live and stillborn children.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of management consultancy to the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was arising from activities relating to the evaluation by Monitor of inpatient and outpatient waiting list non-compliance in each of the three quarters to 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [201974]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for the chair of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Dr. Clive Morton informing him of the hon. Member's inquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Prescriptions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 662W, on prescriptions, (1) what progress the information centre has made in reviewing which data on prescribing should be made available in the future; when it anticipates making changes to the availability of data on prescribing; and if he will make a statement; [195238]

(2) what progress the Information Centre has made in reviewing which data on prescribing should be made available in the future; when it expects to make changes to the availability of data on prescribing; and if he will make a statement. [195335]

Dawn Primarolo: The Information Centre for health and social care agreed to produce a review document seeking to determine whether it will be possible to make practice level prescribing data more accessible to the private sector with due regard to appropriate legislation, current Departmental policy and the professional regulations of those involved in the supply of prescriptions.

This review is ongoing and there are currently no proposals for the release of practice level prescribing data or any anticipated dates for changes to the current position.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's arm's length bodies have received concerning possible (i) positive and (ii) negative effects which may result from the wider release of practice-level prescribing data, as stated in the NHS Information Centre's presentation to the Inaugural Supplier Forum of 7 November 2007; what the content of these representations was; from which organisations they were received; and if he will make a statement. [195269]

Dawn Primarolo: The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Company Chemists Association have written to the Information Centre for health and social care expressing concern about the wider release of practice level prescribing data. These concerns are based on the potential release of personally sensitive or commercially sensitive data, and the potential for misinterpretation of the data if not put in an appropriate context.

The Information Centre for health and social care have agreed to produce a review document seeking to determine whether it will be possible to make practice level prescribing data more accessible. This review is ongoing and there are currently no proposals for the release of practice level prescribing data or any anticipated dates for changes to the current position.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 26 March 2008

HEALTH

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on departmental public expenditure, what the cost was of writing-off date expired vaccines broken down by type of vaccine 2006-07; [184461]

(2) how many expired vaccines were written-off, broken down by type of vaccine. [184521]

[Official Report, 19 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 666W.]

Letter from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 19 February 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Dawn Primarolo: In 2006-07 488,629 doses of vaccine in total were written off.

There were 488,457 doses of vaccine written off due to date expiring. They were:

243,000 doses of the Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccine;

123,954 doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine;

71,568 doses of combined diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP) vaccine;

49,799 doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine (DTwP/Hib); and

136 doses of tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine.

This equates to £2,092,513. The cost breakdown cannot be given for individual vaccines as the cost per dose is commercially confidential information.

There were 172 doses of vaccine written off because they were damaged. They were:

70 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine;

69 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, inactivated polio and haemophilus influenzae type B, (DTaP/IPV+Hib) vaccine;

21 doses of meningococcal C vaccine; and

12 doses of the MMR vaccine.

The total value of the written-off stock due to date expiry and damage (£2,096,000) represents about 1 per cent, of the vaccine distributed in the United Kingdom in 2006-07.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1689W, on departmental public expenditure, for what reason the expired vaccines were not used, broken down by type of vaccine. [188507]

[Official Report, 28 February 2008, Vol. 472, c. 1885W.]

Letter from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 28 February 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Dawn Primarolo: Changes in vaccination policy can result in changes to the vaccines offered in the routine childhood immunisation programme. While we aim to keep vaccine wastage to a minimum, such policy changes can lead to some vaccines being written off if they are no longer used in the routine programme.

The reasons why expired vaccines were not used are listed as follows:

Some BCG vaccine was written off following the change in BCG vaccination policy in 2005. The programme changed from a universal to targeted programme, leading to a reduction in demand.

In 2005 demand for MMR vaccine increased following the mumps outbreaks in older teenagers. For a short period, the suppliers could only provide additional supplies of MMR vaccine destined for other countries, and hence with different product labelling than UK stock. Even though the vaccine itself was identical to UK licensed product, the labelling difference meant that the vaccine was not licensed for use in the UK. Once further supplies of UK licensed vaccine were received, the unlicensed MMR vaccine was no longer used, leading to write off.

In 2004 vaccines containing live oral polio were removed from the childhood programme and replaced with three new combination vaccines containing an inactivated polio vaccine. This resulted in the combined diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine (DTwP/Hib); and the tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine becoming redundant.

In 2003 a major Hib catch up campaign was launched using a single antigen Hib (haemophilus influenzae type B) vaccine. This vaccine is not used routinely in the childhood programme, and some stock left over from the Hib catch-up campaign date expired in 2006-07.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether private companies were consulted on Ordnance Survey's draft revised Public Task before it was approved; [193729]

(2) whether the *(a)* GI Panel and *(b)* Association for Geographic Information were consulted on Ordnance Survey's draft revised Public Task before it was approved. [193730]

[Official Report, 19 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 1212W.]

Letter from Iain Wright:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) on 19 March 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Iain Wright: In April 2007, Ministers from the Department asked Ordnance Survey and the Shareholder Executive to work together to prepare a more precise articulation of Ordnance Survey's Public Task, as set out in the Ordnance Survey Framework Document 2004. This work was undertaken between April and June 2007 in preparation for the publication of a revised Framework Document for Ordnance Survey.

As has been the case with the preparation of previous versions of the Ordnance Survey Framework Document, there were no external consultations on the Public Task.

which fundamentally articulates that defined in each successive Ordnance Survey Framework Document since 1990, but in a more precise and comprehensive way.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent consideration the House authorities have given to providing filtered tap watef as an alternative to bottled water in committee and meeting rooms; and what estimate has been made of the cost of providing *(a)* tap and *(b)* bottled water in these rooms in 2008-09. [194554]

[Official Report, 20 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 1311-12W.]

Letter from Nick Harvey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 20 March 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Nick Harvey: The Administration Committee last considered the issue of the provision of drinking water in Committee and meeting rooms on 13 March 2007 and agreed to recommend that the current practice of supplying bottled mineral water to Committee rooms should continue. I understand that the Department of Facilities is re-examining the issue with the intention of providing further advice to the Administration Committee.

When the Administration Committee considered the provision of drinking water in 2007 the estimated annual cost of providing tap water in Committee and meeting rooms was between £47,000 and £56,000 depending on how the service was delivered. Part of the re-examination being carried out by the Department of Facilities focuses on how this cost can be reduced. The projected approximate cost of providing bottled water in Committee Rooms in 2007-08 is £10,000. Costs for 2008-09 should be broadly similar if there is no change to the current practice. Water is not routinely provided for other meetings except when ordered and paid for as part of a catering service. Data on separate purchases is not held in a consolidated form.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 31 March 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Government: Ministers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the constituencies visited by the Minister for (*a*) the North East, (*b*) the North West, (*c*) Yorkshire and the Humber, (*d*) London, (*e*) the South East, (*f*) the South West, (*g*) the East Midlands, (*h*) the West Midlands and (*i*) the East of England in their capacity as regional ministers. [177442]

[Official Report, 21 January 2008, Vol. 470, c. 1533-36W.]

Letter from Hazel Blears:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 21 January 2008. The errors occur under the Minister for the South West and the correct list is as follows. We have written to the MP to advise him of this error and the correction.

(f) South West

Bournemouth East
Bournemouth West
Bristol NW
Bristol West
Cheltenham
Devon South West
Exeter
Gloucester
Plymouth Devonport
Poole
South East Cornwall
Swindon South
Taunton
Tewkesbury
Truro and St. Austell

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

National Lottery: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects were awarded funding by the Big Lottery Fund in Tamworth constituency in each of the last five years. [193604]

[Official Report, 12 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 395-96W.]

Letter from Gerry Sutcliffe:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins) on 12 March 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been informed by the Big Lottery Fund that the following grants were awarded by the Fund (including its predecessors, the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund), in each of the last five completed financial years to the Tamworth Constituency.

Financial year 2002-03

	£
Oakhill Primary School	10,000
Age Concern Tamworth	111,745
The Manna House (Tamworth) Company	2,800
Tamworth and District Citizens Advice Bureau	214,272
British Waterways	24,500
Age Concern Tamworth	39,578
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	323,851
The Manna House (Tamworth) Company	55,980

Financial year 2003-04

	£
Tamworth Cornerstone Housing Association	219,785
Edingdale Village Hall	26,385
Age Concern Tamworth	56,845
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	260,131

Financial year 2004-05

	£
13 Heroes' Return awards	47,980
St. Paul's Church, Dosthill	2,680
Parochial Church Council of Glascote and Stonydelph	60,000
Home Start Tamworth	78,467
The Manna House (Tamworth) Company	104,819
Friends of St. Leonard's School	6,114

Financial year 2005-06

	£
3 Heroes' Return awards	4,700
Royal Air Forces Association (Tamworth branch)	1,170
Royal British Legion (Tamworth branch)	3,174
Age Concern South Staffordshire	6,964
Age Concern South Staffordshire	25,194
The Manna House (Tamworth) Company	64,690
Elford Village Hall	204,350
Royal Naval Association (Tamworth Branch)	2,330
Tamworth Council for Voluntary Service	149,935

Financial year 2006-07

	£
Hodge Lane Conservation Group	3,328
Rawlett Community Sports College	113,940

In addition, Tamworth constituency benefited during the financial years from 2002-03 to 2006-07 inclusive from grants of £331,955 made under the Awards for All (England) joint scheme, administered jointly by Big Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 21 April 2008

NORTHERN IRELAND

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons were arrested for offences related to alcohol consumption in North Belfast District Command Unit in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sex. [194758]

[Official Report, 20 March 2008, Vol. 473, c. 1281-82W.]

Letter from Paul Goggins:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Belfast, North (Mr. Dodds) on 20 March 2008. In my original answer I explained that some of the information—the breakdown by age-could not be supplied within the time available and promised to write to you once it had been received. That information has now been received from the PSNI. However, they have also informed me that the original figures supplied in response to your question were incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Paul Goggins: The following tables set out the correct figures of the total number of persons arrested for offences related to alcohol consumption in North Belfast District Command Unit, in each of the last five years broken down by age and gender.

2007-08[1]

Age group	*Female*	*Male*
0-20	15	104
20-30	18	110
30-40	20	65
40-50	14	51
Over 50	4	21
Total	71	351

[1] To 11 March 2008

2006-07

Age group	*Female*	*Male*
0-20	8	78
20-30	12	111
30-40	12	54
40-50	7	36
Over 50	2	15
Total	41	294

2005-06

Age group	*Female*	*Male*
0-20	14	114
20-30	17	116
30-40	22	86
40-50	12	47
Over 50	4	16
Total	69	379

2004-05

Age group	*Female*	*Male*
Under 20 years	17	120
20-30	17	133
30-40	24	79
40-50	17	54
Over 50	5	28
Total	80	414

2003-04

Age group	*Female*	*Male*
Under 20 years	22	116
20-30	23	144
30-40	24	91
40-50	20	86
Over 50	4	33
Total	93	470

TRANSPORT

Woodhead Tunnel and Cross-Pennine Rail Link

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the feasibility of maintaining Woodhead tunnel fit for future rail operations should the National Grid lay electricity cables along it; [182501]

(2) what assessment she has made of the most viable option for a new cross-Pennine rail link. [182502]

[Official Report, 3 April 2008, Vol. 474, c. 1201W.]

Letter from Rosie Winterton:

An error has been identified in a written answer given to the hon. Member for Manchester, Central (Tony Lloyd) on 3 April 2008. The correct answer should have been:

Ms Rosie Winterton: The need for additional passenger capacity can best be met through the provision of longer trains and faster journey times on the Manchester to Leeds via Huddersfield route.

Should additional capacity be required across the Pennines at some future date, capacity enhancements on the three existing routes would be considered first. This is because they are more likely to offer value for money than the re-opening of a fourth route.

I shall be meeting with National Grid to confirm that we would wish to explore the option of continued inspection and maintenance of the Woodhead tunnels once National Grid have vacated them.

I intend to meet key stakeholders for their views on transport challenges across the Pennines and how this might tie in with the development of a longer term strategy.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 23 April 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the value of council tax receipts was in each Government office region in England in each year since 1997-98. [182084]

[Official Report, 28 January 2008, Vol. 471, c. 112W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Dhanda:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 28 January 2008. The answer should have been:

Mr. Dhanda: Details of the council tax collected in each Government Office Region in England in each year since 1997-98 are shown in the table below. The figures are shown in £ millions and are the amount collected within the year, irrespective of the year to which the money relates. The figures include both arrears received for previous years and prepayment of council tax for subsequent years but exclude amounts funded by council tax benefit.

										£ million
	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East	449	488	520	555	593	648	709	755	793	828
North West	1,310	1,424	1,519	1,623	1,733	1,860	2,034	2,136	2,235	2,349
Yorkshire and the Humber	866	949	1,014	1,087	1,171	1,277	1,415	1,512	1,595	1,668
East Midlands	773	860	935	1,013	1,087	1,213	1,334	1,433	1,502	1,575
West Midlands	940	1,027	1,113	1,198	1,298	1,421	1,573	1,662	1,743	1,813
East of England	1,051	1,190	1,306	1,427	1,542	1,722	1,977	2,122	2,225	2,345
London	1,386	1,486	1,616	1,767	1,944	2,099	2,448	2,617	2,771	2,888
South East	1,716	1,926	2,092	2,260	2,435	2,696	3,102	3,329	3,506	3,691
South West	995	1,109	1,203	1,312	1,406	1,576	1,801	1,942	2,048	2,158
Total	9,488	10,459	11,318	12,242	13,208	14,511	16,392	17,508	18,419	19,315

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 24 April 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Playing Fields: Planning

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) with reference to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 226W, on playing fields: planning, for what reason the consultation paper on the review of statutory consultees was not published in 2007; when it was *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* originally due for publication; and when it is expected to be published; [194944]

(2) with reference to the answer of 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 226W, on playing fields: planning, how many members of staff in her Department are working on the consultation paper on the review of statutory consultees; [194943]

(3) what progress has been made in bringing forward the changes to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 announced in her Department's press release, "Planning to Safeguard Open Spaces and Playing Fields", of July 2002. [194925]

[Official Report, 26 March 2008, Vol. 474, c. 312W.]

Letter from Iain Wright:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 26 March 2008. The answer should have been:

Mr. Iain Wright: We announced in the Planning white paper "Planning for Sustainable Communities" that we would review arrangements for statutory consultees on planning applications and would consult on proposals in due course. This work is being taken forward. Our aim is to publish a consultation paper shortly. Meanwhile, we are committed to reducing the threshold for statutory consultation on proposals for the development of playing fields from 0.4 ha to 0.2 ha and we will seek an opportunity to make the necessary amendment to the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.